

Addressing Infant and Toddler Homelessness

Impacts on infants, toddlers, expectant parents, and their families

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.

Uniting these sectors offers comprehensive solutions to meet the unique needs of these families and unlock their full potential.

With integration and the right strategies, we can increase access to housing, early childhood development services, and other wraparound support services to expectant parents and families with infants and toddlers.

When families have safe, stable housing – safe shelter when they need it – and access to high quality early development programs and other supports that meet their needs, young children have a strong foundation to grow. It's time to **unite** the early childhood, housing, and homelessness sectors to build a **coordinated, holistic** support system for infants, toddlers, expectant parents, and their families. A system that can ultimately prevent homelessness in the first place. This means:

Connected systems

Health, homelessness, housing, and early childhood services must be connected so families with infants and toddlers can get the full range of support they need.

Everyone on the same team

Everyone—from shelter and housing providers to healthcare workers and early childhood providers—must work together to advance practices and policies that support infants, toddlers, and expectant parents.

Easy access to support

Expectant parents and families easily receive referrals to access shelter, housing, and services.