




Harmonizing Systems to Reduce Eviction and Homelessness

An Environmental Scan of Innovative
School-Housing Partnerships



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Huriya Jabbar

University of Southern California

Jennifer Jellison Holme

The University of Texas at Austin

Ann Owens

University of California, Los Angeles

Daniel Dawer

The University of Texas at Austin

Tyra Timm

The University of Texas at Austin

Daniel Espinoza

University of Southern California

Tara Blagg

University of Southern California

Trae Madrigal

The University of Texas at Austin

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OVERVIEW

Housing costs have reached record highs in recent years. In 2023, the number of individuals considered “housing cost-burdened,” or paying more than one-third of their income toward rent or utilities, hit an all-time high.¹ As a result, more families have become housing insecure, vulnerable to displacement, eviction, and homelessness.²

These housing challenges disproportionately impact historically marginalized communities: Black and Latine households most often struggle with housing affordability due to an interlocking web of policies that has created structural inequities in housing, employment, and geography, while Native American households most often struggle with substandard housing and overcrowding.³

Residential mobility and homelessness are harmful to children’s well-being and educational outcomes, both in the short and long term.⁴ The sudden change of a child’s school in response to eviction or a housing-related move can affect children’s attendance and learning and can cause children to lose their relationships with teachers and peers. Research shows that children evicted at age nine perform the equivalent of one year below similar children who have not been evicted, and the negative impacts of eviction can last into adulthood.⁵ Furthermore, eviction puts children at greater risk for homelessness, which has even more damaging outcomes for children.⁶

In recent years, policymakers and community members across the U.S. have developed innovative programs to **coordinate** between the housing and education sectors, with a goal to support families experiencing homelessness or to stabilize families before they become displaced. The theory of action undergirding these partnerships is that the work of each sector—housing or education—can strengthen and amplify the work of the other. In other words, policymakers must look beyond the education system to address systemic inequalities, and school systems can be a critical site for delivering essential services. Such collaboration has the potential to harmonize systems to the benefit of the most marginalized families.

In this brief, we provide a snapshot of these efforts, which are happening across the U.S. We describe school-housing partnerships focused on *housing assistance*, including emergency rental assistance, short- and long-term housing provision, and housing counselors or case management; *policy and legal protections*, including school-year eviction moratoria and legal aid; and *data-sharing policies*, including sharing eviction data with schools so they can better respond to the needs of families.

We argue that the types of collaborative efforts we document have the potential to harmonize systems for the most marginalized families by integrating essential services, and provide greater visibility, support, and dignity in accessing services.

ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN

We conducted an environmental scan to identify approaches that school districts, localities, states, and federal government agencies have taken to bridge housing and education policy that are specifically focused on families facing eviction and housing instability. Our search was guided by two questions:

1. What are the features of past and current district, state, local, and federal school-housing policies, programs, and partnerships directed toward families at risk of or experiencing eviction and homelessness?
2. What types of resources do these policies, programs, and partnerships provide for families facing eviction or homelessness, and what mechanisms do they use to connect families to these resources?

We focused on cases in which education and housing agencies were partnering or connecting to provide services broadly related to housing support for families with school-age children.

We employed an environmental scanning method to map both “current resources and existing gaps” around this issue.⁷ While environmental scanning originated in organizational and business studies, it has since gained common utilization in public policy fields as a useful tool to rapidly and systematically inventory current policies and resources and identify policy and

resource gaps.⁸ Environmental scans may provide a more thorough understanding of a current policy landscape than traditional literature reviews because environmental scans review both a variety of external data (e.g., media sources, government and nonprofit data, and academic and gray literature) and internal data (e.g., stakeholder knowledge and other informal, unpublished information).⁹ This systematic approach is also particularly useful in understanding the housing and K-12 education collaboration landscape since both systems are complex and do not have a fully public information infrastructure.¹⁰

There are no established norms on the methodology for the use of environmental scans. However, a review of environmental scan methodologies found that environmental scans typically involve identifying the issue, gathering information from a variety of sources, engaging key informants, and analyzing trends.

Our scan consisted of a two-stage search. First, we conducted a comprehensive search of published information, including peer-reviewed literature, gray literature, news reports, and relevant websites (e.g., policy centers and national and state agencies). Searches were conducted using predefined keyword strings, including “housing AND school AND partnership AND [district, city, state names],” “housing AND school AND assistance AND [district, city, state names],” and “eviction AND

protection AND school AND [district, city, state names].” We also searched for relevant partnerships and policies by scanning the websites of state education agencies, school districts, and housing-oriented nonprofit organizations. We created a database of all policies found, seeking to capture the following information about each policy: city and program name; agencies directly involved; funding source; policy support(s); point of service; and policy origination (see [Appendix A](#)).

Second, we interviewed key informants formally and informally at the national and state levels. The interviewees were selected based on the first two stages of our search as well as our own team’s knowledge about key actors in the research and policy landscape (n=7 interviews). We also had additional informal conversations with local and national actors, which were for background or to fill in factual gaps, but because

they were not research interviews, the details from these conversations were not included here (n=13).

Our report includes the policies and cases we uncovered in our search. We suspect there are many more cases in each category that we did not capture; yet we aim to show the *range* of possibilities and showcase a few cases to provide examples of how these policies can be designed and enacted. Furthermore, given the limited availability and unevenness of online data about these programs, the information we share is incomplete. For example, it was not always clear when the programs were started, how they were funded, or whether they were now defunct, and sometimes the information presented online only described a portion of a larger initiative (as we uncovered during our limited number of interviews). In addition, we may not have captured all of the features of these programs.

A TYPOLOGY OF SCHOOL-HOUSING PARTNERSHIPS

Our scan of the school-housing landscape identified a range of policies, programs, and partnerships to prevent eviction, assist families with rehousing, and minimize the negative impacts of housing insecurity on children and families.

