

# Supporting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: Identification and Access to Early Childhood Programs

February 24, 2023





# Welcome from the California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)



# About the HETAC

- The Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC)
  - Is funded by the California Department of Education to serve as the state's homeless education technical assistance center
  - Is operated jointly by the Contra Costa, Los Angeles, and San Diego County Offices of Education

## HETAC Lead Contacts

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*“Which HETAC serves my county?”* [Download the HETAC flyer](#) to learn more.



# Webinar Logistics

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- The webinar is being recorded and will be posted within approximately one week on the Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center (HETAC) website at [hetac.org](https://hetac.org)
- A copy of the presentation slides and resources will also be sent out to attendees with the recording link
- All attendees are muted
- Attendees may turn on or disable closed captioning
- Please use “Q&A” to submit questions

# Presenters

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**Erin Patterson**, Director of Education Initiatives,  
SchoolHouse Connection

**Denise Clarke**, Education Liaison,  
Contra Costa County Office of Education

**Charlotte Peterson**, Homeless Education Program  
Specialist, Nevada County Superintendent of  
Schools








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# Infants & Toddlers Experiencing Homelessness: Prevalence and Access to Early Learning in Twenty States



# About SchoolHouse Connection

SchoolHouse Connection works to overcome homelessness through education.

We provide strategic advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with schools, early childhood programs, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth.

**WEBSITE:**

[schoolhouseconnection.org](https://schoolhouseconnection.org)

**NEWSLETTER:**

[schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/sign-up)

- Federal and state policy advocacy
- Q&A from our inbox
- Webinars and implementation tools
- Youth leadership and scholarships

# Overview



DEFINITION

# Who is Eligible?

**Children and youth**  
who lack a fixed,  
regular, and adequate  
nighttime residence.



Sharing the housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reasons.



Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations.



Living in emergency or transitional shelters.



Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings.

## OVERVIEW

Families often stay with others temporarily because of lack of shelter availability, and the fear of having children removed from their custody.

Staying with others puts families, infants, and toddlers in vulnerable, harmful situations, and, conditions that may contribute to developmental delays. Parents may stay with abusive/exploitive people, or trade sex in order to have a place to stay.

Definitions

Overview

Impact

Objectives



## DEFINITION

# Unaccompanied Youth

A child or youth without a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence and not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.



Youth run away from home due to abuse or neglect.

- 40-60% of unaccompanied youth were abused physically at home.
- 17-25% of unaccompanied youth were abused sexually at home.
- Research links parental substance abuse and youth running away from home



Parents force youth out of the home due to conflicts.

- Sexual orientation and gender identity
- Pregnancy

# Children 0-6 Experiencing Homelessness in California: **261,323**

## Early childhood enrollment rates:

- 7.3% enrolled in Head Start/Early Head Start
- 2,756 enrolled in Early Head Start (0 - 3)
- 424 enrolled in Child Care (0 - 3)
- 492 enrolled in Home Visiting (Parents as Teachers, 0 - 3)

**91.3% of children aged 0-6 experiencing homelessness are NOT enrolled in an early learning program in California**

# Did you know...

<b>Program</b>	<b>Serves ages</b>
Maternal Infant Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV)	Pregnant/expecting parents and caregivers of children under age five
Early Intervention	Ages birth - age three
Early Head Start	Prenatal - age three
Head Start	Ages four - five
Child Care	Ages six weeks - 12 years



# Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

**1.3 MILLION**

babies, toddlers, and young children  
under age 6 experienced homelessness  
in 2018-2019

(USED 2018-2019 Profiles)

44% of young women (age 18-25) and 18%  
of young men experiencing homelessness  
are current or expectant parents to over

**1.1 MILLION** young children

([Chapin Hall](#), University of Chicago)

## OVERVIEW

# Infants, Toddlers, & Families Experiencing Homelessness

**15.4%**

Of infants and toddlers live in crowded housing, which is known to jeopardize child development. 2.9% of babies and toddlers have moved three or more times since birth.

[State of Babies Yearbook 2022 \(Zero to Three\)](#)

## Hispanic, American Indian/Alaska Native, and Black Babies

Have a higher incidence of living in crowded housing, and low-income babies are nearly three times more likely to live in crowded housing.

# Homelessness Has Serious Consequences for Young Children



Homelessness in infancy has been found to be associated with delays in language, literacy, and social-emotional development, putting children at risk for later academic problems.



The younger and longer a child experiences homelessness, the greater the cumulative toll of negative health outcomes.



The impacts of homelessness on young children are long-lasting, even once families are housed, including on children's school readiness.

# Homelessness Also Has Long- Term Consequences



The high school graduation rate for students experiencing homelessness is **68% compared to 85% for all students**. This is the lowest graduation rate of any student sub-group, including economically disadvantaged.



High school students who experience homelessness are **10x more likely to become pregnant or get someone pregnant**.



In addition to the academic impacts, homelessness in the early years can cause **developmental delays, social-emotional challenges, and long-term trauma**.

