



**Thrive**  
From  
the **Start**

Support Babies. Solve Homelessness. Together.

State Capacity Building Project Informational Webinar



**ZERO to THREE**



## AGENDA

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### Welcome

Jamie Colvard

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### Thrive from the Start Network

Patricia Cole

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### State Capacity Building Initiative

Katrina Coburn

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### Q & A

Jamie Colvard

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### Timeline and Reminders

Katrina Coburn







# Thrive from the Start Network

Babies and Housing, From Metaphor to  
Movement

PATRICIA COLE

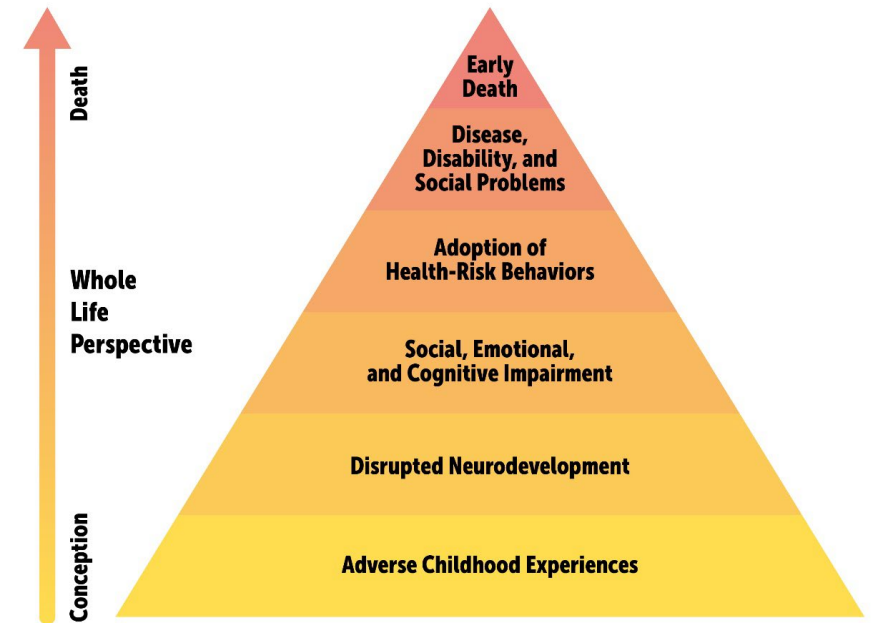
**The metaphor: Brains are built from the bottom up. Like building a house, they need to start with a strong foundation**



**The movement: A stable, secure physical environment where nurturing can occur is a crucial component of healthy development**

# Homelessness and Housing Instability are Early Adverse Experiences with Profound and Long-lasting Impacts

- Significant developmental delays
- Cognitive impairments hindering learning and memory
- Physical health issues such as chronic illness and malnutrition
- Delayed social and emotional development affecting ability to form relationships
- Increased chance of early mortality when combined with poverty



# We Are Called To Action

- About 450,000 babies experience homelessness—75% are doubled up
- About 70,000 babies are born to parents who experienced homelessness
- Babies and families have multi-faceted needs that cannot be met by a single sector
- Lack of understanding of the critical connection between housing and homelessness and early brain development
- Rapid brain development magnifies the impact on babies--*but homelessness and its effects can be prevented*





# What is Thrive From the Start?

- A network spanning the early childhood, housing, and homelessness systems, dedicated to ensuring every expectant parent, infant, toddler, and their families have the resources and opportunities to thrive.
- Outgrowth of a partnership of four organizations representing these areas.



[www.thrivefromthestart.org](http://www.thrivefromthestart.org)

# Thrive from the Start Policy Agenda

## Cross-Sector Solutions to Address Infant and Toddler Homelessness



**EXPAND ACCESS TO SHELTER AND  
PERMANENT AFFORDABLE HOUSING**



**INCREASE ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD  
PROGRAMS AND ADDITIONAL SUPPORT  
SERVICES**



**INTEGRATE HEALTH CARE SERVICES  
AND HOUSING SERVICES**



**IMPROVE DATA COLLECTION, ANALYSIS,  
USE, AND COORDINATION**



# Thrive From the Start: *Forward Movement*

- Add more partners and develop champions
- Increase awareness and understanding of homelessness in the prenatal-to-three period
- Expand research on the impacts and scope of P-3 homelessness
- Build capacity in states and communities to solve homelessness for expectant parents, infants and toddlers



ZERO to THREE

# Thrive from the Start Prenatal-Three Homelessness and Housing Instability State Capacity-Building Initiative

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- **10 Awards of up to \$100,000 each**
- **January 2026 – June 2027**



**ZERO to THREE**



# Thrive from the Start Policy Agenda

- Expand Access to Shelter and Permanent Housing
- Increase Access to Early Childhood Development Programs and Additional Support Services
- Integrate Health Care Services and Housing Services
- Improve Data Collection, Analysis, Use, and Coordination



# Consider team members who have:

- expertise in homelessness and housing
- lived experience navigating and engaging in public services for families with children P-3;
- authority to make policy and system decisions or access to decision-makers in state government;
- trusting relationships in communities that have been made marginalized by structural inequity (with families, grassroots groups, providers, faith-based organization, nonprofits, etc.);
- administration of services or programs for children P-3;
- understanding of family experiences, particularly families who face structural barriers based on race and other marginalized identities in accessing services and supports; and
- advocacy capacity.

# How can you use this funding?

- Staff support
- Participation for core partners.
- Stipends
- Landscape analysis
- Research on the potential impact of policies
- Public/policymaker education and advocacy strategies
- Other activities
- Optional – limited lobbying activities





# Capacity Building Activities

- Bimonthly Community of Practice
- In-Person Convening
- Individualized TA Supports



# Available Supports

- Assistance in team planning
- National overview presentations
- Assistance in developing family engagement strategies
- Assistance in using data
- Resources on exemplary models or practices in other states.
- Assistance in identifying and inviting outside experts
- Reviewing and providing feedback on written materials
- Arranging peer-to-peer calls
- Assistance facilitating and/or participating in work sessions, public events, etc.
- Assistance with messaging and communications



# What will make a successful application?

- broad-based multi-sector state team
- voices of lived experience
- clear added value
- commitment to sustainability





## One Application Per State

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*"Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much."*

*– Helen Keller*



ZERO TO THREE

# Questions?



# Timeline