Specifically, we identified several categories of school-housing collaboration:

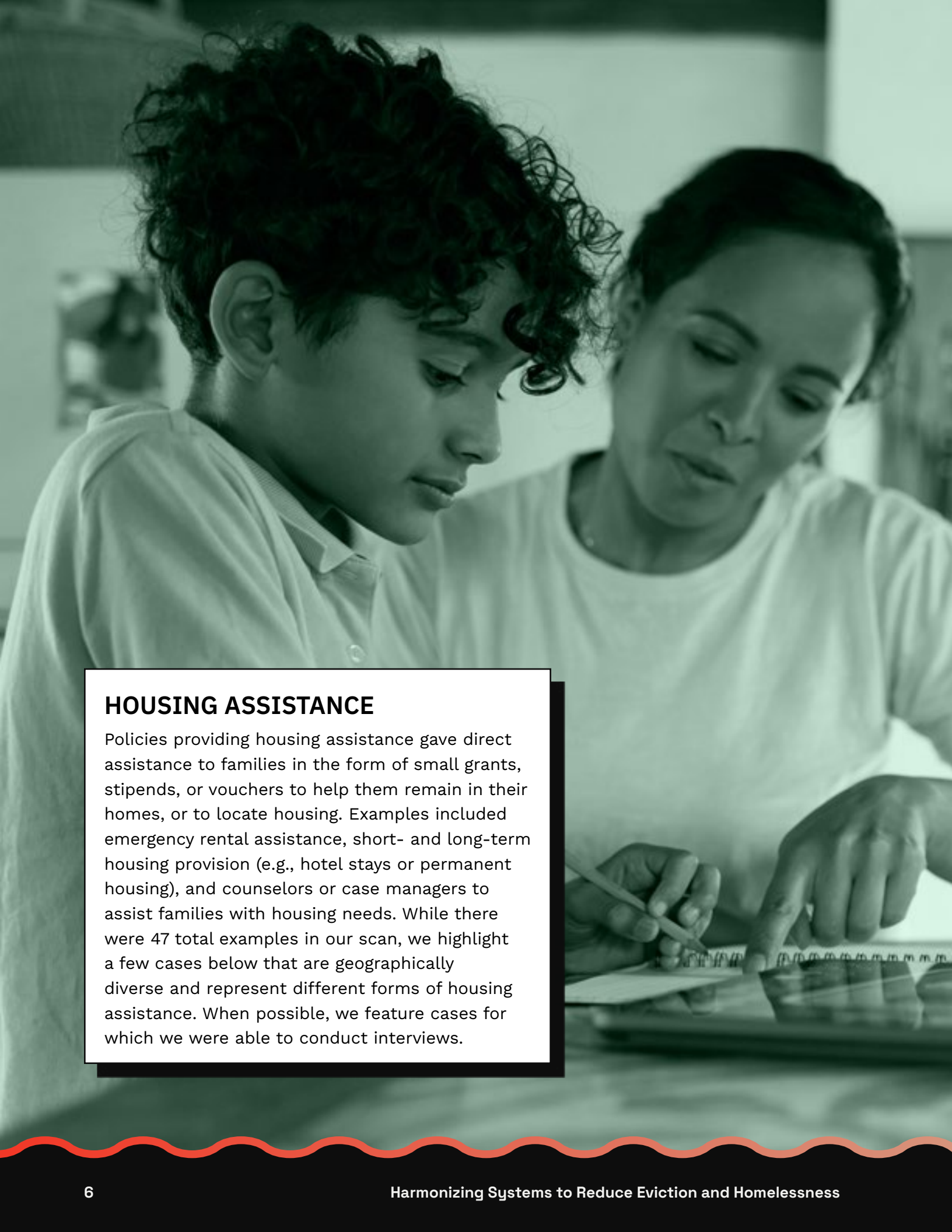
- **housing assistance**, including emergency rental assistance, short- and long-term housing provision, and housing counselors or case management;
- **policy and legal protections**, including school-year eviction moratoria and legal aid;
- **data sharing policies**, including sharing eviction data with schools so they can better respond to the needs of families.

See [Table 1](#) for an overview of the types of policies we identified and example cases of each. These categories were not mutually exclusive. Cases could fall into multiple categories.



Table 1. School-Housing Partnerships Overview

Category	Description/Definition	Number Found in Policy Scan	Example(s) Highlighted in This Report
Housing Assistance			
Housing Counseling and Case Management	Dedicated staffing for housing navigation and case management to walk families through the search, application, and lease-signing processes.	26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boston Public Schools (MA) Early Homelessness Intervention Program • Minneapolis (MN) Public Schools' Stable Homes Stable Schools • San Francisco Unified School District (CA) Stay Over Program • Tacoma Public Schools (WA) Education Project
Emergency Rental Assistance	Rental assistance for families experiencing or at risk of experiencing homelessness	24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Albuquerque (NM) Amparo Program • Austin ISD (TX) Family Resource Centers • Boston Public Schools (MA) Early Homelessness Intervention Program • Minneapolis (MN) Public Schools' Stable Homes Stable Schools
Short-Term Housing Provision	Short hotel stays for families experiencing homelessness and overnight parking for unhoused students	16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tacoma Public Schools (WA) Education Project • San Francisco Unified School District (CA) Stay Over Program
Long-Term Affordable Housing Provision	Building affordable housing units on/near school properties for teachers and students and purpose-built communities that include schools	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • San Francisco Unified School District (CA) HOPE SF • Los Angeles Unified School District (CA) Sun King Apartments
Policy and Legal Protections			
School-Year Eviction Moratoria	Bans on evictions during the school year for students, educators, and their families	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance, Oakland Unified School District (Oakland, CA) • School Year Eviction Ban, Seattle Public Schools (Seattle, WA)
Legal Assistance	Policies and programs that require or provide pro bono legal assistance to assist families with navigating housing issues ranging from eviction to tenant-landlord disputes	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice in the Schools, Kansas City, MO
Data Sharing Policies			
Data Sharing Policies	Data sharing partnerships across housing, education, legal, and/or policy advocacy sectors to more proactively identify families at risk of homelessness	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ImpactTulsa, Tulsa (OK)