# Homelessness Creates Barriers to Accessing Early Childhood Programs



**High Mobility** of families moving in and out of motels, staying with others, living in cars, etc.



**Lack of documentation** and other enrollment barriers, including child immunization and parent work requirements



**Lack of transportation** to and from programs



**Lack of awareness** among early care providers of both the definition of homelessness and the best ways to reach families



# Best Practices

# Ideas for Action

- **Data**
  - What data do you already have available?
  - What data would be useful but is missing?
  - Who might be able to provide additional data?
- **Identification & Referrals**
  - How are young children aged 0-5 currently identified as experiencing homelessness?
  - Once identified, how are they referred to an early learning program?
- **Access to Supports & Services**
  - What are the available early learning supports and services in your county?
- **Parent Empowerment/Leadership/Voice**
  - How often do you speak with parents of young children experiencing homelessness about the barriers they face?
  - What do parents say are their biggest needs?

# Questions & Discussion



**Erin Patterson**

Director of Education Initiatives

[erin@schoolhouseconnection.org](mailto:erin@schoolhouseconnection.org)

# Education for Homeless Children and Youth and Preschool

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- Originally passed in 1987 and Reauthorized in 2015 by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in 2015.
- Each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, **including a public preschool education**, as provided to other children and youths.
- Added **additional liaison duties** around identification of preschool aged children and access to early education programs.
- The definition of **school of origin** now includes preschools.



# Homeless Education Liaison Duties

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- Under the 42 United States Code Section 11432(g)(6)(A), it states that homeless liaisons should identify preschool aged children experiencing homelessness through **outreach and coordination activities with outside agencies**.
- LEA homeless liaisons must ensure that homeless children have **access** to Head Start and Early Head Start programs, early intervention services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (Part C), and other preschool programs administered by the LEA. 42 USC §11432(g)(6)(A)(iii).

# LEA Requirements

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- Designate a local **liaison** for homeless children and youth
- Review board policies and **eliminate barriers to enrollment**, retention, and success in LEA preschool programs
- Provide **public notice** of the educational rights of children experiencing homelessness, including their eligibility to attend early learning programs – must be shared in locations frequented by families
- **Professional development** for homeless liaisons and other preschool administrators responsible for providing services to young children experiencing homelessness
- **Collaborate and coordinate** with other services providers

# Contra Costa County

- 18 school districts and 23 Charter Schools
- 4 districts with State Funded Preschools
- Community Services Bureau provides services for approximately 2,100 children, ages 0-5, through Head Start, Early Head Start, and State Preschool programs
- Average of 500 children ages 0-5 accessing homeless services annually



# Districts and Schools

- Ensure registration forms or housing questionnaire has a section to list younger siblings
- Have a system in place so the LEA homeless liaison can get this information to follow up with families
- Develop a parent/guardian flyer with information on early education programs



The image shows a laptop screen with a web browser displaying a 'Registration Form'. The form has a blue header with the title 'Registration Form'. Below the header, there is a section titled 'Personal Information' with fields for 'Full Name:', 'Date of Birth:', 'Phone Number:', and 'Present Address:'. Below this section is another section titled 'Previous schools Attended' with a field for 'Name of School:'. The laptop is shown from a slightly elevated angle, and a person's fingers are visible at the bottom, typing on the keyboard. A small 'How' logo is visible in the bottom right corner of the laptop screen.



# HETAC Flyer Template



## Local Early Care and Education Programs: A Resource for Families in Transition

Early care and education (ECE) programs in California help provide care, education and food for young children. Learn more below about what ECE programs may be available in your area and how to access them.

### What ECE Programs Are Available?

There are many kinds of ECE Programs.

- **Locations:** Programs can be offered in different settings, like schools, preschools, child care centers, and family child care homes.
- **Ages:** Programs in California serve children birth to age 12. Some programs serve youth over age 12 if they have special needs.
- **Special needs:** Some programs help children who have unique or special needs.
- **Cost:** Many programs in California are available to families at low or no cost.

### How Can My Family Get Connected to ECE Programs?

Learn more about ECE programs in your area and how to enroll your child:

- **Child Care Resource & Referral agencies (CCR&Rs)** help families find child care according to their needs based on things like language spoken by the family and program hours of operation, location, and price range. Many families may be eligible for low- or no-cost child care. The name of the CCR&R for <<name of city or county>> is <<insert name of local CCR&R>>. You can contact them at <<insert contact information (phone, email, web address, etc.)>>. You also can call 1-800-543-7793 to start your search.

- **Head Start and Early Head Start programs** are free and help children learn so they are ready to start school. These programs serve families with children birth through five years old. Visit <https://bit.ly/hs-ehs> and enter your zip code or visit <https://bit.ly/hs-contacts> and look for your county to find a program near you. You also can contact your CCR&R above for help finding a local Head Start or Early Head Start program.
- **Early Start programs** help infants and toddlers with disabilities and their families. Visit <https://bit.ly/early-family> to find the Early Start center near you or contact the Early Start Baby Line at 800-515-2229 or [earlystart@dds.ca.gov](mailto:earlystart@dds.ca.gov).
- **Other helpful local ECE contacts** include <<add information here, as appropriate>>.

### Where Can I Learn More?

- Learn about the different kinds of ECE program settings (child care center, school, home, etc.) and getting help with child care costs at <https://bit.ly/program-types>.
- Learn about what to look for when choosing child care and other helpful topics at <https://bit.ly/care-vids>.
- Learn about the free Text4Baby service that sends helpful texts about your baby's development at <https://www.text4baby.org/>.
- Learn about how to support your child's growth and learning in their first five years at <https://www.first5california.com/>.

