

# Early Childhood Homelessness

## February 24, 2016



ADMINISTRATION FOR  
**CHILDREN & FAMILIES**



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# Our Ongoing Vision

Our vision continues to be that all young children, from birth through school entry, have access to high quality early care and education that will help prepare them for success in school and in life.



# Agenda

Introduction

Purpose of the 50-State Profile

Key National Findings

Data Resources

Methodology

Limitation

Implication for the Future

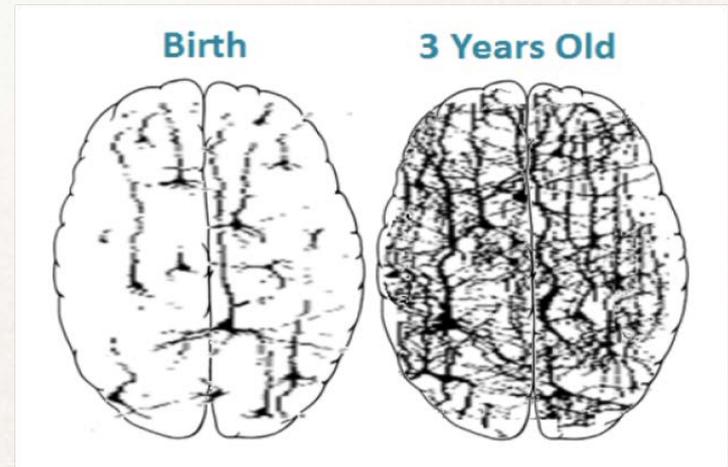
ACF Resources

Discussion & Questions

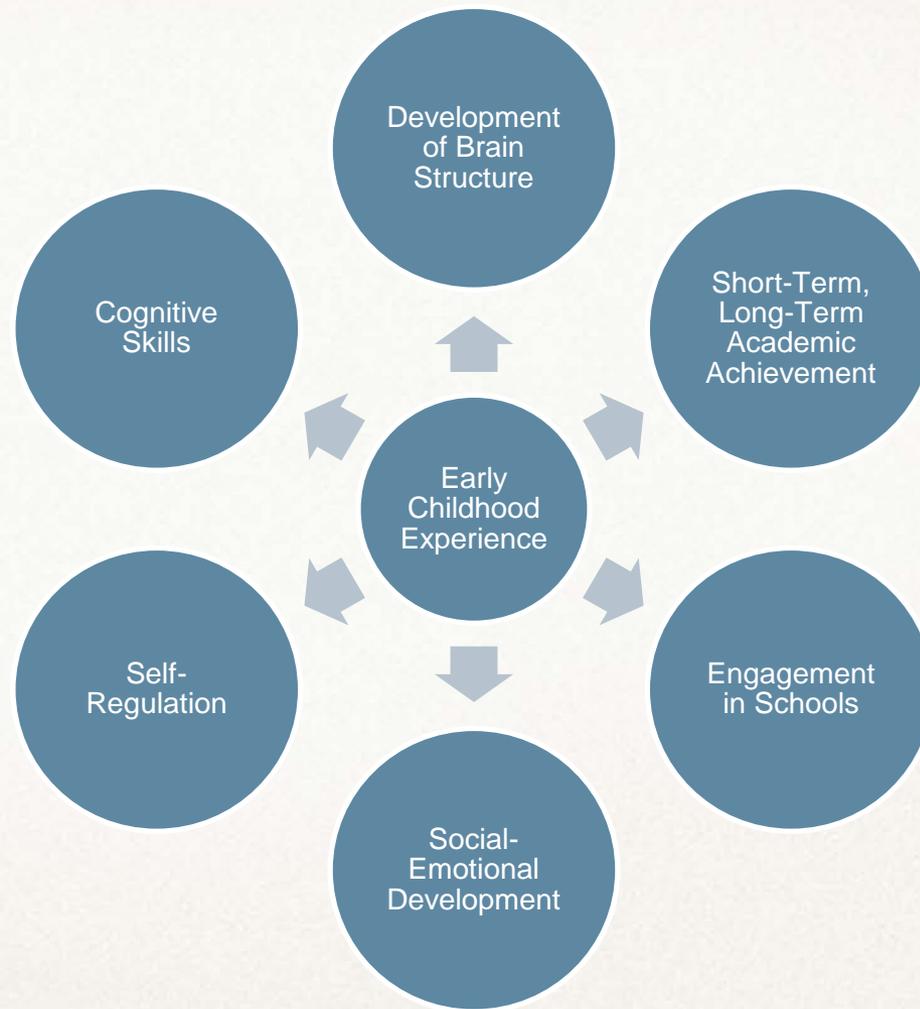


# Introduction

- Birth to Five is a time of unparalleled growth.
- During early childhood, the brain strengthens the connections that are being used, while pruning away those that are unengaged.
- Children's early years set the foundation for learning, health, and wellness needed for success.



# Early Childhood Sets the Stage for the Future



# Early Childhood Homelessness in the United States: The 50-State Profile



# Purpose of the 50-State Profile

The 50-state profile provides a snapshot of early childhood data available for children who are experiencing homelessness in each state

The Office of Early Childhood Development at ACF hopes these profiles will provide information for local, statewide and federal conversations and planning toward the goal of ending family homelessness by 2020



# Key National Findings

5,975,717 young children lived below FPL in 2013

More than 1 in 4 children (25.1 %)

9,953 children experiencing homelessness received Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) meals

102,973 children experiencing homelessness under the age of 6 were in emergency shelter and transitional housing in principal cities, and 14,448 children were in permanent housing in principal cities. Nearly 60,000 served in suburban and rural areas.





# Key National Findings

States with metropolitan areas tend to have high percentage of children experiencing homelessness

New York 9.6%, California 9.1% and DC 7.0%

