



**NATIONAL SURVEY  
OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES  
FOR HOMELESS FAMILIES**

**Kentucky had an estimated 858 homeless families on a single night in 2009, with providers serving nearly twice their bed capacity over the course of the year.<sup>1</sup> This brief summarizes some of the state's public and private initiatives to assist these families.**

**State Taskforce on Homelessness**

**Taskforce:** The Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness (established by executive order in September 2007) implements the state's ten-year plan to end homelessness.

**Governor's Appointee:** State Senator Gerald Neal has chaired the Kentucky Interagency Council on Homelessness since 2008.



**Demographic Summary and Overview of Regional Organization**

	Kentucky	Jefferson County	Fayette County
Persons in homeless families <sup>2</sup>	2,697	368	434
Number of family shelter beds <sup>3</sup>	2,468	396	410
Persons in homeless families (per 10,000 population in families) <sup>4</sup>	18	16	46
Percent of families in poverty <sup>5</sup>	20.07%	18.21%	16.61%
10-Year plan date approved or implemented	2005	2002	No plan
10-Year plan target population	Chronic	All	No plan
Point-in-time count frequency	Annually*	Annually	Annually
Point-in-time count managing agency	Kentucky Housing Corporation*	Coalition for Homelessness	Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative
Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) managing agency	Kentucky Housing Corporation	Kentucky Housing Corporation	Kentucky Housing Corporation
Main organizing agency or Continuum of Care (CoC) lead applicant	Kentucky Housing Corporation*	Coalition for Homelessness	Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative

\*Corresponds to the Balance of State Continuum of Care, which comprises areas of Kentucky that are not included in a regional or local CoC.

**Homelessness in the Bluegrass State**

On a single night in January 2010, 6,623 family members and individuals were homeless in Kentucky. Additionally, 9,833 persons were precariously housed, defined as living doubled-up (87%), facing imminent eviction (7%), or lacking utilities (6%). Over three-quarters (78%) of agencies serving homeless and precariously housed persons experienced an increase in the need for services in 2010. Emergency housing (19%), security deposit or utility assistance (17%), and rental subsidies (16%) were among the most frequently requested services. Separate data are not available for families.<sup>6</sup>

The City of Louisville experienced a 2% drop in the number of homeless families in 2010, which had decreased by 25% the previous year. Despite the reported recent decline in family homelessness, many local shelters operate at capacity and must turn families away. In 2010, the city was unable to accommodate half of all families and individuals seeking emergency shelter because of limited resources.<sup>7</sup>



The *National Survey of Programs and Services for Homeless Families* is an online resource for service providers, advocates, researchers, and public policy makers working in the field of family homelessness. The Web site provides a state-by-state snapshot of the interconnections between governmental and nonprofit work to end family homelessness. For additional information on Kentucky and other states, visit [www.icprwb.org](http://www.icprwb.org)

### A Spotlight on Louisville’s Homeless Students

The number of homeless students in Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) increased by 115.5% (4,898 to 10,555) between the 2003–04 and 2009–10 school years. In school year 2008–09, 8,582 homeless students (8.8% of the total student population) attended JCPS and nearly half (48.1%) lived doubled-up with relatives or friends. The rise in the number of homeless students was attributed to the economic downturn and housing crisis. More than 500 Louisville students and their families experienced foreclosure during a 15-month period, 9.6% (48) of which resulted in homelessness. According to the Kentucky Core Content Test scores from the 2007–08 school year, homeless students across grade levels scored lower than their sheltered counterparts on math and reading assessments. Furthermore, homeless students were more likely to be absent 10% or more of the school year.<sup>8</sup>

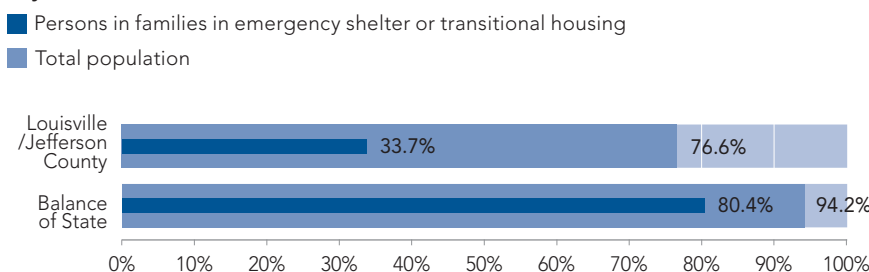
### Strengthening Lexington’s Homeless Families