Every school district in California also has a local liaison who helps families who are in unstable housing. You can contact the local liaison for the <<name of LEA>> to ask for help with the needs of your infants, toddlers, and school-age children.




	<<Add local liaison contact information here Local liaison name Local educational agency (LEA) name Local liaison phone number Local liaison email address Homeless education program webpage address>>
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# Head Start

- Meet with Head Start to discuss training opportunities, resources and strategies for working together.
- Identify opportunities for collaboration and outreach such as liaison meetings, parent nights, community fairs, and enrollment events.
- Discuss parameters for sharing information and data with each other.

<b>Services for Head Start Families</b> County Office of Education Homeless Liaisons and Head Start Agencies			
  			
Homeless children are categorically eligible for Head Start, and Head Start provides numerous supportive services that benefit the entire family, including school-aged siblings. This resource is designed to allow Head Start staff and county office of education homeless liaisons to easily access each other to refer families for complimentary services. Some Head Start programs serve multiple counties and may be listed more than once.			
County	COE Homeless Liaison	Head Start Agencies	
Alameda	Elizabeth Tarango (510) 670-7752 lzt@acoe.org	Alameda Family Services/ Alameda Head Start Alameda, CA	Lynne Moore-Kerr (510) 629-6350 lmoorekerr@alamedafs.org
		CAPE Inc. Livermore, CA	Regina Garcia (925) 443-3434 rgarcia@capeheadstart.org
		City of Oakland Head Start Oakland, CA	Diveena Cooppan (510) 238-3165 dcooppan@oaklandca.gov
		Kidango Fremont, CA	Rachelle Javier (800) 262-4252 rjavier@kidango.org
		The Unity Council Children & Family Services Oakland, CA	Luis Arenas (510) 535-6106 larenas@unitycouncil.org
		Through the Looking Glass Berkeley, CA	Denice Catching (510) 848-1112 dcatching@lookingglass.org
		YMCA of the East Bay Richmond, CA	Melanie Mueller (510) 848-9092 mmueller@ymcaeastbay.org
Alpine	Matt Strahl (530) 694-2238 mstrahl@alpinecoe.k12.ca.us	No Head Start programs in this county	
Amador	Regina Helmer (209) 257-5339 rhelmer@acusd.org	Amador-Tuolumne Community Action Agency Sonoma, CA	Nancy Miner (209) 533-0361 nminer@atcaa.org
Butte	Meagan Meloy (530) 879-3781 mmeloy@bcoe.org	E Center Head Start Yuba City, CA	Jodie Keller (530) 741-2995 jkeller@ecenter.org
Calaveras	Karen Vail (209) 736-6025 kvail@ccoe.k12.ca.us	The Resource Connection Early Childhood Program San Andreas, CA	Jeanette Allen (209) 754-2000 jallen@trcac.org

Updated Oct. 17, 2022

1 of 13

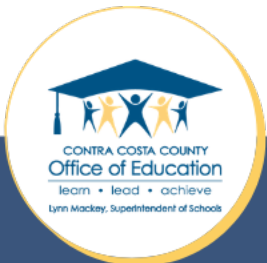
[County Contact List](#)





# Head Start

- Implement the use of a Head Start Referral Form at school sites.
- Establish a cross-referral system between school sites and Head Start or other local childcare programs.
- Refer to guidance for MOUs between Head Start and LEAs.

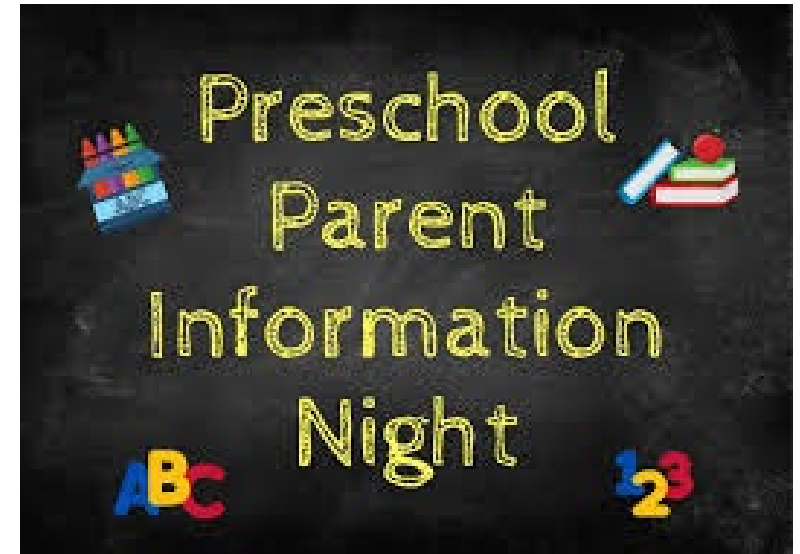
<https://schoolhouseconnection.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/MOU-HeadStartLEAwattachments.pdf>