Hawaii, a state known for a high homeless rate in the United States, had one of the lowest rates of young children experiencing homelessness



# Key National Findings



## Highest % of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Kentucky - 10.6%  
New York - 9.6%  
California - 9.1%  
Alabama - 8.6%  
Oregon - 7.2%  
Oklahoma - 7.1%  
West Virginia - 7.0%  
District of Columbia - 7.0%  
New Mexico - 7.0%  
Alaska - 6.4%

## Lowest % of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Connecticut - 1.2%  
New Jersey - 1.4%  
Rhode Island - 1.4%  
Nebraska - 2.1%  
Hawaii - 2.2%  
Pennsylvania - 2.3%  
Wyoming - 2.3%  
South Dakota - 2.7%  
Maine - 2.8%  
Vermont - 2.9%

# Key National Findings

	Kentucky	North Carolina	Montana	Pennsylvania	Washington
<b>Total Population Under Age 6</b>	321,158	726,503	74,240	853,657	517,155
<b>Children Living below 100% FPL</b>	93,762	203,802	18,004	194,847	109,464
<b>Estimated Number of Homeless Children</b>	34,077	28,154	2,640	19,480	31,220
<b>Homeless Children served in Head Start/Early Head Start</b>	962	1,148	657	1,926	1,726
<b>Homeless Children served in McKinney-Vento</b>	1,293	319	32	1,767	830
<b>CACFP Shelter/Daily</b>	10 Shelters 125 daily meals	3 Shelters 31 daily meals	0 Shelter 0 daily meals	20 Shelters 865 daily meals	9 Shelters 119 daily meals



# Data Resources

Head Start and Early Head Start (HHS)

<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/data/pir>

Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership (EHS-CCP)

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecl/early-learning/ehs-cc-partnerships/grant-awardees>

Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services data (CMS)

<http://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid-chip-program-information/program-information/downloads/medicaid-and-chip-eligibility-levels-table.pdf>

The National Center on Family Homelessness Data on Early Childhood Homelessness

<http://new.homelesschildrenamerica.org/mediadocs/280.pdf>

McKinney-Vento 2013 Educational Office Data

<http://www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/account/consolidated/index.html>

