



Housing + ED: Let's All Get Ahead!

In communities across the country, homeless service providers, K-12 education systems, early childhood care providers and other public and private entities are working together to implement effective strategies for responding to the needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. These partnerships are based on a shared understanding and appreciation of the ways in which housing stability and educational success are mutually beneficial.

Critical to the success of these efforts is active cross-systems collaboration through which agencies and organizations with the skills and resources for addressing housing, education, employment, counseling, child care, and other basic needs work together to achieve these common objectives – in the context of a commitment to the broader goal of preventing and ending homelessness.

Housing + ED: Let's All Get Ahead! provides access to a set of tools designed to strengthen state and local partnerships that help homeless service providers, school systems, youth services providers, and early childhood providers work together more effectively. These partnerships strive to better achieve the common goals of preventing and ending homelessness by increasing housing stability, self-sufficiency, and educational success for homeless children, youth, and their families.



Cross-systems collaboration lies at the heart of the strategies advocated by [Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#), published by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) in 2010 and updated in 2015. The Federal Strategic Plan recognized that by forming local partnerships, communities can better identify, engage, and respond to the needs of children, youth, and families experiencing homelessness. This commitment to collaboration guides programs that address homelessness supported under the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Education (ED), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

On the local level, these partnerships typically include: Continuum of Care (CoC) and Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) program recipients; State Education Agencies (SEAs) and Local Education Agencies (LEAs); Head Start; Early Head Start; other early childhood education providers, and Runaway and Homeless Youth Program (RHY) funded providers. These programs all serve people experiencing homelessness in different but highly complementary ways.

The following materials are designed to facilitate collaboration among this broad range of programs, and related stakeholders and systems. They explore and provide links to tools that highlight promising strategies that communities can consider and adapt for themselves.

- [The Benefits of Cross-Systems Collaboration](#): This brief introduction provides an overview of the rationale and benefits of engaging in cross-systems collaboration.
- [System Partnerships for Housing, Services, and Education](#): These case studies offer a look into promising practices related to local-level collaboration and how they might be implemented in your community.
- Additional materials are under development and will be posted on this site in the near future!

Click the following to head back to the Youth Homelessness main page: [Back to Youth Homelessness](#).