





Early Childhood Homelessness



The early years of life from birth to age six are among the most formative and developmentally critical – the brain is growing, motor skills are being developed, and social emotional skills are being learned. Homelessness is a traumatic experience that harms young children and has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems. The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes, which can have lifelong effects on the child, the family, and the community.

SchoolHouse Connection's early childhood work is guided by the goal of increasing access to and enrollment in high-quality early childhood programs for families with young children experiencing homelessness. We:

-  Provide practical assistance to early childhood programs and school districts to better understand what the law requires and strategies for supporting young children experiencing homelessness;
-  Publish data, resources, and tools to expand access to high-quality early childhood programs for families experiencing homelessness;
-  Advocate for policies that remove barriers for families experiencing homelessness to access high-quality early childhood programs; and
-  Provide strategic support to state and national partners working at the intersection of homelessness and early childhood education.

Over 1 million children ages birth - six experience homelessness across the US (2020-2021)



Only 4.3% are enrolled in a Head Start or Early Head Start program



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