	<b>Contra Costa County Employment and Human Services Community Services Bureau</b>	
<b>Homelessness Referral</b>		
<p><b>Instructions:</b> Please complete this form legibly and completely and <u>attach it to a cover letter on agency letterhead</u> referencing this attached referral. Return the completed form and cover letter to the parent for presentation at his/her chosen child care program or mail directly to:</p> <p style="text-align: right;">ERSEA Unit Community Services Bureau 1470 Civic Court, Suite 200 Concord, CA 94520 Fax: (925)313-8302 E-mail: <a href="mailto:csb-eligibility@ehsd.cccounty.us">csb-eligibility@ehsd.cccounty.us</a></p>		
To: Community Services Bureau, Attn: _____		Date of Referral: _____
From: _____		Phone: _____
Referring Agency is: (check one) <input type="checkbox"/> Emergency Shelter <input type="checkbox"/> Transitional Housing <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Support Program <input type="checkbox"/> Legal, Medical, or Social Service Agency		
Child's Name: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M / <input type="checkbox"/> F	Date of Birth: _____
Child's Name: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M / <input type="checkbox"/> F	Date of Birth: _____
Child's Name: _____	Gender: <input type="checkbox"/> M / <input type="checkbox"/> F	Date of Birth: _____
Primary Caregiver's Name: _____		Date of Birth: _____
Caregiver's Relationship to Child(ren): _____		
Caregiver's Phone Number: _____		
Statement of the Family's Living Situation: <div style="border: 1px solid black; height: 100px; width: 100%;"></div>		
Referring Person's Name – Printed _____		Signature _____
Title: _____		Date _____
CSB624-Homelessness Referral		Content Revised: 05/2018

# Best Practices

- Make presentations during Parent Advisory Meetings and or preschool parent information nights.
- Connect with the Local Planning Council for Early Care and Education.
- Create or participate in a children and youth subcommittee or similar collaborative meeting focused on 0-5.
- CA Resource and Referral is a great partner! [Find your local Resource & Referral agency.](#)



# Training and Outreach



- Train early intervention staff and regional center staff.
- Partner with local Continuum of Care to provide trainings and professional development to homeless service providers and the community.
- Host tables at community events such as National Night Out, homeless services one-stop events, crisis center resource events, job fairs, health fairs, etc.



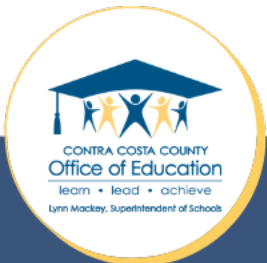
# Shelters

- Work with local shelters and train shelter case managers.
- Provide information for parents one-on-one or during parent education nights.



# Libraries, Motels, Resource Centers

- Partner with library programs, local motels, First 5 Family Resource Centers, Crisis Centers, and other community partners.
- Post educational rights posters at low-cost health clinics, or public benefits offices (WIC, SNAP, TANF).
- Posters can be accessed at the [CDE Resources for Homeless Children and Youth web page](#)





# Identification & Data Collection

- Identification and data collection begins at the district and school sites!
- Make sure registration staff and LEA early education program administrators are trained on McKinney-Vento and have resources
- Collaborate with publicly funded preschool programs
- Facilitate data sharing and referral process with Head Start and Early Head Start Programs
- Coordinate with local Continuum of Care (CoC) for data sharing - [Locate your local CoC](#)



