

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD HOMELESSNESS



Florida Plan TO END CHILD HOMELESSNESS



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Family Homelessness



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Florida Plan To End Child Homelessness

Large numbers of families and children experience homelessness in Florida. However, current policy, planning, and program responses are unable to meet the need. The Florida Campaign to End Child Homelessness has created this Plan to help increase awareness, inform policies, and improve programs and services with the ultimate goal of preventing and ending child and family homelessness.

A recent report, *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness*, ranks Florida 43 out of the 50 states on the problem of child homelessness.¹ This ranking takes into account the extent of child homelessness, child well-being, risk for child homelessness, and state policies and plans to address the issue. At the time of the report's publication, approximately 49,886 children and youth were homeless in Florida during the 2005-2006 school year.² By 2008-2009, that number had grown to approximately 70,633 homeless children and youth.³ This represents a 42 percent increase in the number of homeless children and youth in Florida from school year 2005-2006 to 2008-2009.⁴ There is little doubt that the economic downturn has led to the increase in numbers of homeless children and families. Most of these children are not found living on the streets. Instead, they are living with their parents and siblings in shelters; in unsafe, substandard housing; or are doubled-up out of financial necessity with family or friends in overcrowded, unstable situations.

Childhood poverty is of grave concern in Florida, with approximately 21 percent of children living below the federal poverty level according to 2009 U.S. Census data.⁵ The situation is even worse for non-Caucasian families. A disproportionate number of children in Florida who identify as Black or African American (38 percent) and Hispanic (25 percent) are living in poverty when compared to White children living in poverty (12 percent).⁶



Florida Campaign

The Florida Campaign to End Child Homelessness seeks to galvanize the public and political will to end this crisis. Because it is unacceptable for any child in Florida to be homeless for even one night, we are working with families, service providers, religious organizations, local and state officials, advocates, and citizens across the state to:

- Tell the people of Florida that thousands of children are homeless here. They are scared, sick, and hungry, and there are things that can be done to help.
- Educate our leaders about how investment in and commitment to effective solutions can eradicate child homelessness in our state.
- Alleviate the suffering of homeless children by promoting high quality supports and services as we implement a plan to bring them home.

Definition of Homelessness

This Plan uses the definition of homelessness contained in a subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act, Title X, Part C, of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and adopted by the U.S. Department of Education.⁷ The definition includes children and youth who are: sharing the housing of other persons due to a loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as “doubled-up”); living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to a lack of alternative accommodations; living in emergency or transitional shelters; abandoned in hospitals; awaiting foster care placement; using a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings; living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

Florida: Where We Are Now

Across the United States, more families than ever are feeling the strain of the current economic recession and are trying to stretch their limited resources to cover basic necessities. Family and child homelessness is on the rise in all parts of the country, and Florida mirrors these national trends.

From January 2008 to January 2011, the unemployment rate in Florida increased from 4.8 to 11.9 percent.⁸ Families that were once living comfortably, now find themselves tightening their budgets and using their savings to stay afloat. With the economy continuing to flounder, new job opportunities are very limited, and people are staying unemployed longer. As of February 2011, Florida ranked second in the nation in the number of home foreclosure filings.⁹ Foreclosures of both owner-occupied and renter-occupied homes can put families and children at serious risk of becoming homeless.

Accessing and maintaining affordable housing is paramount to preventing homelessness. In Florida, per federal law, the minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour.¹⁰ However, no single person earning minimum wage anywhere in Florida can afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent (FMR).¹¹ FMR ranges from just under \$588 per month in more rural parts of the state, to \$1,052 per month in Orlando, to almost \$1,360 per month in the Ft. Lauderdale metro region.¹² To afford the average two-bedroom apartment in Florida, a person would need to make \$20.29 per hour.¹³

Unfortunately, earning a decent living is often not enough. Limited employment opportunities and income as well as the unavailability of affordable housing are all contributing factors to child and family homelessness. Similar to many states, there is a shortage of affordable housing in Florida. Of the family and domestic violence shelters in the state, most are located in or near the urban centers. There is also a limited supply of transitional housing and permanent supportive housing units for families.

As is common in many states, Florida has faced budget shortfalls for several years, and the future is uncertain. Important decisions need to be made to ensure that resources are allocated to those most in need of support and services. The 70,633 children experiencing homelessness in Florida are the most vulnerable population in the state. Now, more than ever, it is time to make sure their needs are being met and that not one child is left behind.

