



April 9, 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

It is with pleasure and conviction that I offer this letter of support for Kickstand's application to the [REDACTED]. My interactions with the Kickstand team have largely been connected to my work as the Director of the National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE). I have been involved in education at all levels for more than 25 years and have a genuine appreciation for partners and colleagues who work on behalf of those who provide direct student services. Kickstand clearly benefits the efforts of both State Coordinators of Homeless Education and local liaisons in each of the school districts their model supports. In particular, there are four areas that I would like to address in speaking to the quality of their application:

- Alignment with [REDACTED] Commitment – As noted on its website, *the [REDACTED] is committed to ensuring all children, families and communities – regardless of race or income – have opportunities to reach their full potential.* The training portal that Kickstand provides allows those who undertake this commitment at the local/community level to equip themselves with the tools and knowledge necessary to turn the [REDACTED] commitment into a permanent reality.
- Communication - The staff at Kickstand have been nothing but supportive, collaborative, and responsive. The trainings provided cover a wide range of topics, just as the students and professionals we serve in our field have a wide range of needs. I have seen first-hand the skillful, respectful, professional ways the organization embarks on its work and this results in better services for the children and youth we support.
- Partnerships - Kickstand has been a valuable partner in leading the field of homeless education toward greater capacity to support our students. Kickstand has participated in our Annual State Coordinators meetings and in the National Association for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth annual conferences for several years.
- Long-term sustainability - It is clear that Kickstand is in an ideal position to take the next step. Strong relationships exist and there is now a demonstrated track record of effective communication and success in states across the country. NCHE has served as the U.S. Department of Education's technical assistance center for the Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program for more than 20 years. We fully anticipate an ongoing partnership with Kickstand as both organizations evolve in support of the field.

Our partners at Kickstand have demonstrated both their willingness and ability to address the needs of the professionals providing direct support to homeless children and you and I hope that [REDACTED] will join them in scaling this effort up. If I can be of any assistance in your consideration of their application, I urge you to contact me.

Very best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'George Hancock'.

George Hancock, Executive Director
SERVE Center



June 19, 2018

Dear [REDACTED]

I am writing to offer my strongest support for the application for funding submitted by Kickstand.

I have had the pleasure of working with Kickstand for the past three years – first in my capacity as Director of Policy and Programs at the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth, and now as Executive Director of SchoolHouse Connection. SchoolHouse Connection is a national organization working to overcome homelessness through education. We provide strategic advocacy and technical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

The educational needs of homeless children and youth are great, and so too are those who are charged with removing barriers to their school identification, enrollment, attendance, and success. Without comprehensive and effective training that allows professionals to demonstrate mastery of content, the federal law that supports the education of homeless children and youth will not be implemented. The end result will be children and youth who fail to reach their full potential, and who remain at risk of continued homelessness as adults.

Earlier this year, I witnessed the transformative power of the Kickstand homeless education platform at a meeting of state coordinators for the education of homeless children and youth. State coordinators spoke of the profound changes in practice that resulted from the Kickstand platform - the increased identification and support for children, youth, and families. The Kickstand staff demonstrated a strong ability to work alongside these professionals, listen to them, reflect feedback, and modify the modules accordingly. Kickstand clearly values partnerships, and knows how to create, sustain, and build them over time.

The early successes of the Kickstand platform, combined with the responsiveness of the Kickstand staff, indicate a high degree of sustainability. Kickstand has shown that it can modify and adapt to changing circumstances, all while keeping the focus and integrity of their work. For these reasons, we support expansion through dedicated funding. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Duffield".

Barbara Duffield
Executive Director

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*Affiliations for identification
purposes only*

May 4, 2018



Dear Madam or Sir,

On behalf of the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty (the Law Center), I'm pleased to submit this letter of support for Kickstand's proposal to the [REDACTED] to establish a liaison credentialing program that would strengthen education rights for homeless children and youth.

The Law Center is the only national organization dedicated solely to using the power of the law to prevent and end homelessness. Founded in 1989, we envision an end to homelessness in America, where a home for every family and individual will be the norm and not the exception—a right and not a privilege.

Kickstand's proposal for a liaison credentialing program would complement the Law Center's efforts to assist state coordinators and homeless liaisons across the country in implementing Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. In partnership, we will develop professional development and training materials for liaisons, school district legal counsel, and other school personnel to improve compliance with ESSA and McKinney-Vento, and work with the state to collect data for further advocacy.

We're excited to work with Kickstand on their project, which will greatly improve the lives of homeless and at-risk youth community we serve. We support Kickstand's application for funding to the Kellogg Foundation and look forward to our continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Maria Foscarinis
Founder & Executive Director

From: Malone, Dana, PED <Dana.Malone@state.nm.us>
Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 5:03 PM
To: Meghan Daniel <meghan.daniel@kickstandsystems.com>
Subject: 2017-18 40-80-120-EoY reports.xlsx

Hi, Meghan,

Well, we have 15 more LEAs reporting homeless students than ever before! Many LEAs that already did report homeless students are reporting an increase this year. Take a look yourself! The first column is what the homeless counts were at the end of last year. The other columns are the counts that are submitted every 40 days this year. We have one more reporting period at the end of this year and then we will really know how many more homeless students are identified. Can't say that it isn't helping, can we?

Thanks,
Dana

15/146= 10% more LEAs reporting after taking Kickstand online course

137 more students identified after taking Kickstand online course