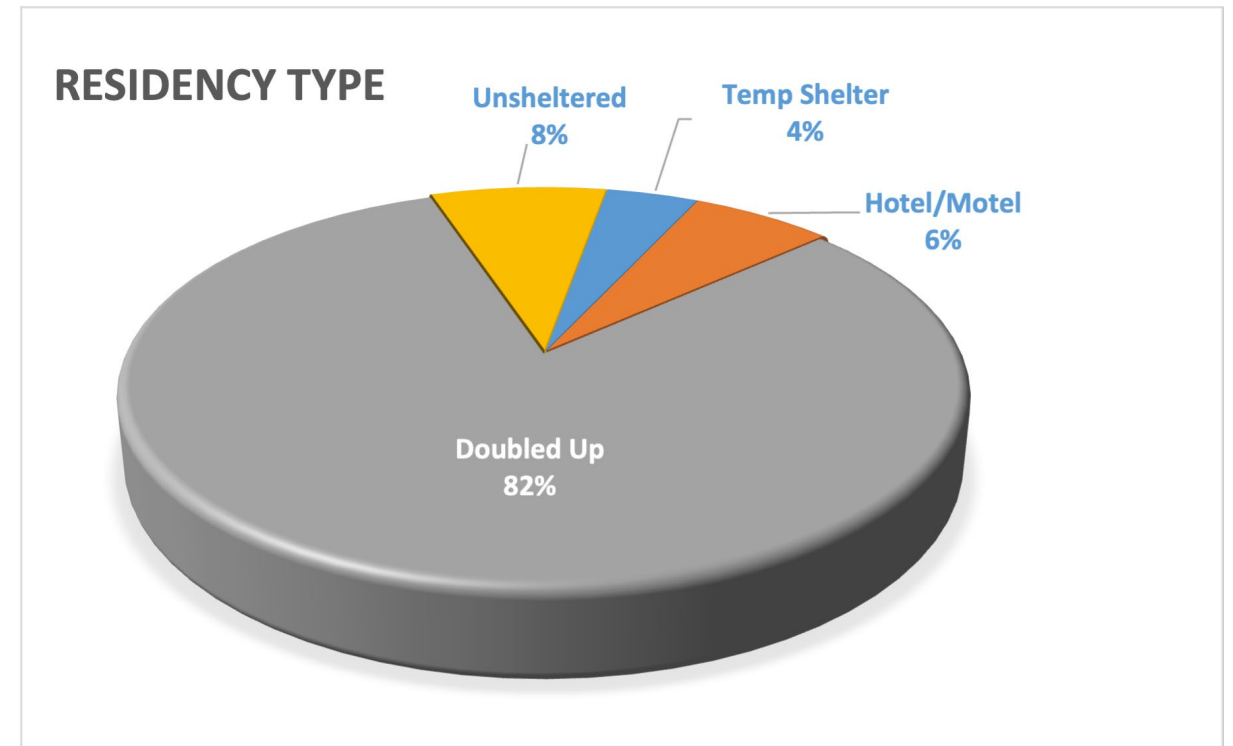
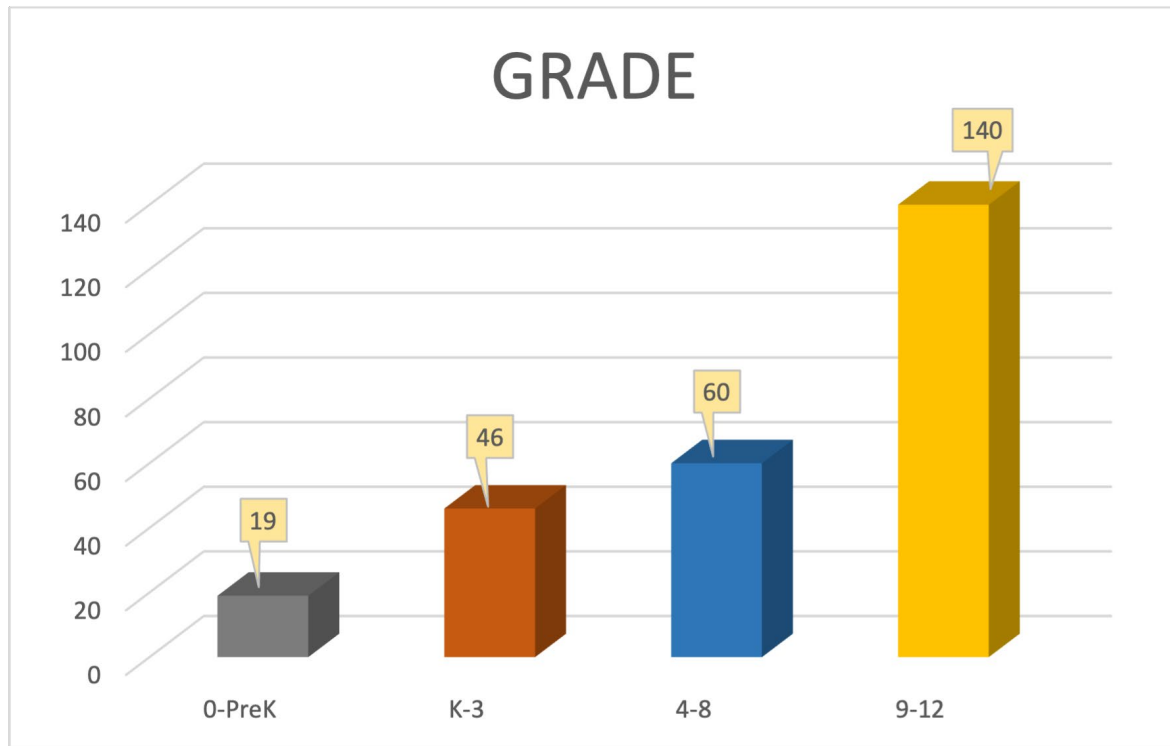


# Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

- Serves roughly 11,525 students
  - 8 elementary school districts
  - 1 high school district
  - 6 charter schools
- 
- For the 2019-20 school year, 50% of students within Nevada County were on free & reduced lunch meal plans.