Thoughts From Around The State

Since June 2009, the Florida Campaign has met with community leaders, service providers, advocates, homeless parents, and policymakers across the state to discuss ways to prevent and end child and family homelessness and to gather recommendations about how the Campaign can bring about lasting change. The information gathered during this process has been used to develop and direct this Plan.

There are many common needs across the state. The most pressing issues facing homeless children, youth, and families include a shortage of safe, adequate, affordable housing; limited employment opportunities that provide a livable wage; and lack of knowledge of and access to supportive resources and services (e.g., health care, mental health care, and nutrition programs as well as transportation) targeted specifically at the unique needs of parents, youth, and children. The importance of providing quality educational opportunities for children, youth, and adults experiencing and at-risk of homelessness as well as the need to increase access to affordable child care were highlighted. The needs to focus on prevention and supporting families in transition were also articulated.

Many quality organizations and providers are working hard to address family homelessness throughout Florida, but their efforts are constrained by limited funding. These organizations want to increase collaboration with others working with homeless families, youth, and children and raise awareness about what is available to help. Many feel their work is constrained by a lack of public awareness of the existence of child, youth, and family homelessness in communities throughout the state. Because Florida is a large and diverse state, regionalized solutions are needed. Community leaders, service providers, and advocates are urging the State to recognize child and family homelessness as a crisis and to prioritize solutions in upcoming legislative sessions, budget negotiations, and state agency work.



Need for Long-Term Stability

Carrie used to work at a child care center, but recently lost her job. She has an 18-month old baby. She has been looking for a new job, but lost her home because she cannot afford to pay the rent. She also cannot afford to pay her car insurance, so she is unable to drive her baby to daycare. She finds that it is hard to look for a job while also caring for her baby. Carrie moved into a shelter and needs support so she can find a job and pay for car insurance and child care to secure long-term stability for her and her baby.

Learning From Experience

The Florida Campaign reached out to homeless parents living at shelters to discuss how to best help them achieve permanent housing and stability. The parents were asked about their experiences being homeless and how homelessness affected their children. The information gathered has been incorporated into this Plan and its recommendations.

The parents we spoke with identified several reasons why their families had become homeless. Many articulated struggles to find jobs that pay enough to cover the cost of rent and utilities, experiences of domestic violence and substance abuse that forced them to leave their living situations, and lack of savings and support from family members to fall back on. Several of the parents expressed that they are competing with many people wanting the same position when applying for jobs and that people who are willing to work part-time make it difficult for them to get the full-time jobs they need and want to support their families.

Once homeless, the parents described the following challenges to gaining stable housing: difficulties affording transportation to get to work, look for work, or attend school and job training programs; lack of affordable, safe, and dependable child care and after-school care; difficulties getting child support cases resolved; challenges accessing government funded social service programs (e.g., applying for cash assistance and other benefits); lack of knowledge of available resources and services; the high cost of living (including rent, utilities, food, and transportation); and a need for mental health services and supports to deal with anxiety and other stressful feelings and situations. Several parents spoke of the desire to keep their families together when homeless and of the hardship when programs do not allow fathers or sons to stay in the same location as mothers and daughters. A major concern for many parents is the lack of affordable housing in neighborhoods they feel are safe for their children—many worried that they would have to move from shelters to areas where they would encounter problems that would adversely affect their children.

The parents described several unmet needs that they and their children are facing: access to regular, preventive health care; relationship and marriage counseling; financial counseling and planning assistance; effective case management services from well-trained, knowledgeable program staff; and housing, job, and child care search assistance. They said that one thing that would make a significant difference to them was access to assistance and support before they become homeless, and it is “too late.”

The parents also said their children are affected by the experience of being homeless. They want special child focused services and counseling as well as support at school for their children. Many feel their children know what is happening to their families and have to figure out how to deal with the issues they are facing at too young an age. Therefore, the children are having educational and behavioral challenges. Some parents think their children are depressed, and many expressed the need for their children to have the opportunities to play and “just be children.”

Child and Family Homelessness: The Impact

Families become homeless for many reasons, including a lack of affordable housing, unemployment, limited access to resources and supports, health and mental health issues, and experiences of violence. The process of becoming homeless involves the loss of belongings, reassuring routines, community, and sense of safety.

