

# How the Early Childhood Sector Can Help Solve Infant and Toddler Homelessness

We know that approximately

**450,000**

infants and toddlers experience homelessness in the US.

**70,000**

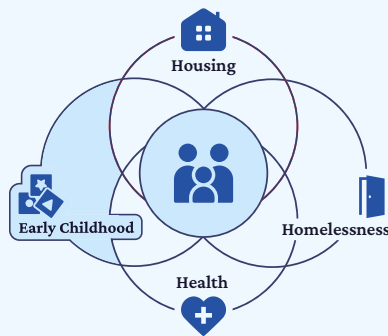
babies are born to parents who experienced homelessness during pregnancy.



## Homelessness and housing instability during pregnancy or in the first three years of a child's life has lifelong consequences on physical health and mental well-being.

Homelessness in early childhood—an adverse childhood experience—can lead to developmental delays, physical and mental health issues, and lasting effects on well-being.

**We know that the first three years of a child's life are critical to brain development.** If we act early we can prevent and solve homelessness and mitigate the resulting trauma.



## The solution

There's an opportunity to ensure all infants, toddlers, expectant parents, and their families have access to stable, secure housing and the services they need to thrive.

**The early childhood sector is vital to ensure a future where every baby has a safe and stable place to call home.**

The early childhood sector plays a crucial role in ensuring babies' healthy development and wellbeing. Addressing homelessness among infants, toddlers, expectant parents and their families can spark generational change. We must support policies that prioritize families experiencing homelessness and remove barriers that limit access to the services they need.

When early childhood, health, homelessness, and housing services work together, families with young children can get the help they need more quickly, with less stress, and see better long-term outcomes. To drive meaningful progress, the early childhood sector can take action in three key ways:

### Act now to meet the urgent needs of babies

Families with infants, toddlers, or those expecting a child can't wait. We need to better integrate housing and homelessness services into early childhood programs to connect families with the resources and services they need.

### Champion policies that put infants and toddlers first

Investing in shelter, affordable housing, and early childhood development programs for families experiencing homelessness helps them thrive. We must prioritize policies that expand access to these resources and reduce barriers to the programs and services families need.

### Collaborate across sectors to build lasting solutions

Preventing and ending infant and toddler homelessness takes all of us. The early childhood sector must work hand in hand with health care, housing, and homelessness services. Lasting impact depends on deep, cross-sector partnerships that engages families and provides them with seamless, coordinated support from the very beginning.