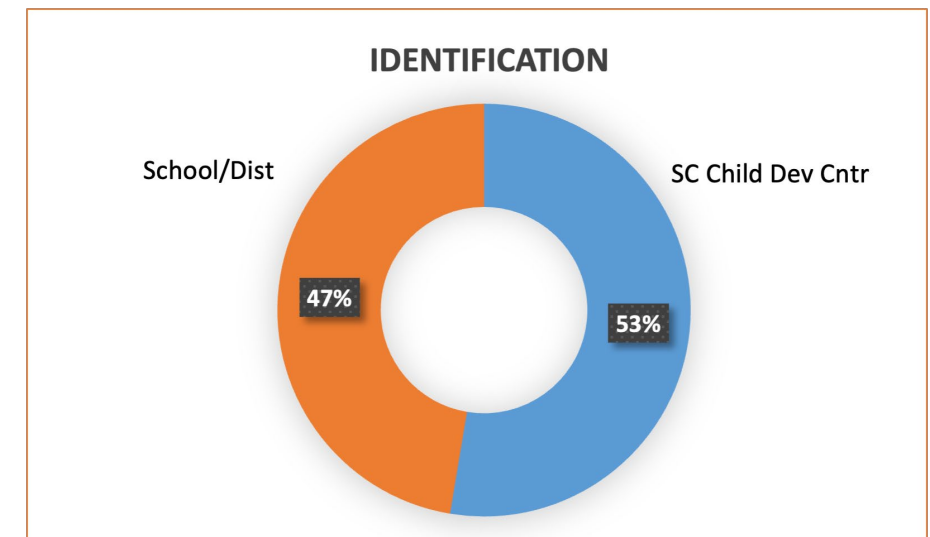
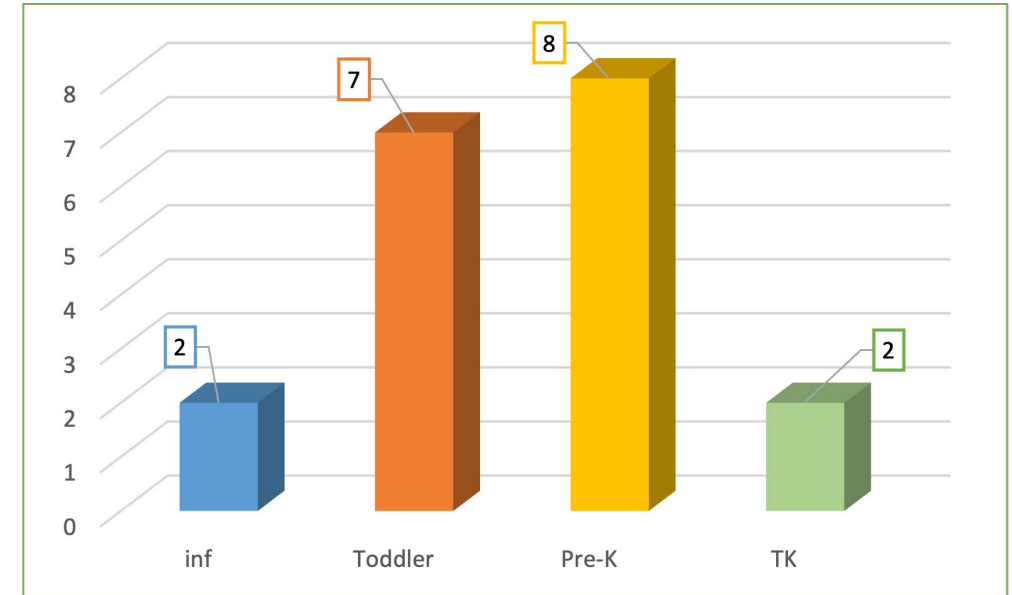
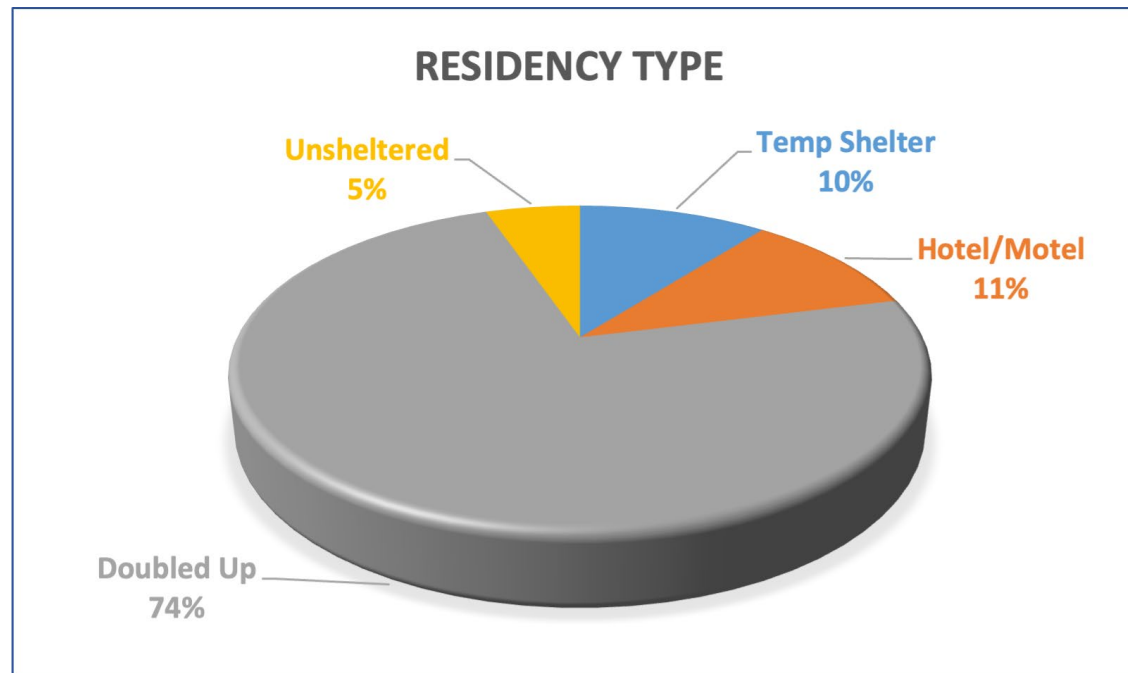


# COUNTYWIDE HOMELESS STUDENTS IDENTIFIED 2021-2022



265 Students were identified last year.  
Unsheltered included living in cars, campgrounds, trailers, and residences needing significant repairs.