Families experiencing homelessness are under considerable stress. They may move often, doubling up for a time in overcrowded situations with relatives or friends. Others stay in motel rooms or sleep in cars or campgrounds. Often, families must split up in order to find shelter.¹⁴ Families must quickly adjust to difficult and uncomfortable circumstances that are often noisy, chaotic, unsafe, overcrowded, and lack privacy. Moving out of homelessness and into permanent housing requires resources often beyond the reach of many families.

Homelessness is a devastating experience that significantly impacts the health and well-being of adults and children.¹⁵ The prevalence of traumatic stress in the lives of families who are homeless is extraordinarily high.¹⁶

Often members of homeless families have experienced ongoing trauma in the form of childhood abuse and neglect, domestic violence, and community violence, as well as the trauma associated with poverty and the loss of home, safety, and sense of security. These experiences may significantly impact how children and adults think, feel, behave, relate to others, and cope.

Homeless children often live in chaotic and unsafe environments. Dramatic life changes such as moving from place to place, family separations, and placement in foster care are common. The level of fear and unpredictability in the lives of homeless children can be extremely damaging to their growth and development. Children experiencing homelessness are four times more likely to show delayed development and twice as likely to have learning disabilities.¹⁷ Homeless children demonstrate significant delays in gross motor skills, fine motor skills, and social and personal growth.¹⁸

Within a single year, 97 percent of homeless children move up to three times, 40 percent attend two different schools, and 28 percent attend three or more different schools.¹⁹ One-third will repeat a grade in school.²⁰ Homeless children are 16 percent less proficient at reading and math than their peers.²¹ Fewer than 25 percent of homeless children graduate from high school.²² The constant barrage of stressful and traumatic experiences has profound effects on their development and ability to learn, ultimately affecting their success in life.

Children experiencing homelessness are more likely than other children to suffer from acute and chronic illnesses. Homeless children go hungry at twice the rate of other children.²³ Children who are homeless have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems, including high rates of anxiety, depression, sleep problems, shyness, withdrawal, and aggression.²⁴ Many worry that something bad will happen to their family members.²⁵ These factors combine to create a life-altering experience that inflicts profound and lasting scars.

Homeless mothers struggle with poor physical health compared to the general population. Over one-third have a chronic physical health condition.²⁶ For example, mothers who are homeless have ulcers at four times the rate of other women, and higher rates of asthma, anemia, and hypertension than in the general population.²⁷ Mothers experiencing homelessness struggle with mental health and substance use issues.²⁸ High rates of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among homeless and extremely poor women are well-documented.²⁹ In addition, current rates of depression in homeless mothers (52 percent) are four to five times greater than women overall (12 percent).³⁰ As a result of these challenges, women who are homeless and have experienced chronic trauma have considerable difficulty accessing help and support for themselves and their children.

The social costs of family homelessness are also significant. These include the more immediate costs of shelters, Medicaid, or health care for treating acute and chronic health conditions; mental health care and substance abuse treatment; police intervention; incarceration; and foster care. It costs taxpayers more money to place a family in emergency shelter than in permanent homes.³¹ There are also “opportunity costs,” representing the lost opportunities that stable housing would provide in terms of greater educational attainment, better health, stable employment, higher wages, and increased income. These carry not only personal, but social benefits through increased productivity, increased ability to purchase goods and services, and decreased unemployment and disability compensation.



Overwhelmed and Nowhere to Go

Denise is a single mother of four children ranging in age from four months to seven years old. She and her children have been living in a shelter for three months. Prior to arriving at this shelter, they lived at another shelter for two months, but had to leave because of time limits. Denise has family in the area, but she does not want to move in with them because she does not believe it would be a safe living environment for her children. She is scared about what will happen to her and her children when they leave the shelter. Moving from place to place has been very hard on all of them.



Striving for Economic Independence

Maria has six children—four who are with her in a shelter and two who are living with her mother. She had to leave her home twice after episodes of domestic violence. Maria gets child support from the father of her children, and has a job, but she cannot afford the cost of rent, which is higher than her income. She is trying her best to keep herself and her children out of harm's way and to make ends meet.

The Florida Campaign makes the following recommendations to begin to lay the path towards preventing and ending child and family homelessness throughout the state.