United States Census Bureau American Community Survey

<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>

Children's Defense Fund

<http://www.childrensdefense.org/library/data/state-data-repository/children-in-the-states-2013.html>



# Methodology

- HUD's data on this population says 51 percent of the total number of children who are experiencing homelessness are under the age of 6.
- The National Center for Family Homelessness' formula:  
The number count of K-12 in the Education for Homeless Children and Youth Program data represents 49 percent of total number of children who are experiencing homelessness.
- **Total number of children who are experiencing homelessness × (49/100) = Number of K-12 children who are experiencing homelessness**
- Total number of children who are experiencing homelessness × (49/100) = 1,216,934
- Therefore, the total number of children who are experiencing homelessness is 2,483,539 in the U.S, and **the number of children who are experiencing homelessness under the age of 6 is 1,266,605.**

(<https://www.hudexchange.info/resource/4828/2014-ahar-part-2-estimates-of-homelessness/> and <http://www.homelesschildrenamerica.org/mediadocs/282.pdf>)



# Plans for the Future

- Share State Profiles
- Raise awareness of the issue of young children experiencing homelessness
- Include early childhood programs in solutions to end youth homelessness
- Engage federal and state and local partners to include young children experiencing homelessness in future funding for housing and community needs



# Questions?

- How will you use this data?
- Messaging early childhood homelessness



# Head Start/Early Head Start, Child Care & Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting

- Support the well-being of young children and their families to meet families' immediate needs and improve the long-term educational outcomes of the children
- Develop partnerships, coordination and collaboration with other community organizations to help end incidences of family homelessness



# Key Features of CCDBG Reauthorization

- 12-month Eligibility Policies
- Payment Rates & Provider Payment Practices
- Consumer Education & Family Engagement
- Health & Safety Minimums in Licensing/Training
- Criminal Background Checks
- Monitoring
- Training & Professional Development
- Increased Quality Spending
- Infant & Toddler Set-aside
- Supply-building for Underserved Populations
- Tribal Provisions



# CCDF - Improving Access for Underserved Populations

- *Homeless families* – Requires States to establish procedures for enrollment of homeless children pending completion of documentation, and use of CCDF funds for training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families. (658E(c)(3)(B))
- *Children with disabilities* – Establishes new statutory definition; requires greater coordination and providing parents with information about access to services (e.g., IDEA); must take into account when developing training and professional development requirements for CCDF providers.

**CCDF Regulations just closed Public Comment**



# CCDF NPRM for Public Comment

The NPRM added additional provisions that would:

- Define homeless to be consistent with the definition in section 725 of Subtitle VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Act (i.e. definition used by Head Start and Dept. of Education) (45 CFR 98.2)
- Require Lead Agencies to coordinate with other relevant agencies to help families receiving services during a grace period comply with immunization and other health and safety requirements. (45 CFR 98.41(a)(1)(i)(C)(3))
- Clarifies that children experiencing homelessness shall be given priority for services. (45 CFR 98.46(a)(3))

**CCDF Public Comment Period Just Closed**



# Head Start Standards – NPRM Public Comment ended in September

- **Eliminates redundancy**
- **Streamlines, updates and clarifies requirements**
- **Strong services for kids with disabilities**
  - Updates practices to meet IDEA requirements and strengthen collaboration to better meet the needs of children with IFSPs, IEPs, and 504 plans
- **Improves services for homeless children**
  - Provides administrative flexibility to facilitate serving homeless children
  - Homeless in community assessment
  - Hold slots
- **Improves services for dual language learners (DLLs)**
  - Requires program-wide intentional approach to serving DLLs



# Head Start Contacts

Early Childhood Learning and Knowledge Center (ECLKC)

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov>

- “Locator” for local Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
- Directory of Head Start Collaboration Offices
  - States and Territories
  - American Indian and Alaska Native
  - Migrant and Seasonal Head Start



# Birth to Five: Watch Me Thrive!

## User Guides

Early Care and Education Providers



Early Intervention Service and Early Childhood  
Special Education Providers

Families



Primary Care Providers

Communities



Child Welfare



Home Visitors



Behavioral Health Providers

Housing and Homeless Shelter Providers



# ACF Resources

## Building Partnerships to Address Family Homelessness

Around the country, Head Start and Early Head Start programs are building partnerships in their communities in order to make their services more accessible for children experiencing homelessness.



