

ENSURING STABLE HOMES FOR STRONGER FAMILIES

Affordable housing is closely intertwined with child welfare and family stability. Research consistently shows that children who experience housing instability or homelessness are more likely to face adverse outcomes, including poor academic performance, physical and mental health challenges, and involvement in the child welfare system. Stable, affordable housing provides a foundation for family well-being, reducing the risk of family separation and supporting positive child development. According to the National Center for Children in Poverty, nearly half of all children in the United States live in low-income households, where housing affordability is a significant concern. Addressing affordable housing needs can mitigate the risk factors associated with child welfare involvement and promote healthier, more stable families.

WHAT THE DATA SAYS

4,100 HOMELESS STUDENTS

In the 2020-2021 school year, 3.1% of Pierce County students were homeless¹

150 HOMELESS FAMILIES

7% of households experiencing homelessness in Pierce County are families with children²

TACOMA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As of the 2023-2024 school year, the Tacoma School District has 2,659 students that are unhoused or doubled up. Of those, 407 are unaccompanied youth, and another 407 are in foster care⁷

DISPROPORTIONATELY STUDENTS OF COLOR

Black students make up 7.6% of all students but are 16.4% of homeless students³

60.5% CHRONICALLY ABSENT

60.5% of homeless students were chronically absent, missing 10% or more of all school days⁴

MOST FAMILIES ARE DOUBLED UP

75% of homeless students stay with others, 10% are in a hotel, 8% unsheltered, and 6% are unsheltered⁵

16% INCREASE

From 2022-2023, the U.S. saw a 16% increase in the number homeless families with children⁶



SUPPORT FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

Investing in affordable housing programs tailored to families can provide stable and secure housing environments, reducing the risk of child welfare involvement and supporting family reunification efforts.

FIND MORE INFORMATION

- [Housing and Community Resources for McKinney-Vento Students and Families](#)
- [National Center for Homeless Education - The McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act](#)
- [SchoolHouse Connection: McKinney-Vento Act: Quick Reference](#)
- [Fact Sheet: 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report](#)
- [Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction: Students Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Washington State Department of Children, Youth & Families](#)

HOW TO HELP

Support affordable housing initiatives that prioritize family stability and advocate for policies that address the unique housing needs of vulnerable families. Follow AHC to learn more about how you can help!



PARTNERS SUPPORTING CHILDREN & FAMILIES



Washington State Department of
CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES



AFFORDABLE HOUSING CONSORTIUM

The Affordable Housing Consortium is effecting change through community education, advocacy, and the provision of resources to advance the development and preservation of housing that is affordable, accessible, and free of discrimination. Because everyone deserves a place to call home.



1. National Center for Education Statistics
2. Pierce County Human Services, Pierce County 2023 Point in Time Count Data
3, 4, 5. SchoolHouse Connections & Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, Child and Youth Homelessness in the United States: Data Profiles
6. HUD, 2023 Annual Homelessness Assessment Report
7. Tacoma Public Schools Student Information Survey (2023-2024 School Year) *It's important to note that when this data is published, it's already outdated.