The recommendations are based upon a set of underlying assumptions: (1) Ending child homelessness in Florida is urgent and possible; (2) There must be a stable, fully-funded continuum of housing options and services for children and their families; (3) All programs that serve homeless children and their families must be of the highest quality; and (4) Strong, ongoing coordination and collaboration among all stakeholders is required to ensure that resources are distributed effectively and strategically. These efforts must be coordinated across traditional areas of practice and government structures to provide an effective network of support and opportunity for children, youth, and families, so that not one child will be homeless in Florida for even one night.

Increase public awareness of the scope and impact of homelessness on children and families.

Raise awareness of the problem of child, youth, and family homelessness in Florida.

- Share information about the:
 - » Scope, causes, and costs of child, youth, and family homelessness in urban, suburban, and rural areas of Florida.
 - » Solutions to child and family homelessness as well as how to get involved and take action.
 - » Available resources to help those experiencing homelessness.

Inform state and local policies and plans to address the needs of homeless children and families.

Provide critical State support for programs that assist homeless children, youth, and families to achieve stability.

- Maintain State funding through the State's budget process for:
 - » Challenge Grants to prevent homelessness and provide supportive services to help families and youth exit homelessness.
 - » Homeless Housing Assistance Grants to create new, affordable housing and transitional shelter units.
 - » Local Coalition Staffing Grants to support the work

of homeless coalitions around the state.

- » Office on Homelessness activities to coordinate resources and programs statewide and work with the Council on Homelessness to develop policies and plans to end homelessness.
- Provide short-term, emergency financial assistance to families at-risk of eviction or loss of their home due to a financial crisis to prevent homelessness and avoid increased costs to the child welfare system.
- Reauthorize the transfer of funds from the Local Government Housing Trust Fund to support housing programs in the Department of Children and Families.
- Create a voluntary contribution option on Department of Motor Vehicle forms as a new revenue source to help fund homeless services.
- Designate the Lieutenant Governor as Chair of the Council on Homelessness and add at least three additional members to bring business and executive representation to the Council.
- Provide State agencies with opportunities to work together more effectively to flexibly use available funding and resources to prevent homelessness and help those who are homeless.
- Designate a state university to document the costs of homelessness on the State of Florida, including those incurred by law enforcement, courts, jails, and hospitals responding to those who are homeless to determine how to best allocate public funds to prevent and end homelessness.

Increase access to quality, safe, affordable housing for families with children as well as all youth who are homeless in Florida.

- Expand the supply of affordable housing units for homeless families with children, survivors of domestic violence, and homeless youth by removing the cap on the Sadowski Housing Trust Fund and allocating all funding generated for the Trust Fund to housing needs.
- Retain the state's affordable housing homeownership and rental programs.
- Increase the supply of rental housing to meet the demand of our lowest income families, preserve existing housing that has federal rental subsidies, and explore state rental assistance based on proven strategies from other states.
 - » Remove the statutory limitations on the amount of revenue that can be deposited annually in the State and Local Government Housing Trust Funds.
 - » Create a set-aside for housing assistance for special needs households, including youth aging out of foster care, within the State Apartment Incentive Loan program.
 - » Specifically target housing assistance to serve households with extremely low incomes i.e. households earning 30 percent or less of the area median income.
 - » Prioritize the use of available resources to preserve existing affordable housing projects that include federal rental assistance.

- » Develop viable strategies to be able to use foreclosed housing to safely house homeless families and individuals.
- Continue to address foreclosure issues under the State Housing Initiatives Partnership Program.

Increase the amount of income that youth and parents have to support themselves and their families.

- Require Workforce Florida to increase employment for homeless parents and youth, train and place homeless specialists in the One Stop Centers, and link essential child care and transportation services to enable access to jobs.
- Develop state incentives for the private sector to create jobs for homeless parents and youth, including tax credits to corporations hiring homeless parents and youth.

Prevent children and youth in foster care and youth who choose to age out of foster care between the ages of 18 and 21 from becoming homeless.

