



OFFICE ON HOMELESSNESS

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HOMELESS FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN IN TRANSITION

Florida Children and Youth Cabinet
July 24, 2014





The Office on Homelessness

- A central point of contact within state government on homelessness
- Works with various state and local agencies to serve individuals or families who are experiencing or facing homelessness
- Office staff works with the Council on Homelessness to develop state policy and manage grants to support the implementation of local homeless service continuum of care plans.

www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness



The Council on Homelessness

- An interagency council to develop policies and recommendations to the Governor, legislators, and community leaders to reduce and end homelessness in Florida.
- The Council seeks to unite government, local stakeholders and providers, community resources to meet the needs of people experiencing homelessness.

www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/council



Lead Agencies and Coalitions Statewide

- **Lead Agencies** – the Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development designed the Homeless *Continuums of Care* to promote community wide commitment and planning toward the goal of ending homelessness
- In Florida there are 28 lead agencies providing this continuum of care serving 64 of 67 counties.
- **Coalitions**- a group of providers, citizens, local government officials working to care for individuals, families, and children who are homeless

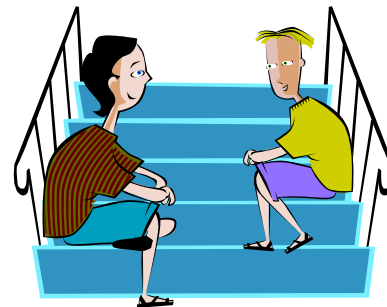


Statewide Programs and Services for Children

Children experiencing homelessness in our community are four times more likely to show delayed development and have twice the rate of learning disabilities as non-homeless children.

Charlotte County:

Offers **The Children's Tutoring Program** of which every child in the shelter will receive the support of volunteer certified teachers from the surrounding schools who come to the shelter five days a week between 6:00pm and 8:00pm. The program is continuous throughout the summer months.



Statewide Programs and Services for Children

Kids Corner School Pantry Program is a partnership between the Harry Chapin Food Bank, Charlotte County Public Schools and the Charlotte County Homeless Coalition. The program has helped ensure food security for over 600 school age children and their families within our community.



Statewide Programs and Services for Children

Pasco County: Coalition for the Homeless in conjunction with the schools and local funding has instituted a program working directly with the families and district school liaisons to rapidly re-house families in the program. BB&T provided motel stays for the homeless families in transition. Last year was a demonstration project with 25 families. Of those 25 families we were able to place 12 into permanent housing. This was a 30 day program. They are looking to expand the program this year when school starts.



Statewide Programs and Services for Children

Pasco County: The Coalition is working with *Youth and Family Alternatives* in a family reunification program. This program reunites families with children that have been placed into foster care system by the Sheriffs office. It will provide on-going case management and support related to housing needs for these families once they are unified. There is desperately needed funding and support for this project.



Statewide Programs and Services for Children

Hillsborough: The Tampa Hillsborough Homeless Initiative convened a Youth Work Group of key organizations and individuals serving unaccompanied homeless youth in that area. They are identifying needs, developing strategies, and aligning resources in reducing homelessness among children and families.



New Legislation and Funding

For the first time since 2011, our legislators have passed HB 979 (with the leadership and efforts of Senator Jack Latvala and Representative Kathleen Peters) re-instituting the '*Challenge Grants*' for lead agencies around the state.

These Challenge Grants will provide \$3.8 million, toward the funding of the housing, program and service needs that are included in the local continuum of care plan for the agency that is awarded. The solicitation of the Challenge Grants will be posted in August, 2014.



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