



Ending Homelessness Among Families with Children in 2020

The Opportunity

Access to stable, permanent housing is a proven solution to homelessness among families with children. To make sure communities have the array of housing opportunities needed to achieve and sustain an end to family homelessness, the President's 2017 Budget proposes:

- **\$11 billion** in mandatory funding over 10 years to achieve the end of family homelessness by 2020 and to sustain that end. This funding would:
 - Serve more than 431,000 families with short-term rapid re-housing
 - Provide more than 178,000 families with longer-term Housing Choice vouchers
- **\$2 billion** in mandatory funding over the next five years to test new approaches for providing emergency aid to families facing significant financial hardship and crises that could result in homelessness
- **\$112 million** in increases in discretionary spending to:
 - Provide 10,000 Housing Choice vouchers targeted to families experiencing homelessness
 - Create 8,000 new rapid re-housing opportunities

The Need for Greater Progress

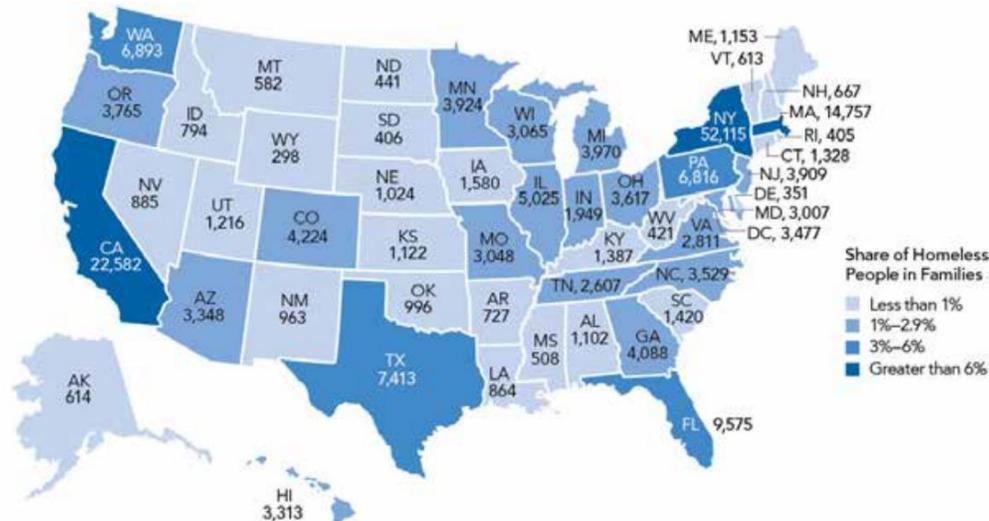
According to estimates from the Point-in-Time count, on any given night, more than 206,000 people in families experience homelessness – around 90% in shelters and around 10% on our streets or other places not meant for human habitation. Almost 60% of them are under 18 years old, and a similar percentage are women or girls. Among women with children experiencing homelessness, more than 80% have experienced domestic violence.

This PIT count data indicated that the number of families experiencing homelessness on any given night has been reduced by almost 19% since 2010, including a 64% reduction in the number of unsheltered families, including families living in cars or outdoors. Those results are promising, but there are still far too many families experiencing housing crises and homelessness in communities across the country. In addition to the PIT count numbers, we know:

- More than 500,000 people in over 160,000 families used emergency shelters in 2014, according to the most [recent annual data](#) from HUD.
- Public schools [reported](#) 1.3 million students experienced homelessness at some point during the 2013-2014 school year. That includes sharing the housing of other people due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, or living in hotels/motels due to the lack of adequate alternates.

Taken together, this data indicates that we have significantly more work to do to end homelessness among families.

Figure 1: Estimates of People in Families Experiencing Homelessness (HUD AHAR Part 1)



The Solution: An Array of Housing Interventions

Families experiencing homelessness have varying housing and service needs. To end family homelessness, communities must be able to quickly and effectively assess individual strengths and needs and tailor assistance accordingly. We must provide families with an array of options for stable, affordable housing, including:

- **Rapid re-housing**, which provides families with time-limited financial assistance to help them quickly secure housing and supports to address barriers to long-term housing stability, including connections to employment and services tailored to the unique needs of the household.
- **Mainstream affordable housing** or **supportive housing**, which can provide non-time-limited support for families with longer-term housing and/or service needs.
- **Transitional housing**, which can provide access to specialized services and facilitate connections to permanent housing for certain high-need populations or in limited situations.

Our Ongoing Strategy

Opening Doors, the federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness, sets the bold goal of ending family homelessness by 2020, and continues to drive actions and strategies across federal agencies. Our blueprint, [Family Connection: Building Systems to End Family Homelessness](#), calls on communities to:

- Develop a coordinated assessment process with the capacity to assess needs and connect families to targeted prevention assistance where possible and temporary shelter as needed.
- Connect families to housing and services interventions (rapid re-housing, affordable housing, transitional housing, or supportive housing) most appropriate to their specific strengths and needs.
- Help families connect to the benefits, employment, and community-based services needed to sustain housing and achieve stability.
- Develop and build upon evidence-based practices for serving families experiencing and at risk of experiencing homelessness.

Through this combination of strategies, and new investments targeted wisely, we know that we can end homelessness among American families.