- Continue to avoid placing children in foster care based solely on their parents' or guardians' housing status.
- Remove barriers that prevent homeless unaccompanied youth from obtaining official documents such as a birth certificate, social security card, driver's license, and state identification card; from obtaining consent for or accessing medical/health services; from establishing a bank account; and from applying for food stamps and other benefits through the Department of Children and Families' ACCESS Florida online system so they can pursue educational and employment opportunities.
- Allow youth 18 or older the option of re-entering foster care after exit.
- Claim federal funds until age 21 through the Title IV-E state plan for the following categories of youth: those exiting foster care at 16 to guardianship or adoption and/or youth who remain in foster care from ages 18-21.
- Maintain extended foster care, adoption assistance, independent living services, and kinship guardianship assistance to all youth up to the age of 21.
- Continue to develop comprehensive, individualized, client-focused plans for children and youth exiting foster care that will promote age appropriate development in safe and supportive communities.
- Continue to invest in supportive housing for youth exiting the foster care system.
- Develop a comprehensive, statewide data collection and analysis system to improve the identification of homeless youth.

Improve programs and services to meet the unique needs of homeless children and families.

Ensure access to high quality services and care for families, children, and youth who are homeless.

- Implement the "Basic Principles of Care for Families and Children Experiencing Homelessness," outlined by The National Center on Family Homelessness, within all programs serving homeless families, youth, and children.

- Ensure that all programs serving homeless children, youth, and families are trauma-informed and recovery-oriented.
- Support and partner with the Florida Department of Education in increasing the number of homeless children and youth identified and receiving services by school districts under the education section of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act.
- Continue to provide information and technical assistance about the educational provisions of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act to school personnel, parents, homeless service providers, domestic violence programs, Head Start programs, colleges and universities, the public, and others working and volunteering with children, youth, and families who are homeless.
- Ensure that housing and support programs serving children who are homeless have access to age appropriate child development resources, activities, curricula, counseling, and tutoring.
- Encourage community mental health centers to conduct outreach and provide prioritized, targeted prevention and early intervention services to homeless children, youth, and families who are at increased risk for mental health issues due to residential instability.
- Prioritize use of child care vouchers by families experiencing homelessness and survivors of domestic violence.

Increase coordination and collaboration among community organizations working to support families and children who are homeless.

- Provide opportunities for families, Continuum of Care members, homeless shelter staff, domestic violence shelter staff, homeless education liaisons, United Way's 211 staff, child welfare workers, youth and veterans' agency staff, and others in related organizations in regions throughout the state to network, coordinate, and collaborate to improve services for homeless children, youth, and families.

Provide professional development opportunities for people working to support children, youth, and families who are homeless.

- Provide training and technical assistance to people who work and volunteer in emergency shelters, school personnel, health and mental health care staff, police, firefighters, veterans' services workers, youth organization personnel, rural organization staff, and other people who provide services to children, youth, and families who are homeless.
 - » Offer a series of training opportunities on trauma, its impact on those who have experienced homelessness, and how to provide trauma-informed care.
 - » Build skills, enhance organizational capacity, and facilitate important collaboration and information exchange by including training on topics such as: developmental needs of homeless children, case management, motivational interviewing, self-care, and consumer involvement.

As a state, we can no longer ignore the fact that 70,633 Florida children go without homes, food, access to health care, and educational opportunities each year. The cost is too great to our children and families and to our communities and state. Now is the time to end child and family homelessness.

The Florida Plan to End Child Homelessness offers specific recommendations to end child homelessness in three areas: (1) increased public awareness and action to end this growing problem; (2) stronger state and local policies and plans; and (3) improved programs and services for children and families. The Florida Campaign pledges to provide leadership in specific areas where we can have the greatest impact. We ask state leaders, service providers, advocates, and citizens to step forward in other areas where their leadership will be most effective.

We urge the Florida business community to become engaged in, advise, and support the Campaign's efforts. We also ask the philanthropic community to come to the table with financial support to implement the recommendations in this Plan that are aligned with their priorities.

No one is more important to the success of this Plan than the citizens of Florida. For too long, we have failed to acknowledge that children are homeless right here in our state. We want to change that, and it starts with you. Please tell your local and state leaders you will not tolerate thousands of children in Florida with no place to call home. Raise your voice with neighbors, church members, and friends. Your demand for action will fuel the Florida Campaign and inspire others to stand up with us. The solutions are clear. All we need is the will to make them happen.

Join the Florida Campaign to End Child Homelessness!

Email us at Campaign@familyhomelessness.org. Visit www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org for updates.