HOUSING ASSISTANCE

Policies providing housing assistance gave direct assistance to families in the form of small grants, stipends, or vouchers to help them remain in their homes, or to locate housing. Examples included emergency rental assistance, short- and long-term housing provision (e.g., hotel stays or permanent housing), and counselors or case managers to assist families with housing needs. While there were 47 total examples in our scan, we highlight a few cases below that are geographically diverse and represent different forms of housing assistance. When possible, we feature cases for which we were able to conduct interviews.

Housing counseling and case management provided through or in partnership with schools is a frontline strategy to prevent and address housing instability and homelessness among families. Counseling and case management services aim to address both short- and long-term barriers by connecting families to resources and helping them navigate systems and benefits, such as those provided for by the McKinney-Vento Act, which ensures legal rights and funding for students experiencing homelessness. We found 25 cases of housing counseling and case management in our scan.

Emergency rental assistance aims to provide students and families who are at risk of facing homelessness with emergency support, often in the form of one-time payments, so that families can remain temporarily housed. By providing emergency support, these policies seek to increase the housing stability of families in the hope that the academic experiences of these students, specifically their attendance, engagement, and achievement, remain stable. In the cases below, these policies and programs often exist in tandem with other forms of support for families.

Short-term housing provision was another key policy type. Increasingly, we are witnessing school districts getting involved with developing partnerships or even directly providing short-term housing options for students and their families experiencing homelessness. These kinds of support were significantly expanded during the COVID-19 pandemic, as increased federal funding to support students experiencing homelessness was accompanied by loosened restrictions for the length of stay for families needing temporary shelter. We found 15 cases of short-term housing provision in our scan. While many districts developed partnerships with hotels and motels to temporarily house families in need, we also found one location that used school facilities to house students.

Long-term affordable housing provision was another type of housing-school partnership. These cases highlight instances in which education agencies directly addressed issues of housing affordability and instability for the students and families they serve through the construction of affordable housing developments or through developments that incorporate set-aside units for families in area schools. In some cases, efforts were focused on helping families before they ever became homeless, mitigating the trauma and harm from such a negative experience.

Next, we describe cases that illustrate each of these types of housing assistance, with some cases providing more than one type of support.

The Case of Minneapolis

Origin of the Policy: In 2019, Minneapolis, Minnesota introduced the Stable Homes Stable Schools (SHSS) policy.¹¹ SHSS is a partnership across housing and education that supports schools with the highest rates of homelessness and provides access to rental assistance and wraparound services.

Structure: The program offers two tiers of support: The first tier is short-term emergency assistance to prevent homelessness, which includes assistance for things like back pay of rent or fixing a car needed to get to work. The second tier of support is multiyear rental assistance, which encompasses helping families exit homelessness by placing them into stable, long-term affordable housing. For this type of long-term housing support, the Minneapolis Public Schools and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority partner with the YMCA to provide offerings such as rental assistance for up to three years, assistance with searching for and finding affordable housing, and tailored support services to help with long-term housing stability; this longer-term support is available for students eligible under the McKinney-Vento Act.¹²

Impact: According to the website, SHSS has achieved some early success. Namely, in the first year and a half of the program, it provided emergency eviction prevention funds to about 700 children and 250 families. Additionally, the program estimates that for families enrolled in SHSS, 91% of those students have remained in the same school, in comparison to the district average of 69% for students who experienced homelessness and remained in the same school all year.¹³

The Case of Boston

Origin of the Policy: In November 2019, FamilyAid and Boston Public Schools (BPS), Massachusetts launched a pilot program for early homeless intervention and prevention. Through the program, homeless liaisons referred families to FamilyAid's on-call social workers who connected families to resources to avoid eviction.¹⁴

Structure: To keep children and their parents in their homes, FamilyAid's Homelessness Prevention program provides one-time emergency rental assistance to families identified by schools as needing assistance. As a part of the Homelessness Prevention program, FamilyAid also supports families by working with them on things such as budgeting and obtaining stable jobs.¹⁵

Impact: An article on the FamilyAid website describes that when the pilot program was launched, the demand was overwhelming.¹⁶ FamilyAid describes the Homelessness Prevention program as highly successful.¹⁷ From what we can tell, no formal evaluation of the impact of the program has been conducted.

The Case of Austin

Origin of the Policy: Austin Voices for Education and Youth (AVEY) first established a partnership working with schools when a school in the Austin Independent School District (AISD), in Austin, Texas was threatened with closure. After interviewing teachers in the school, the current executive director of AVEY found that housing instability—and the challenges it created for student mobility and attendance—was the greatest factor affecting student achievement. By finding ways to support students academically, AVEY moved into housing support early on and is coming up on 20 years of this work. It has partnered with various organizations over the years and, most recently, is working in partnership with Travis County Health and Human Services and the City of Austin Project Connect (a transportation initiative), among others.

Structure: One form of support that AVEY provides is emergency or one-time rental assistance to families, funded through city-raised dollars. The program caters specifically to families with children in the AISD. While AVEY does not provide long-term case management, it specifically supports families seeking short-term assistance, such as rent assistance or utility assistance. For rental assistance, AVEY presents rent checks directly to landlords, and tenants receive letters to confirm that the payment was made on their behalf. In the 2022-23 school year alone, AVEY reported providing 458 families with utility vouchers and rental assistance.¹⁸ AVEY provides these supports, along with a range of wraparound services for students and families, through Family Resource Centers (FRCs) located on-site at eight AISD schools. All FRCs are staffed with a full-time director and bilingual licensed social worker as well as part-time staff and volunteers.

