

A THREE PART PLAN FOR REDUCING CHILD HOMELESSNESS

2,636 Utah children were served by an emergency homeless shelter between July 1, 2017 and June 30, 2018. Our state can reduce this number in future years by doing three things.

1. Expand access to childcare for families coming out of homelessness. 85 percent of homeless mothers do not have access to the childcare their family needs. Lack of childcare can become a major hurdle to being able to afford to move out of a shelter.
2. Increase supports for parents and children who are domestic violence survivors. 42 percent of homeless children in Utah are fleeing domestic violence with a parent. Domestic violence survivors often need help that other families do not

need. Oregon and Washington State have had success with a program called Domestic Violence Housing First. It is time to bring this model to Utah. Domestic violence should not lead to extended periods of child homelessness.

3. Build a minimum of 50 new units of permanent supportive housing for homeless families. 95 percent of Utah families served by a homeless shelter leave within six months. Permanent supportive housing helps to stabilize the lives of part of the remaining five percent who have need for greater support.

The Coalition of Religious Communities is a project of Crossroads Urban Center that brings people together from a variety of faith traditions to promote solutions to hunger, homelessness and poverty in Utah.
www.crossroadsurbancenter.org
801-364-7765 ex. 107

Upcoming Events

Ending Child Homelessness Sabbath: Dozens of faith communities will be collecting diapers and offering prayers for homeless children during a worship service this month.

Faith & Poverty Day at the Utah Capitol: On January 31, 2019, people from many different faith traditions will gather in the State Office Building behind the Utah Capitol at 10 AM to help draw attention to CORC's three part agenda for reducing child homelessness and other key poverty issues.



To learn how your faith community can join over 30 congregations all over Utah in offering prayers and/or collecting diapers for homeless children in October contact Bill Tibbitts at Crossroads Urban Center, 801-364-7765 ex. 107 or at bill@crossroadsurbancenter.org.