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America's Youngest Outcasts: A Call To Action

Children define our future and lay claim to our nation's conscience. But, over the years since child homelessness first surfaced in the 1980s, too little attention has been given to this tragedy. Who are these children and why are they homeless? What are their housing, health, and educational needs? How have states responded? What can we do differently?

The National Center on Family Homelessness researched and authored *America's Youngest Outcasts: State Report Card on Child Homelessness* to answer these questions and bring public attention to the plight of more than 1.5 million children who experience homelessness in the U.S. each year. The picture is not pretty:

- One in fifty American children experience homelessness annually.
- Homeless children are sick four times more often than other children.
- They go hungry at twice the rate of other children.
- They have three times the rate of emotional and behavioral problems.
- Homeless children are four times more likely to show delayed development and twice as likely to have learning disabilities.
- Fewer than 25 percent graduate from high school.

The findings in *America's Youngest Outcasts* were developed by considering the complex factors that contribute to child homelessness. The ranking of the states was based on a composite score for each state that represents four critical factors:

- **Extent of Child Homelessness:** The scope of the problem.
- **Child Well-Being:** Determined by food security, health outcomes, and educational proficiency.
- **Risk for Child Homelessness:** Based on state benefits, household structure, housing market factors, extreme poverty, and structural factors contributing to homelessness.
- **State Policy and Planning:** Assessing housing, income, education, and health policies as well as state planning activities related to child homelessness.

More than an analysis of the numbers and needs of homeless children, *America's Youngest Outcasts* is a call to action to end child homelessness before it becomes a permanent part of our national landscape. Achieving this goal demands a comprehensive understanding of the risks for child homelessness, careful and informed planning, increased resources that are dedicated to ending this problem, a skilled and dedicated workforce, and the will to make safe and decent housing a reality for all. The report spells out a policy framework for state and federal action. The complete document and an executive summary can be downloaded at www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org.

Campaign to End Child Homelessness

With the release of *America's Youngest Outcasts* in March of 2009, The National Center on Family Homelessness launched the Campaign to End Child Homelessness. The goals of the Campaign are to increase public awareness, inform policy solutions, share tools and best practices with community caregivers, and lead state and national advocacy efforts.

The Campaign is building on the findings and information from *America's Youngest Outcasts* to establish partnerships at national, state, and community levels to leverage this knowledge into action. We are connecting families, communities, service providers, advocates, policymakers, elected officials, and the media to address child homelessness through an array of coordinated activities.

From the U.S. Congress and the White House to State Houses and Town Halls across the country, we are mobilizing people to acknowledge that children are homeless tonight in virtually every community in America, and the time for action is now. Our interactive website, www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org, is a hub for learning, sharing opinion, and activity. As a nation, we can no longer ignore the fact that more than 1.5 million American children have no place to call home.

CAMPAIGN TO END CHILD HOMELESSNESS



Join the Florida Campaign to End Child Homelessness!

Email us at Campaign@familyhomelessness.org.

Visit www.HomelessChildrenAmerica.org for updates.

Florida Coalition for the Homeless

The Florida Coalition for the Homeless is a dynamic organization whose membership and Board of Directors include homeless advocates, service providers, members of the faith-based community, formerly homeless people, educators, attorneys, mental health professionals, and many others statewide who are committed to putting an end to homelessness and improving the conditions of people living without shelter. The Florida Coalition for the Homeless strives to make homelessness one of the state's priorities. We accomplish this through: providing education on homelessness issues; advocating for initiatives that help homeless people and against laws and ordinances that may harm them; networking with advocates throughout Florida on federal, state, and local issues; and promoting unification, involvement, and leadership of local coalitions, service providers, homeless people, religious leaders, units of government, and others in the development and implementation of a statewide agenda. For more information, visit www.fchonline.org.

The National Center on Family Homelessness

The Campaign to End Child Homelessness is a project of The National Center on Family Homelessness which leads the effort to raise national awareness and galvanize action to ensure stable housing and well-being for families and children. The National Center learns what works and brings solutions to caregivers and policymakers that strengthen their capacity to help families in need. With the power of knowledge and the will to act, we will end family homelessness across America and give every child a chance. For more information, visit www.familyhomelessness.org.



Florida
CAMPAIGN



THE NATIONAL CENTER ON
Family Homelessness