# 19 CHILDREN Ages 0-5 were identified as homeless 2021-2022



**\*\* So far in the 2022-2023 school year 216 students total and **31** children ages 0-5 have been identified**



Community  
Conversation

**Helping to Identify  
Children 0 to 5  
Experiencing Housing Transition**

January 19, 2023  
11am to Noon  
Zoom



a program of  
Nevada County Superintendent of Schools

# Agency Identification & Inviting with Intention

- Partnered with our local First5 agency to identify agencies to invite
- Sent an email invitation directly to each agency leader- “We would love to have you at the table..”

# Agencies in Attendance

- First 5 of Nevada County
- Sierra Nevada Children's Services
- Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Foundation
- Stanford Sierra Forever Families
- Salvation Army/Booth Center
- PARTNERS Family Resource Centers
- Local Prevention Council
- Children's Behavioral Health
- Local libraries
- Charis/Little Bugs Learning Center
- Court Appointed Special Advocates
- KidzCommunity

*\*\* Did not have preschools/daycares at the initial meeting*



# First Initial Meeting Structure

- Kept it brief- one hour, via Zoom
- Introductions- Ed Team, use of Menti (provided visual of agencies represented)
- Brief overview of McKinney-Vento & identification requirements of the schools
- Information sharing/data collection (Jamboard/Fishbone diagrams)





# What services does your agency provide to families with children ages 0-5?

Please include your agency at the top of the list you create  
You can either use a sticky note or the textbox function

CASA: Advocacy, some material support: books, clothing, enrichment activities

GV Library - early literacy "learning 2 go" bags with themed toys and books

KidZCommunity: we serve families in poverty with children birth to 5 and pregnant mothers. we have homebased and centerbased programs.

Charis Properties: (division of Charis Youth Center) provide housing for transitional age youth and families with young children.

Sierra Nevada Memorial Hospital Found: our Read Me a Story Program provides books to kids age 6 mos to 8 yrs at clinics in Nevada and Placer Co.

Little Bugs Learning Center: (division of Charis Youth Center) daycare and preschool services for children 0-5.

First 5 - Car seat safety education and inspection (we will have car seats to give out soon), community education, funding some of the amazing programs here

Local Planning Council - grants to early care settings and staff to support families, family-child activities/trainings

Children's BH: Child-Parent Psychotherapy, Play Therapy and PC Care

Baby storytime at GV library

GV library - themed Preschool teaching kits with books and toys

GV Library - Stay and Play - play group for kids 0-5 and their caregivers. Open play with emphasis on talk, read, write, sing, and play. Storytime with emphasis on early literacy.

Charis Properties: housing to transitional age youth and families with young children.

PARTNERS Family Resource Center

The Salvation Army - Alta- Emergency Food boxes, utility assistance, we are great problem solvers (211 referrals if they can't match with program resident)

Diaper Project/ playgroups/ Clothes Closet/ Nurturing Parenting classes & Parenting support 1:1 meetings/ Latino

Salvation Army Booth Family Center - transitional housing up to 6 months for children and their parent(s) we are a



# FAMILY QUALIFIERS

Green = YES / Red = NO / Yellow = NOT SURE

01

SHARED HOUSING



02

HOTEL/MOTEL



03

EMERGENCY/TRANSITIONAL  
SHELTERS



04

PLACES NOT MEANT FOR  
SLEEPING



05

TRAILER PARKS,  
CAMPGROUNDS



06

SUBSTANDARD HOUSING



07

CARS, PARKS, ABANDONED  
BUILDINGS



08

NATURAL DISASTERS



09

EVACUEE/REFUGEE



## Data Collection at your agency

# On your intake/registration paperwork, do you ask if they are experiencing homelessness?

Please write your agency name in the box that best fits your agencies data collection

Yes, we are...

KidZCommunity

Children's  
Behavioral  
Health

**TSA:**  
**Yes, we  
do.**

NCL: Sort of? To get a permanent library card (temporary card 30 days ok without the following info), we require photo id and other things unhoused folks don't have

Charis  
Properties:  
Yes Little  
Bugs: No

No, we are not...