Impact: Data collection and reporting is an integral part of AVEY's work. AVEY has a program called Effort to Outcomes, which collects and evaluates data on output and outcomes, with one outcome being housing stability, to understand the areas in which it is effective and in which it could improve. However, no formal evaluation of the policy's impact has been conducted to date.

The Case of Albuquerque

Origin of the Policy: The ABC Community School Partnership was created in 2007 through a joint powers agreement between the city, county, and school district in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Community schools incorporate a system of student supports that provide general wraparound services to students, including supports to students experiencing homelessness via community school coordinators and McKinney-Vento outreach workers in each school, but there was an unmet need for rapid housing stability support to address high rates of student mobility in the district. The executive director of the ABC Community School Partnership thus founded a nonprofit, Amparo, to address this need. According to one initiative leader, “You have to take the long view, and you have to find the levers that you can push on that are both policy and personal. You blend them together.”

Structure: Amparo works in coordination with the ABC Community School Partnership and community school coordinators, McKinney-Vento outreach, and social workers in schools to provide rapid, flexible one-time housing assistance capped at \$1,500 per family, in addition to housing services referrals and navigation. Amparo is able to release flexible, rapid financial assistance to families because its private funding sources are generally unrestricted, while McKinney-Vento funding enables school districts to provide longer-term assistance to families experiencing homelessness.

Impact: An initiative for Amparo to track family metrics and concretely evaluate outcomes is currently underway. Newly emerging initiatives have also shown promise, such as allowing community school coordinators, school social workers, and McKinney-Vento staff to undergo eviction court observations and legal trainings, a family stabilization project to increase transitional housing support, and policy advocacy to shift state and local priorities to prevention-focused housing policy.

The Case of San Francisco's Stay Over Program

Origin of the Policy: In 2017, San Francisco Unified School District (SFUSD) in California identified 64 families whose children were students at Buena Vista Horace Mann (BVHM) K-8 and who lacked stable housing.¹⁹ Following extensive input and consultation with the entire school community, school leadership and the Department of Homelessness and Supportive Housing (HSH) developed the Stay Over Program (SOP). Each night, the gym transforms into a place to stay for families in the district lacking housing. Additionally, families are also connected to HSH's coordinated entry system to help them secure stable housing.

Structure: The SOP is operated through a partnership between SFUSD, BVHM Community School, Dolores Street Community Services, Compass Family Services, Catholic Charities, and the HSH. The program provides a maximum occupancy of 69 beds and employs seven people who provide management, on-site leadership, food preparation, and custodial services. The shelter operates seven days a week. On the weekends, enrichment activities are provided, and volunteers from the community are invited to connect with families. Unlike other shelters, where individuals and families need to line up outside waiting to see if they have a place to stay, the SOP utilizes school enrollment data to guarantee beds for families in a more humane manner. Additionally, there is no limit on the length of stay.

Impact: The program continues to operate in 2025; since 2019, the program has served over 500 families.²⁰ A 2020 evaluation from the San Francisco Controller's Office found that the program was able to serve 59 district families in its first 11 months.²¹ In the early years of the program, monthly average occupancy was 65%. The words of parents served by the program mark the power of its impact. Yolanda said, "I was sleeping in hotels night after night. [The price] was stopping me from saving money to better my situation. I had heard stories about how dangerous shelters can be, but [BVHM] welcomed me. [They] made me feel safe." Others noted how the school provided them with food, warmth, and a place where they could be happy. As Herman said, "Nothing bad will happen. I am safe; I can relax."²²

The Case of Los Angeles Unified School District

Origin of the Policy: Los Angeles, California, is an area where a large percentage of families with school-age children have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives. In fact, on any given night, over 75,000 people are living unhoused in the county (over 45,000 in the city), a number that has steadily risen over the past six years.²³ Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD's) affordable housing program is an effort to begin addressing this problem directly and is a recognition of the importance of stable housing for the academic and life success of its students.

Structure: The partnership included LAUSD, nonprofit developer Many Mansions, and housing services nonprofit Housing Works. Many Mansions constructed a 25-unit, affordable, permanent housing project that serves chronically homeless individuals and families in the city. Housing Works provides on-site services, and LAUSD selected residents and provided other supports. The Sun King Apartments are located in the San Fernando Valley, close to several elementary schools where more than 20% of students are experiencing homelessness, according to school board member Kelly Gonez.²⁴ In addition to housing, residents also have access to a range of youth and family services, including comprehensive case management, youth programs and after-school support, connections to health care services, and employment and life skills resources. The apartment complex welcomed its first residents in March 2024. At the opening of the complex, LAUSD Board Vice President Scott Schmerelson said, "Our students must feel secure with permanent housing if they are to develop well socially, emotionally, and academically. If we are serious about combatting homelessness, we must address the root cause: unaffordability."²⁵

Funding for the project partly came from a local ballot proposition approved by Los Angeles voters in 2016, Proposition HHH. The proposition funds the Supportive Housing Loan Program, which has funded multiple rounds of project proposals for the development of supportive housing for homeless individuals and those at risk of homelessness.²⁶ The Sun King Apartments represents the culmination of a seven-year partnership between district officials and Many Mansions.