**Building Partnerships to Address Family Homelessness**

Head Start and Early Head Start programs help families experiencing homelessness move to a more stable situation by providing comprehensive supports and a healthy environment for early childhood development and by building strong partnerships with other service providers. This promising practice resource focuses on the way Head Start and Early Head Start grantees are effectively using partnerships to serve homeless children and how other service providers can build relationships with these local Head Start and Early Head Start programs. Evidence from partnerships around the country has shown that these reciprocal relationships help foster an environment of healthy development for young children experiencing homelessness and help move families out of homelessness.

This resource will:

- Provide background information on Head Start and Early Head Start programs;
- Share highlights of how strong partnerships have addressed family homelessness;
- Offer resources to encourage Head Start grantees and housing service providers to work together to expand services for children experiencing or at-risk of experiencing homelessness, and
- Present resources to help providers connect families to other services they may need.

The comprehensive services provided by Head Start and Early Head Start programs are well suited to address family homelessness. Head Start and Early Head Start programs provide a range of health, mental health, educational, and other social service supports in order to counteract the negative impacts that homelessness has on early childhood health and development. Head Start and Early Head Start programs also connect families experiencing homelessness with a host of other services they may need to help them move out of homelessness and into permanent housing. In 2007, the passage of the [Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act](#) identified homeless children as categorically eligible for Early Head Start Head Start services and provided priority enrollment to Head Start and Early Head Start programs. While Head Start and Early Head

Start programs had already been serving families experiencing homelessness, many responded to the legislation and built strong partnerships with other social service providers in order to be more effective at addressing family homelessness.<sup>1</sup> In 2012-2013 alone, Head Start served 46,800 families experiencing homelessness and assisted 15,694 families in finding safe, stable housing.

Family homelessness affects over 1.6 million children without adequate shelter at some point throughout the year.<sup>2</sup> The 2013 Department of

<sup>1</sup>The percentage of families experiencing homelessness that were enrolled in Head Start rose from a range of 5% to 15% from 2008-2011, according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2012 Head Start Program Information Report: Family Information Report (April 2013) (April 2013).  
<sup>2</sup>Harlow, Shelia, "College Months: Update Transient Census," Barbara H. Kimmey, and Gray, Anne Beah. [ACF/OPRE/13-000001](#)

## Promising Practices for Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Look at Two States

A look at efforts in Massachusetts and Oregon to implement innovative policies to improve early childhood outcomes for young children experiencing homelessness



**Promising Practices for Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Look at Two States**

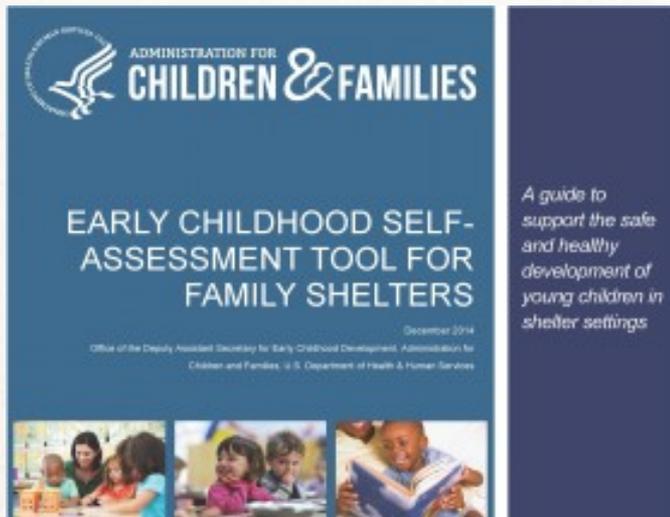


Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Early Childhood Development  
Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services  
June 2014

# ACF Resource

## Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters

This tool is intended to help shelters and early learning programs work together to create the most appropriate and supportive environment possible for young children and strengthen collaboration efforts at the local level to best use community resources.