X

PARTNERS  
Family  
Resource  
Center --NO

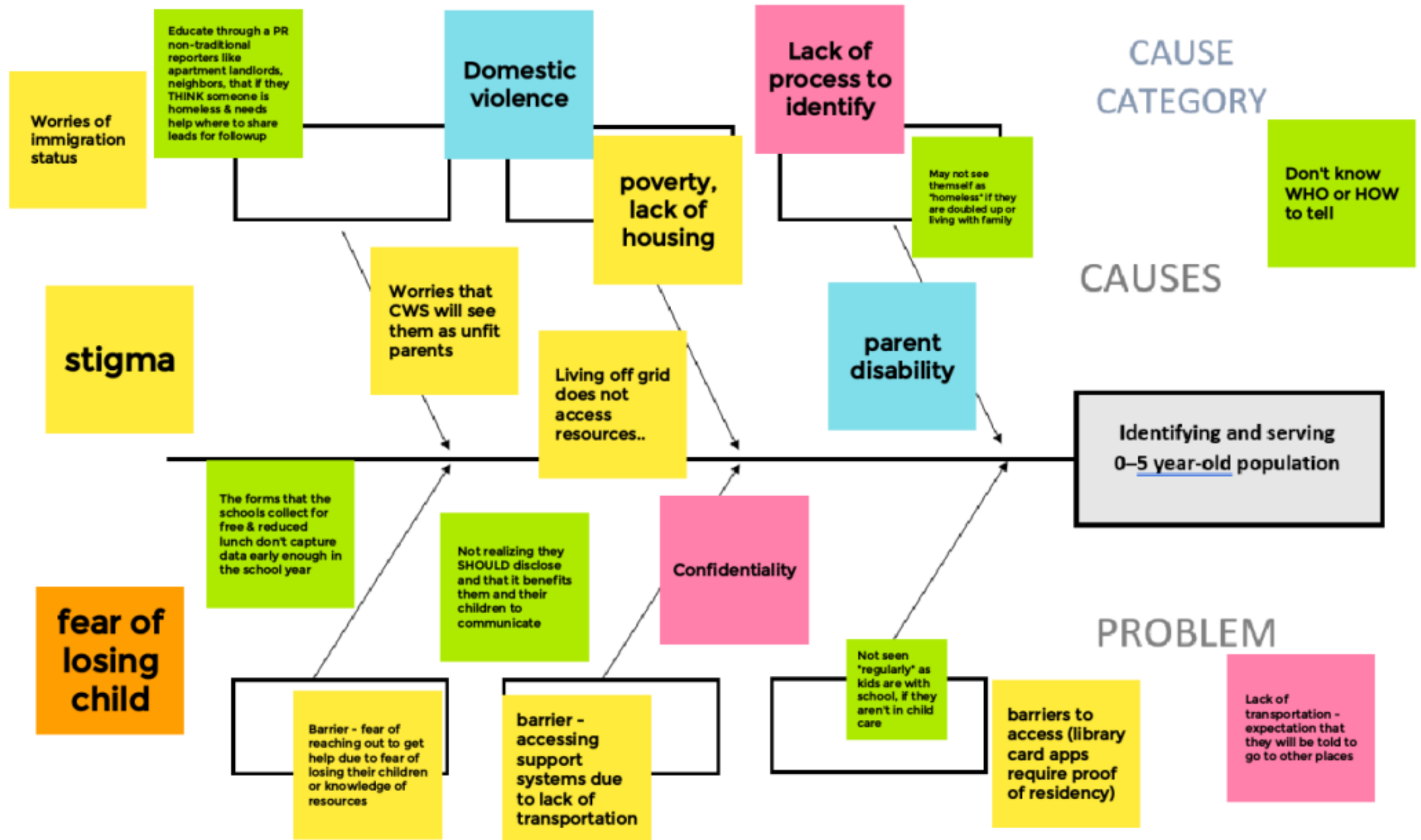
SNMHF: no,  
but the clinic  
patient details  
might.

FRC - We don't have them fill it out the welcome form, However we do have conversations with all families to explore what needs they have and in this way we can share information

Kind of - The LPC provides support to early care programs. We work with Head Starts and other state funded (CSPP) programs that will have these information.

CASA: Our information comes via CWS/Court paperwork, so we don't collect it independently

I am not sure...



## Next Steps:

- Sharing out data with those that participated
- Inclusion of daycares & preschools at next meeting & highlight 1-2 service providers
- Media blast about this effort/partnerships

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A program of  
Nevada County Superintendent of  
Schools

# HETAC Resources



California Homeless Education Technical Assistance Center

ABOUTSTATUTES AND GUIDANCE**RESOURCES**TRAINING AND EVENTSGET HELP

HOME > RESOURCES > EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION

## EARLY CARE AND EDUCATION FOR YOUNG CHILDREN EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

### HETAC RESOURCES

[California Early Care and Education Resource Guide](#)

This HETAC resource outlines key California early care and education (ECE) programs and shares information with California homeless liaisons and service providers on how to connect families experiencing homelessness to needed ECE supports.

[Local Early Care and Education Programs: A Resource for Families in Transition](#)

This resource outlines key California early care and education (ECE) programs and shares information with parents and caregivers about how to help their children access needed ECE supports. This resource is customizable to the local community context and is intended to serve as a companion resource to the HETAC's [California Early Care and Education Resource Guide](#).

### OTHER RESOURCES


[Head Start California: County Office of Education Homeless Liaison and Head Start Agency Contact List](#)

This Head Start California resource provides cross-referenced contact information for County Office of Education homeless liaisons and Head Start agencies to facilitate cross-program partnership and referrals of families experiencing homelessness.

[National Center for Homeless Education: Early Childhood/Preschool webpage](#)

This National Center for Homeless Education webpage provides informational and practical resources on connecting families with young children experiencing homelessness to early care and education.

[SchoolHouse Connection: Early Childhood webpage](#)

English >



# Resources

- **CDE Homeless Education and Early Education PowerPoint:** <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/hs/cy/documents/ehcyearlyeducation.pdf>
- **National Center for Homeless Education, Preschool and Early Childhood:** <https://nche.ed.gov/preschool-early-childhood/>
- **SchoolHouse Connection:** <https://schoolhouseconnection.org/learn/early-childhood/>
- **Responsive Early Education for Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness:** <https://www.cde.ca.gov/sp/cd/re/documents/earlyedhomelessness2020.pdf>

