





# 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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