




MADISON AREA EARLY CHILDHOOD HOMELESSNESS WORK-GROUP



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- ▶ The Madison area **Early Childhood Homelessness Work-group (ECHW)** was formed in early 2017 in response to the reauthorization of the McKinney-Vento Act, which included making intentional referrals to include children age birth to 5 years to child care opportunities.

Who we are

the ECHW is a network of professionals and community members who care for, and are invested in, our young children

- ▶ Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C)
- ▶ MMSD-Transition Education Program & Child Find
- ▶ Madison Public Libraries, Youth Services Division
- ▶ United Way of Dane County
- ▶ Reach Dane
- ▶ Animal Crackers Child Care Center
- ▶ City of Madison, Community Development Division
- ▶ The Rainbow Project
- ▶ The Road Home
- ▶ Domestic Abuse and Intervention Services (DAIS)
- ▶ Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- ▶ One City Schools

Our Mission

- ▶ The mission of the ECHW is to provide outreach, education and support to early childhood professionals working directly with children experiencing homelessness and high mobility, to connect families with young children to local resources, provide access to developmental screening for all children in our community, and to advocate for fair and adequate housing for all.

What we are talking about...

- ▶ Access to high quality early childhood programs
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Affordable housing
- ▶ Supporting the early childhood education workforce: secondary trauma
- ▶ Stable housing, employment, childcare & food
- ▶ Preschool expulsion
- ▶ Trauma-informed care
- ▶ Community-wide education and awareness
- ▶ Developmental screening
- ▶ Research/data: Identification

The ECHW Training Series

The Trauma of Homelessness: The Early Years

- Jeanne Erickson from Today Not Tomorrow/Project Babies presented on the traumatic effects housing insecurities has on the developing brain
- Offered twice (October 2017 and February 2018)
- Grant funded from WECCP and the City of Madison enabled us to offer the trainings free of charge
- 175 people trained

Supporting Young Children Experiencing Homelessness and High Mobility

- Dr. Travis Wright from UW-Madison presented on his research into 4k homelessness and offered teachers skill and techniques to employ while working with young children living with trauma
- Offered in November 2018
- Grant funded by the City of Madison
- 80 people trained

What ideas or suggestions do you have for us to consider?

- ▶ Trainings
- ▶ Issues
- ▶ Family concerns for youngest members
- ▶ Advocacy
- ▶ Family involvement – do you have a parent or tow that might want to help us with these concerns/issues?
- ▶ Other things

How Can You Get Involved?

- Attend our meetings, bring your voice!
- Support city and county funding in support of equity and access to TRANSPORTATION
- Advocate for policies that support all families with young children, especially those experiencing homelessness and/or high mobility
- Donate **requested** items to local shelters and day centers, like Salvation Army, YWCA, DAIS and The Beacon.
- Make a financial contribution to the ECHW
- Advocate for fair wages and professional respect for the early childhood workforce
- Know your policy-makers and representatives: learn where they stand on the issue of fair and affordable housing, let them know where you stand

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