Impact: The program did not have any publicly available reports or evaluations, but narratives and quotes from news sources show the meaning of stable housing for residents that moved to the Sun King Apartments. One resident, Anica Rubang, was quoted as saying, "Our first night at home was one of safety and security; one which we haven't had in years. ... now we can create a safe and stable home for our daughter."²⁷

The Case of HOPE SF

Origin of the Policy: Launched in 2007, HOPE SF was sparked in response to a 2005 San Francisco Human Services Agency analysis showing that the majority of children removed from their families and placed in child welfare lived near seven street corners in the southeastern part of the city, which overlapped with outdated public housing. The initiative is in line with national HOPE movements to redevelop older housing projects into mixed-income housing. The initiative is the first large-scale, explicitly anti-racist community development initiative. In 2007, then-San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom set a vision for rebuilding dilapidated public housing developments into mixed-income communities, and the San Francisco Board of Supervisors secured \$95 million in local bond funding to launch the initiative. They have rebuilt four developments to date, with a projected completion of all developments by 2035. The latest project was completed in March 2025.²⁸ The initiative aims to renovate public housing without mass displacement of original residents.²⁹

Structure: HOPE SF is managed by a public-private partnership led by the city and county of San Francisco, the San Francisco Foundation, and Enterprise Community Partners. SFUSD has been central in the HOPE SF Education Task Force, which seeks to increase the quality of schools near HOPE SF and increase access to high-quality summer and after-school experiences for youth.³⁰ Goals for the overall initiative include building racially and economically inclusive neighborhoods and increasing economic and educational advancement of residents.³¹ The strategy is supported by a multipronged effort, from local bond measures, to secure funding, to city legislation securing the right to return for current and former HOPE SF public housing residents. From the early years of HOPE SF, diverse interest holders recognized that SFUSD officials needed to be involved to align educational improvement with housing revitalization. The district and city and county agencies share data and conduct collaborative analyses to identify the strengths and needs of members of HOPE SF communities.

Impact: As of 2025, construction of public housing units is completed at one of the four HOPE SF sites, Alice Griffith, where 337 new units were created, and at least some public housing has been replaced at each of the sites. All sites have begun the process of moving the original residents back into their remodeled communities. A 2021 evaluation highlights the initiative's progress and needed improvements for using data for strategic decision-making.³² That said, the report highlights that early developments were successful in relocating and retaining legacy families, at rates from 70% to 82% compared to 25% nationally. Project supporters also cite the relatively low rate of COVID-19 cases in 2020 as a testament to HOPE SF's community-driven approach.³³

The Case of Tacoma and Sumner

Origin of the Policy: In 2011, the Tacoma Housing Authority (THA) and Tacoma Public Schools in Washington began a pilot program providing rental assistance to 49 families with students enrolled at McCarver Elementary School (now Edna Travis Elementary).³⁴ The school was selected because 99.5% of students were experiencing poverty; the student turnover rate over the preceding four years ranged from 100% to 179%. Many students were enrolling at the school and withdrawing before the school year ended; and the frequent moves were harming student learning.³⁵ Overall, the school had more students who experienced homelessness than any other in the city.³⁶

Structure: The Special Housing program provided rental assistance to help families pay rent on an apartment or house for up to five years. As families progressed through the program, the financial assistance was decreased annually. Additionally, participating families received case management services (at a ratio of 25:1) and assistance with education and employment through referrals, advocacy, and, at times, financial support.³⁷

Impact: The program moved from pilot status to a full program in 2015; however, the program was subsequently discontinued. Ultimately, the THA found that scaling the program amid the case management ratio was challenging, and families struggled to find housing in the Hilltop neighborhood surrounding the school. That said, the program achieved immediate positive results. By the second year, the rate of students withdrawing from the school decreased from 107% to 75%. Reading scores for children living in THA housing also increased by 22%, three times faster than other children at the school.³⁸



POLICY AND LEGAL PROTECTIONS

Another type of innovative collaboration we found in our scan included policy and legal protections for families, such as school-year eviction moratoria and legal aid services.

School-year eviction moratoria acknowledge the incredible disruption and harm caused to youth by evictions, particularly when these happen in the middle of an academic year. By limiting evictions for school-affiliated families, the policy aims to mitigate the negative consequences of eviction on young people’s academic and social outcomes. As one city leader in Seattle put it, this is a policy with a “low volume but high impact” given the negative effect that mid-school-year eviction has on students. We found six cases with school-year eviction bans.

The school-year eviction ban is a case in which school districts were not directly involved in the policy—it is not a collaboration or partnership—but the policy has significant implications for public schools. However, the specifics of the policy design matter; some policies went further in providing protections for a broader group of families, while others were narrower in their eligibility criteria, limiting their potential impact.

Legal aid interventions for students can play a preventive, stabilizing, and equity-promoting role for students and families when integrated into school support systems. Common legal aid services include eviction prevention and defense; education rights enforcement, such as ensuring immediate enrollment in the student’s school of origin despite housing instability; access to benefits; assistance with custody or guardianship matters that affect school access; and eviction record expungement.

The Case of Seattle

Origin of the Policy: In Seattle, Washington, after the COVID-19 eviction moratorium expired on February 28, 2022, the city passed the School Year Eviction Protections policy, which limits evictions from September to June, based on the Seattle Public Schools calendar. This protects all households in Seattle with students, educators, or other employees of schools. This policy is still in effect at the time of this report.

Structure: The policy was spearheaded by a city councilmember in 2021 and is enforced through the courts. The city of Seattle provides outreach and coaching with tenants and landlords around this and other policies. This was an unfunded policy that was folded into the city's existing outreach programs. No funding was required except some minimal costs to update outreach materials. Tenants can cite this law in eviction court. This policy delays eviction proceedings until the summer (June-August).

While other school-year eviction bans are more limited (e.g., Oakland's policy only applies to no-fault evictions, which limits the number of eviction cases that can use this defense), Seattle's policy is much more expansive, applying to all evictions in the city for eligible households, with only minimal exceptions, such as when units are deemed unsafe or uninhabitable by the city or when there is nonpayment of rent for over nine months. Any household with children or educators is able to use this policy, whether or not they attend or work in Seattle Public Schools.

