



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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**ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**  
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### Early Childhood and Family Homelessness Resource List

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#### 2013 ACF LETTER ON INCREASING ECE SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

The purpose of this letter is to reinforce the importance of access to quality early childhood services for young homeless children and their families. The letter and the accompanying materials clarify policy options for State Administrators of Child Care and Head Start Directors in order to ensure that more young children and their families are served in child care and Head Start programs.<sup>1</sup> ([ACF Letter](#))

#### HEAD START INTERACTIVE HOMELESSNESS LESSONS

These lessons on homelessness will give Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant and Seasonal programs information about serving families who are experiencing homelessness.<sup>2</sup> The lessons will help programs to better understand eligibility and enrollment requirements. The lessons provide useful information for all early childhood providers in terms of pinpointing outreach and identification strategies, evaluating positive options for working with families, and identifying ways to work with community partners. (<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/>)

#### HORIZONS FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN

In addition to providing direct services to homeless children and families, Horizons for Homeless provides training and technical assistance to providers of homeless services, early care and education services, teachers, Early Intervention specialists, social workers, homeless education liaisons and others who work with young homeless children and their families. (<http://www.horizonsforhomelesschildren.org/>)

#### THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE EDUCATION OF HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH (NAEHCY)

The National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth is an organization dedicated to the education of children and youth experiencing homelessness. NAEHCY accomplishes this through advocacy, partnerships, and education. (<http://www.naehcy.org/>)

#### THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR HOMELESS EDUCATION (NCHE)

The National Center for Homeless Education (NCHE) provides research, resources, and information enabling communities to address the educational needs of children experiencing homelessness. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the Center serves as a clearinghouse of information for people

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<sup>1</sup> *Issued:* January 2013 - Prepared by the ACF Early Childhood Office, Office of Child Care and the Office of Head Start (<https://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ecd/expanding-early-care-and-education-for-homeless-children>)

<sup>2</sup> <http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/tta-system/family/Family%20and%20Community%20Partnerships/Crisis%20Support/Homelessness/homelessness.html>

seeking to remove or overcome educational barriers and to improve educational opportunities and outcomes for children and youth experiencing homelessness. The Center also supports educators and service providers through producing training and awareness materials and providing training. (<http://center.serve.org/nche/>)

### **NATIONAL CENTER ON FAMILY HOMELESSNESS**

The National Center on Family Homelessness offers a training institute to improve the skills and knowledge of people working with families experiencing homelessness.<sup>3</sup> Online core curricula, distance learning courses and face-to-face instruction are all available on a variety of topics which can be viewed online. (<http://www.familyhomelessness.org/>)

### **NATIONAL LAW CENTER ON HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY**

The mission of the Law Center is to prevent and end homelessness by serving as the legal arm of the nationwide movement to end homelessness. To achieve its mission, the organization pursues three main strategies: impact litigation, policy advocacy, and public education. (<http://www.nlchp.org/>)

### **U.S. INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS**

The mission of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) is to coordinate the federal response to homelessness and to create a national partnership at every level of government and with the private sector to reduce and end homelessness in the nation while maximizing the effectiveness of the federal government in contributing to the end of homelessness. (<http://www.usich.gov/>)

### **ZERO TO THREE**

ZERO TO THREE has produced a short video with highlights from a recent Congressional briefing on supporting homeless infants and toddlers. *Starting Life Without a Home* calls attention to the negative effects of family homelessness upon the developmental needs of young children.<sup>4</sup> (<http://www.zerotothree.org/>)

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<sup>3</sup> <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/training.php?p=sm>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.zerotothree.org/public-policy/newsletters/spotlight-on-homeless.html>