

The Role Housing Providers Play in Solving Infant and Toddler Homelessness

We know that approximately

450,000

infants and toddlers experience homelessness in the US.

~70,000

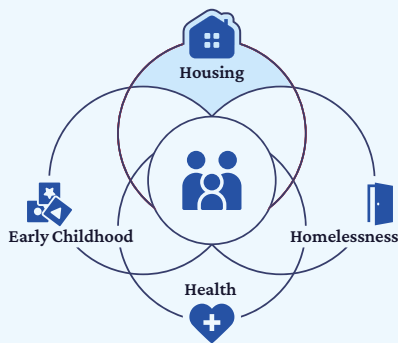
babies are born to parents who experienced homelessness during pregnancy.



Homelessness 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.

Housing providers are critical to ensure a future where every baby has a safe and stable place to call home.

Housing providers play a crucial role in connecting individuals and families with stable, secure homes. When it comes to addressing homelessness among infants, toddlers, expectant parents and their families, even small shifts in practice and policy can spark generational change.

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, housing providers 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. When they qualify for housing assistance, ensure they're also connected to essential supports like Home Visiting, Early Head Start, Early Intervention, and child care subsidies. Immediate action can prevent deeper crises and change the trajectory of a child's life.

Champion policies that put infants and toddlers first

Support policies that make it easier to house and care for families with young children. This includes expanding access to shelter and permanent affordable housing, increasing access to early childhood programs and additional support services, integrating health and housing services, and improving data collection, analysis, use, and coordination.

Collaborate across sectors to build lasting solutions

Preventing and ending infant and toddler homelessness takes more than one system. Housing must work hand in hand with health care, early childhood, and homelessness services. Lasting impact depends on deep, cross-sector partnerships that provide families with seamless, coordinated support from the very beginning.