Impact: No impact evaluation study of this program has been done, as far as we could tell, but city leaders noted the positive impact on families anecdotally. As one city leader observed in an interview, such policies may not be costly or affect many families, but they can be highly impactful: "A family with a school-aged child could be forced to change school districts and disrupt their education. So, it's probably a low volume but high impact [policy] for the small number of people who are impacted by it."

The Case of Oakland

Origin of the Policy: In 2022, Oakland, California passed an amendment to the Just Cause for Eviction Ordinance, which prohibits no-fault evictions from going into effect during the school year if the household includes school-age children or educators employed by the Oakland Unified School District (OUSD).

Structure: Two city councilmembers spearheaded the policy. Because this ordinance applies only to no-fault evictions—such as when the owner is moving into the building, repairs are needed, or the property owner is going out of the rental market—the policy is narrow. In these cases, evictions are delayed until June, at the end of the school year.

Impact: The impact of the program has not been studied, in part because it is difficult to obtain data on family composition or to identify exactly how many evictions have been delayed to the summer under this policy.

The Case of Kansas City

Origin of the Policy: Justice in the Schools (JTS) began in 2018 as a joint project between Legal Aid of Western Missouri and Kansas City-area school districts and charter schools inspired by a community-wide desire to address school mobility and protect families from eviction.

Structure: JTS operates legal clinics within several schools staffed by licensed attorneys who provide free legal services to income-eligible families, including eviction defense and legal assistance in habitability matters. In addition, the program provides rights and benefits access and education, as well as legal services for family law and consumer issues, such as car loan and bankruptcy disputes that impact students' housing, financial, and family stability.

Impact: While there have been no formal evaluations of JTS, the program served over 100 students in its first year, keeping students in their current schools and assisting families in resolving a variety of issues that could otherwise significantly impact students' living situations.³⁹



DATA SHARING POLICIES

Connecting disparate data systems can improve identification and practices impacting the health and well-being of families and students experiencing homelessness. Data sharing policies connect these data silos via innovative partnerships across housing, education, legal, and policy advocacy to more proactively flag families who are falling behind on rent or have been issued an eviction notice.

Tulsa's Student Eviction Alert System

Origin of the Policy: In 2018, Tulsa Public Schools (TPS) in Oklahoma partnered with ImpactTulsa, a nonprofit that leverages data to assess cradle-to-career outcomes for 20 school districts in the Tulsa region, to understand out-of-school barriers impacting student success. One such inequity was in housing and evictions. ImpactTulsa and TPS created a “heat map” showing that high concentrations of absenteeism overlapped with hot spots of formal evictions.⁴⁰ Today, ImpactTulsa is working with local partners in the Tulsa region to create a powerful data infrastructure that analyzes eviction data and draws connections with student outcomes such as attendance, chronic absenteeism, and student mobility.

Structure: ImpactTulsa has created a Student Eviction Alert system for school districts that alerts homeless services coordinators when students might be impacted by an eviction, which can help schools and area nonprofits mobilize resources for vulnerable families. This system was the result of a cross-sector [eviction data working group](#) hosted by ImpactTulsa, including TPS, PartnerTulsa, the Birth through Eight Strategy for Tulsa, Housing Solutions, Oklahoma Access to Justice, and Restore Hope, among others. The Oklahoma Policy Institute (OPI) accesses court data through its Open Justice Oklahoma initiative and partnership with Asemio, a social enterprise company, uses technology to improve community outcomes. By mapping the complex eviction system, the partners are working to reframe the narrative about eviction for policymakers, housing advocates, and school districts. “We’re trying to break the deficit-based narrative that families are doing something bad,” said Dr. Delia Kimbrel, senior director of research and policy at ImpactTulsa. “How do we tell the narrative of how oppressive this is for a mom and her children?”⁴¹

Impact: While we are not aware of any evaluations to date, internal data from ImpactTulsa shows that the Student Eviction Alert system has identified nearly 4,400 evictions filed against students as well as high levels of chronic absenteeism and school mobility for these students.⁴² With its partners, ImpactTulsa is working to advocate for more humane eviction processes, such as a right to counsel and protections against rapid evictions.

