

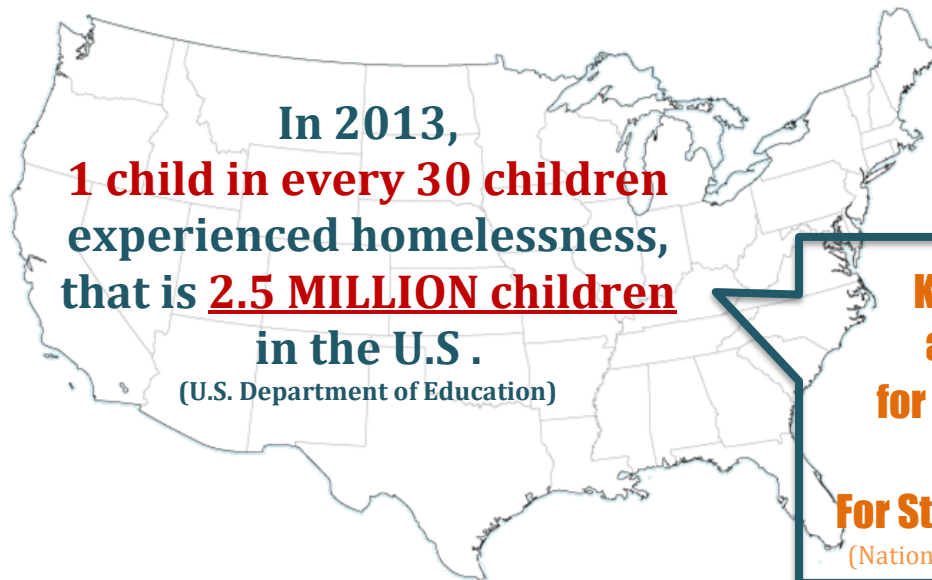
WHY YOUTH HOMELESSNESS MATTERS

Who is homeless?

McKinney Vento Act defines homeless as: *any child who does not have a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence.* This includes students who are:

- Living with a **friend, relative, or other non-legal custodian**;
- Staying in a **motel, hotel, trailer park, or campground**;
- Living in a **shelter**;
- Staying in **substandard housing**;
- **Transitioning** from juvenile justice programs or foster care; or
- Living somewhere not usually used for sleeping.

The law protects “unaccompanied youth,” or homeless children **not living with a parent or guardian.**



KENTUCKY ranked 50
as the WORST state
for CHILD HOMELESSNESS,
but ranked 20th
For State Policy and Planning.
(National Center for Family Homelessness)

MORE THAN 1,725 children enrolled in Northern Kentucky Schools were considered homeless during the 2011-2012 school year.

(Cincinnati.com article – “No Home For These Students, But There’s Still Hope”)

Children who experience homelessness are at a greater risk for:

- **Mental health issues**
 - 2 times more likely to have a learning disability
 - 3 times more likely to have an emotional behavior disability
- **Illnesses**
 - 2 times more likely to develop ear infections
 - 4 times more likely to develop asthma
 - 5 times more likely to experience abdominal distress
- **Difficulty in school**
 - Increased rates of truancy
 - Increased rates of failure
 - Increased rates of grade retention
 - Increased dropout rates



HOW YOU CAN HELP & WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW

Children's Law Center (CLC) has received a grant to assist youth experiencing homelessness in the 3 Northern Kentucky Counties – Campbell, Boone, and Kenton. You have been identified as a member of the community that could have significant contact with youth experiencing homelessness or who are at risk for becoming homeless. Please contact Tiffany Smith at the Children's Law Center for more information: 859-431-3313.

How CLC can help:

- Emergency Resources for youth experiencing or at risk for homelessness
 - Shelter
 - Food & Clothing
 - Identification
 - Medical and Mental Health Care
- Enrollment in school or Help with school accommodations
- Guardianship concerns
- Questions about other legal issues

If you know or suspect a youth is experiencing homelessness:

LISTEN!

Youth experiencing homelessness say they need someone to care and someone to listen.

OFFER SUPPORT!

Youth experiencing homelessness are looking for stable adult support.

OFFER GUIDANCE!

Often, youth experiencing homelessness need to know where to go. Below are some emergency assistance contacts.

Emergency Resources for youth experiencing homelessness:

- For school assistance, contact your school's **Family Resource and Youth Services Center**
- For emergency shelter, contact **Homeward Bound** –
 - 13 East 20th Street, Covington, KY 41014
 - Phone: **(859) 581-1111**
- For medical care, contact **Pike Street Clinic for Homeless** –
 - 343 Pike Street, Covington, KY 41011
 - Phone: **(859) 291-9321**
 - Walk-in Clinic Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8:30am-12:00 p.m.
- For Social Security card, contact the **Social Security Office** –
 - 7 Youell Street, Florence, KY 41042
 - Phone: **(859) 772-1213**
- For Birth Certificate, contact the **Office of Vital Statistics** in the state in which you were born.
For Kentucky:
 - 275 E. Main Street, 1E-A, Frankfort, KY 40621
 - Phone: **(502) 564-4212**
- **Suicide Prevention Hotline** – **(800) 928-8000**
- **Women's Crisis Center** – **(859) 491-3335**

