

Child Care for Families Who Are Homeless

A model of comprehensive early childhood services

by Donna Rafanello

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Resources

Outreach and Primary Health Services for Homeless Children Program (HCHC) Health Care for the Homeless Information Resource Center (888) 439-3300, ext. 247
c/o Policy Research Associates, Inc.
345 Delaware Avenue
Delmar, NY 12054
Web site: www.hchirc.com
E-mail: hch@prainc.com

Homeless Children's Network
(415) 437-3990
3265 17th Street, #404
San Francisco, CA 94110
Web site: www.hcnkids.org
E-mail: hcninfo@pacbell.net
National Alliance to End Homelessness

(202) 638-1526
1518 K Street NW, #206
Washington, DC 20005
Web site: www.naeh.org

National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
(952) 945-0228
PO Box 26274
Minneapolis, MN 55426
Web site: www.naehcy.org
E-mail: info@naehcy.org

National Association of State Coordinators for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth
(504) 342-3431
c/o Louisiana Department of Education
654 Main Street
Baton Rouge, LA 70801

National Center for Homeless Education
(800) 755-3277
PO Box 5367
Greensboro, NC 27435
Web site: www.serve.org

National Coalition for the Homeless
(202) 737-6444
1012 Fourteenth Street NW, #600
Washington, DC 20005-3471
Web site: www.nationalhomeless.org
E-mail: info@nationalhomeless.org

Health Care for the Homeless Clinicians' Network
(615) 226-2292

National Health Care for the Homeless Council
PO Box 60427
Nashville, TN 27206-0427
Web site: www.nhchc.org

The National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
(202) 638-2535
1411 K Street NW, #1400
Washington, DC 20005
Web site: www.nlchp.org
E-mail: info@nlchp.org

Homeless children and families are a heterogeneous population, with multiple and interrelated needs. This is a crucial observation for the development of services. The episode of homelessness is rarely a one-off event.Â will have to develop effective screening and referral mechanisms for families who are admitted in crisis, often without any previous records. This may provide a unique opportunity to become aware of child protection concerns, special educational needs and the involvement of social services or education agencies, and of mental health problems and disorders that would respond to treatment. Families with children comprise a third of the homeless population and are typically comprised of a single mother in her late twenties with two young children. Approximately 47 percent of children in homeless families are Black, although Black children make up just 15 percent of the U.S. child population (Child Trends Databank, 2012). On the other hand, although White children make up 66% of the child population, they account for 38% of homeless children.Â Lack of affordable housing is also a risk factor for homelessness, particularly for families who devote more than 50% of household income to paying rent or those who experience a foreclosure. Foreclosures affect vulnerable tenants as well as homeowners who are delinquent in their mortgage payments.