IMPLICATIONS

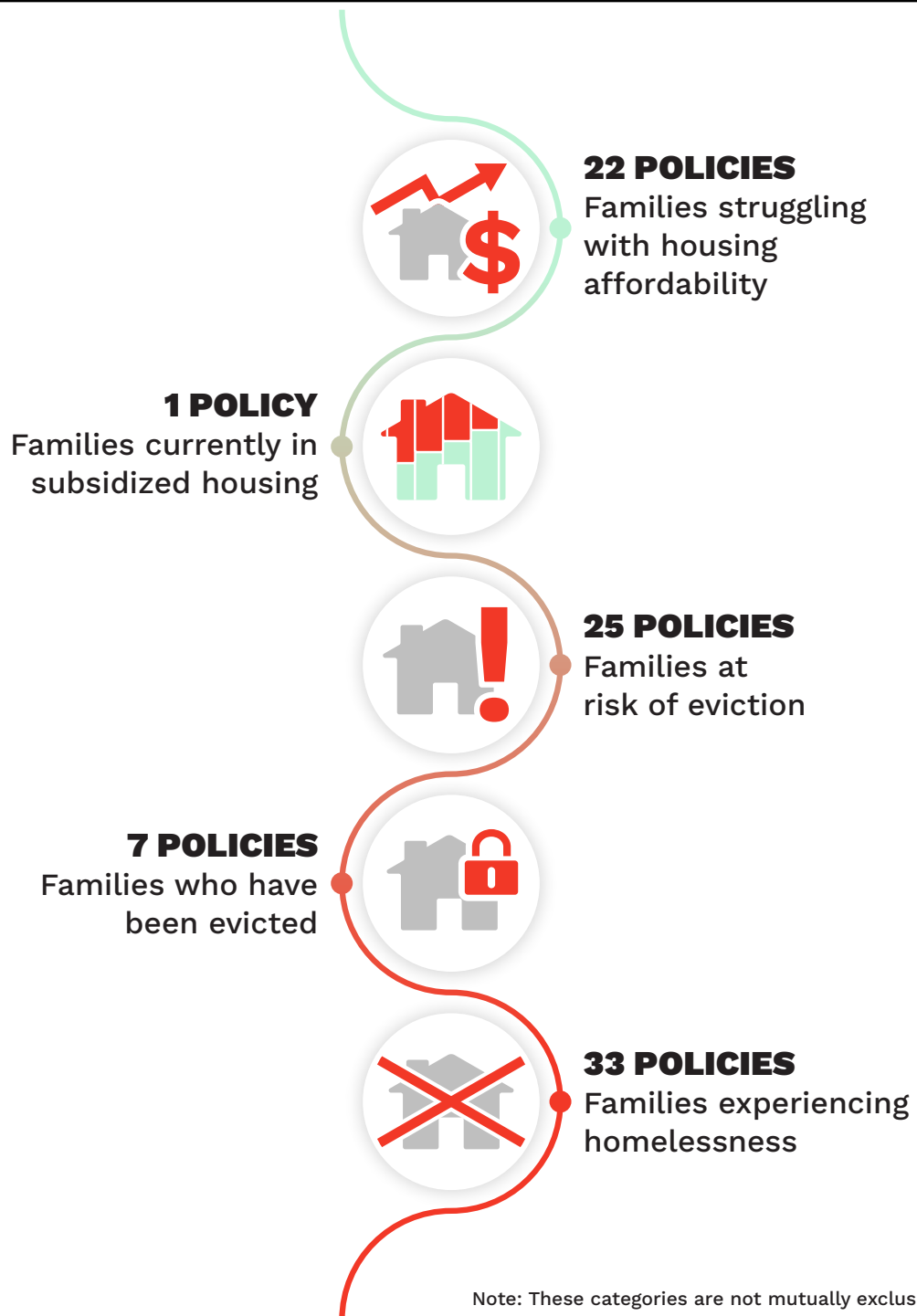
By showcasing these innovative policies and partnerships, our aim is to **inspire policymakers, education leaders, and researchers to adopt and study these policies.**

We also encourage stakeholders to identify and support families **before** they experience homelessness. Many existing policy efforts, programming, and research at the intersection of housing and schools, and thus many of the policies identified in our scan, are focused on students already experiencing homelessness. Some of these include McKinney-Vento services, rapid rehousing, tutoring, or other supports to students experiencing homelessness. By also showcasing innovative policies that go beyond such supports, we want to push the field to move more upstream to intervene before families experience the devastation of homelessness or eviction. This means policies should intervene in the sequence of events that can lead to housing instability, focusing on homelessness prevention, eviction prevention, and affordable housing provision.

Many of these policies have not been systematically studied or evaluated. Researchers should take up cross-sector and mixed-methods research that explores how such programs influence outcomes for families with school-age children. Researchers can engage with policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to co-design studies and build and improve systems and collaborations. Researchers *can* and *should* be involved in the design of programs to ensure they are rooted in data, evidence, and theory. In addition to the educational, social, health, and housing impacts of these programs, it is important to study how they came about—the key facilitators and barriers to their enactment—and how they are being implemented.

This goal of this policy scan is to spark further discussion about what educational systems can do in partnership with city, housing, state, and federal agencies to harmonize systems for housing-insecure families with school-age children. Through such partnerships, policymakers can design innovative cross-sector policies that have the potential to transform the lives of low-income families and children.

Upstream and Downstream Policy Responses to Housing Instability



APPENDIX A: ENVIRONMENTAL SCAN TABLE

Below, we report the policies we found in our scan. Please note that these are based on information we were able to find online and in news media or documents and may not be accurate or fully reflect the program’s or policy’s components or agencies involved. Furthermore, some of these programs are no longer in operation.

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Maryland, Rental Assistance for Community School Families Program and Fund	The Department of Housing and Community Development, in consultation with the State Department of Education	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher
Vancouver, WA, VPS Homeless Outreach Promoting Education (HOPE)	Vancouver Public Schools, Vancouver Housing Authority	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, data sharing, housing counselors, housing case management
San Francisco, CA, HOPE SF	San Francisco Unified School District, Hunters View Community Partners, Mayor’s Office of Housing, San Francisco Housing Authority	Long-term affordable housing provision
Austin, TX	Austin Independent School District, Austin Voices for Education and Youth, Family Resource Centers, City of Austin Community Initiated Solutions	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher
Austin, TX, Student and Family Assistance program	Communities in Schools, funded by the city of Austin and Austin Housing Finance Corporation	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Volusia County, FL	Volusia County Schools, United Way of Volusia-Flagler Counties, Volusia/Flagler Coalition for the Homeless	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
King County, WA, Student and Family Stability Initiative	Highline Public School District, King County Housing Authority, Neighborhood House	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
Seattle, WA	Seattle Public Schools, Seattle Housing Authority	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, data sharing, long-term affordable housing provision
Los Angeles, CA	Los Angeles Unified School District, Housing Authority of the City of Los Angeles, Many Mansions	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, long-term affordable housing provision
Dallas, TX	After8toEducate, Dallas Independent School District	Short-term housing provision
Baltimore, MD, School-Centered Housing Response	Baltimore City Public Schools, Baltimore City Department of Housing & Community Development	Housing counselors/housing case management, legal aid, long-term housing provision
Hillsborough County, FL, Pathways to Hope	Hillsborough County School District, Metropolitan Ministries, Children's Board of Hillsborough County	Housing counselors or housing case management

