



**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

2

### 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



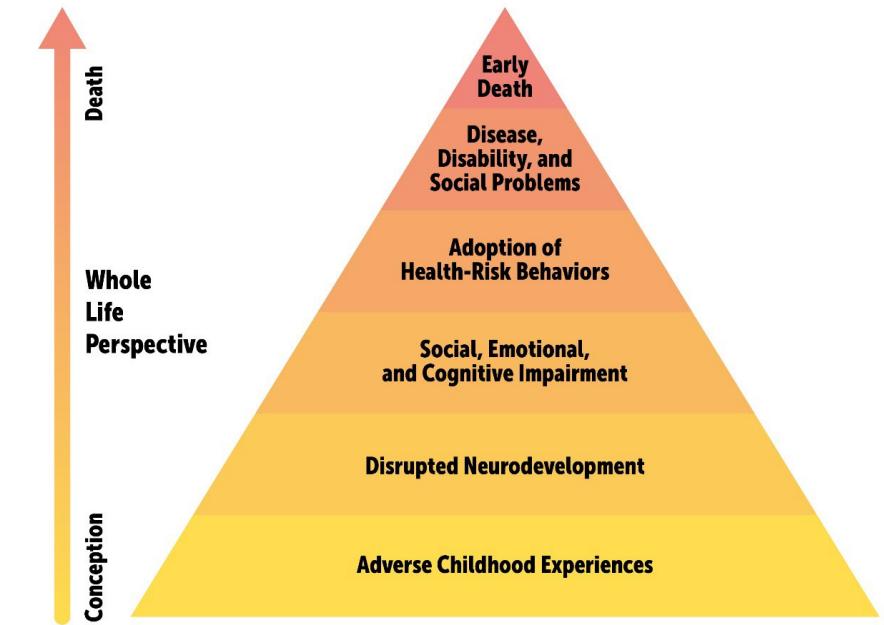
**The metaphor: Brains are built from the bottom up. Like building a house, they need to start with a strong foundation**



**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



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# 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*



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# 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



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# 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



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





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



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# 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

“

*“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”*

*– Helen Keller*



# Questions?



## Timeline