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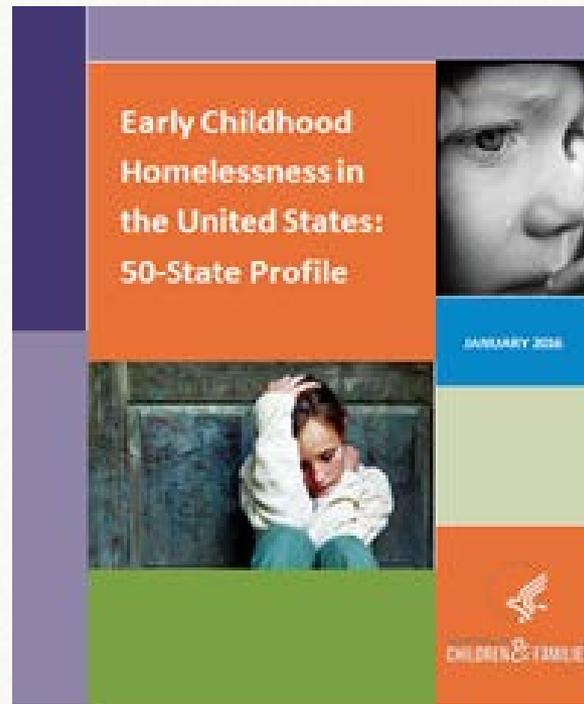
Low Resource Requirements
Some Resource Requirements
Substantial Resource Requirements

SECTION C: WORKFORCE STANDARDS & TRAINING					
What have we done so far?	Accomplished	Improving	Needs Action	Notes	Next Steps
C1. We train our staff on the effects of homelessness on the development of young children and on how they can support the healthy development of infants, toddlers, and preschoolers					
C2. We train our staff to recognize and respond to adverse drug and allergic reactions					
C3. We train our staff on recognizing domestic violence and the process for referring families to community-based services and hotlines					
C4. We train our staff in trauma-informed care <sup>10</sup>					
C5. We have at least one staff who is trained in CPR/First Aid for adults, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers present at all times					
C6. We run background checks on all of our staff to ensure they pass all child abuse clearances					
C7. We have staff who address the needs of homeless infants, toddlers, preschoolers					

<sup>10</sup> Please see this [Trauma-Informed Organizational Toolkit for Homeless Services](#) for more information on implementing trauma-informed care in emergency shelter settings from the National Center on Family Homelessness and the Homelessness Resource Center.

# Early Childhood Homelessness Profiles

A “snapshot” of early childhood data available

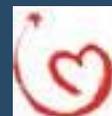


[https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/homelessness\\_profile\\_package\\_with\\_blanks\\_for\\_printing\\_508.pdf](https://www.acf.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/ece/homelessness_profile_package_with_blanks_for_printing_508.pdf)



# Birth To Five Homelessness Resources

- **ACF Policy Package-Increasing ECE Services for Homeless Children:**  
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ece/expanding-early-care-and-education-for-homeless-children>
- **Interactive Homelessness Lessons:** <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/center/family/Homelessness/homelessness.html>
- **Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness**  
<http://usich.gov/population/families/family-connection>
- **Domestic Violence IM to Head Start and Child Care Administrators:**  
[http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/pdf/PDF\\_IMs/IM2014/ACF-IM-HS-14-06.pdf](http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/standards/pdf/PDF_IMs/IM2014/ACF-IM-HS-14-06.pdf)
- **Family & Youth Services Bureau:** <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb>
- **Domestic Violence and Child Welfare System:**  
[https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domestic\\_violence/impact.cfm](https://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/factsheets/domestic_violence/impact.cfm)
- **National Center for Homeless Education**  
<http://center.serve.org/nche/>



# Questions & Discussion

Please see our website for additional information

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd)

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