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Tacoma, WA, Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program, Front Door Project	Tacoma School District, Sumner School District, Tacoma Housing Authority, Helping Hand House Transitional Housing	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
Philadelphia, PA, HopePHL	Philadelphia Public Schools, HopePHL	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, long-term affordable housing provision, short-term housing provision
Albuquerque, NM	Albuquerque Public Schools, ABC Community School Partnership, Amparo	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher
Chesterfield County, VA, Housing Families First Program: Building Neighbors Rapid Rehousing Program and Bringing Families Home Program	Richmond Public Schools, Chesterfield County Public Schools, Henrico County Public Schools, Housing Families First	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
Portland, OR, Multnomah Stability Initiative	Portland Public Schools, SUN Community schools	Housing counselors or housing case management
Milwaukee, WI	Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee Community Schools Partnership, MTEA, United Way	Housing counselors, housing case management, legal aid for housing-related issues

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Minnesota, Homework Starts with Home	Multiple districts, including Anoka-Hennepin Independent School District; Mounds View Public School District, Mankato Public Schools, Rochester Public Schools Homework Starts at Home	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
Minneapolis, MN, Stable Homes Stable Schools	Minneapolis Public schools, City of Minneapolis, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Hennepin County Health and Human Services, YMCA of Greater Twin Cities	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management
Torrington, CT	Torrington Public School District, EdAdvance (Regional Education Service Center)	Housing counselors or housing case management
Pinellas County, FL	Pinellas County Schools, Directions for Living, City of St. Petersburg, Pinellas County Schools	Legal aid, short-term housing provision
Akron, OH, SPARK	Akron Public Schools, Head Start	Legal aid, housing counselors, housing case management
Santa Fe, NM	Monte del Sol Charter School	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Columbia, SC	Richland County School District One, NAACP, University of South Carolina	Housing counselors, housing case management, legal aid
Boston, MA, Early Homelessness Intervention Program	Boston Public Schools, Boston Housing Authority, FamilyAid Boston	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management, legal aid
Monterey County, CA, Motel 6 Partnership for Short-Term Emergency Housing	Monterey Peninsula Unified School District, Motel 6	Short-term housing provision
Thibodaux, LA	Lafourche Parish School District, local hotels	Short-term housing provision
Clifton, NJ	Clifton Public Schools	Housing counselors, housing case management, short-term housing provision
San Diego, CA, Project Rest	San Diego Unified School District, Chula Vista Elementary School District, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego Youth Services, Motel 6	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, short-term housing provision

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Cincinnati, OH, Project Connect	Cincinnati Public Schools, Cincinnati Housing Authority, Community Action Agency, Quality Inn	Housing counselors, housing case management, short-term housing provision
Osceola County, FL	School District of Osceola County, Stayable Suites, Rodeway Inn	Short-term housing provision
Coos Bay, OR	Coos Bay School District, Alternative Youth Activities,	Short-term housing provision
Tacoma, WA, Education Project	Tacoma Public Schools, Tacoma Housing Authority	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management, long-term affordable housing provision, short-term housing provision
King County, WA, Education Initiative	Kent, Highline, and Bellevue School Districts, King County Housing Authority	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, data sharing, short-term housing provision

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
San Francisco, CA, Stay Over Program at Buena Vista Horace Mann Elementary	San Francisco Unified School District, Mission Action (formerly Dolores Street Community Services)	Housing counselors, housing case management, short-term housing provision
Montana, Montana Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP)	Montana Balance of State	Long-term affordable housing provision, short-term housing provision
Sacramento, CA, Sacramento Steps Forward	Highland Charter School, Sacramento Academic and Vocational Academy, Sacramento Continuum of Care, Sacramento County Office of Education	Housing counselors or housing case management
King County, CA	King County Office of Education	Housing counselors or housing case management
Placer County, CA, Whole Family Case Management	Placer County Office of Education	Housing counselors or housing case management
Redwood City, CA, T.H.R.I.V.E. Initiative	Redwood City School District, LifeMoves	Housing counselors or housing case management
Mesa County, CO, Next Step Housing Program	Mesa County School District, Grand Junction Housing Authority, Mesa County Department of Human Services, Mesa County Workforce Center	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, long-term affordable housing provision

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Georgia, Georgia Balance of State Continuum of Care YHDP	State	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, housing counselors, housing case management, short-term housing provision
Oakland, CA	Oakland Unified School District, City of Oakland	Eviction moratorium
Seattle, WA, school-year eviction ban ordinance	Seattle Public Schools, City of Seattle	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, eviction moratorium
San Francisco, CA	San Francisco Unified School District, City of San Francisco	Eviction moratorium
Santa Monica, CA	City	Eviction moratorium limiting no-fault evictions of students and educators during the school year.
Tacoma, WA, Landlord Fairness Code Initiative	Tacoma chapter of Democratic Socialists of America, United Food and Commercial Workers Local 367	Eviction moratorium
New York	State	Eviction moratorium
Maryland	United Way of Central Maryland	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher
Maryland, Eviction Prevention Funds for Community School Families	Department of Housing and Community Development, State Department of Education	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher

Location (city, state, program name)	Agencies involved	Policy support
Tulsa, OK	Multiple districts, including Tulsa Public Schools, Union Public Schools, Oklahoma Access to Justice, Oklahoma Policy Institute, Housing Solutions Tulsa, PartnerTulsa	Data sharing
Kansas City, MO, Justice in the Schools	Legal Aid of Western Missouri, the Kansas City Eviction Project, LINC, Kansas City Public School District, Hickman Mills C1 School District, and Center School District	Legal aid, data sharing
Los Angeles, CA, Homeless Education Program	Los Angeles County Office of Education, all school districts in the county	Cash/emergency rental assistance, housing debt assistance, housing voucher, down payment, short-term housing provision, legal aid, housing counselors, housing case management


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