The Family Housing Program, under the direction of Volunteers of America of Kentucky (VOA), a non-profit human services organization, is a scattered-site housing program for homeless and at-risk families in the City of Lexington. In partnership with Lexington Housing Authority, VOA provides up to 25 housing vouchers for families per year. Families initially contribute 30% of their income towards rent, with their rent subsidy decreasing as they become more self-sufficient. During a 12-month period, families set goals and receive extensive case management, including group workshops and one-on-one counseling sessions on self-esteem building, financial literacy and budgeting, tenant rights and responsibilities, and basic life skills. Ninety percent of participants had stable or increased income upon program exit in 2009 and 85% secured permanent housing.<sup>9</sup>

### One-stop Service Centers for Homeless Families in Jefferson County

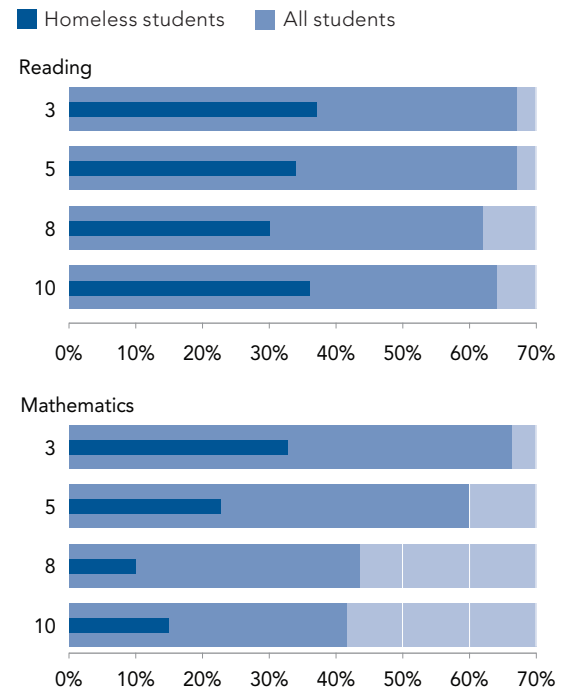
Originally established in 1993, Neighborhood Place, a government and community partnership, is a one-stop, multi-service program for homeless and low-income families in the Louisville metropolitan area. Eight Neighborhood Places and three satellite sites throughout Jefferson County serve an average of 1,000 families per day. Through a single intake and assessment process, families can access a network of state and community-based assistance programs and supportive services. Families are also referred to the Homeless Families Response Team, which provides short-term case management to help families secure permanent supportive housing and attain self-sufficiency. In 2008, Louisiana lawmakers passed a state law to replicate the Neighborhood Place model, creating three centers statewide.<sup>10</sup>

### Percent of Homeless Families and the Total Population that are White (by Continuum of Care)



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*; U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates*. Data for persons in families in emergency shelter or transitional housing were not available for Lexington/Fayette County.

### Percent of Jefferson County Public School Students Proficient or Above in Mathematics and Reading (by housing status and grade level)



Source: Metropolitan Housing Corporation, *Where Do You Live? Louisville’s Homeless Children and the Affordable Housing Crisis*, August 2009.

### Endnotes

- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *HUD’s 2009 CoC Homeless Assistance Programs—Homeless Populations and Subpopulations*; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, *AHAR Exchange Public Reports: 2009 Comprehensive Report of Sheltered Homeless Persons*.
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- U.S. Census Bureau, *2006–2008 American Community Survey*.
- Statistics for Kentucky exclude Fayette and Jefferson counties; Kentucky Housing Corporation, *2010 Kentucky Point-In-Time Count of Homeless Persons*.
- U.S. Conference of Mayors, *Hunger and Homelessness Survey: A Status Report on Hunger and Homelessness in America’s Cities*, December 2009–10.
- Metropolitan Housing Corporation, *Where Do You Live? Louisville’s Homeless Children and the Affordable Housing Crisis*, August 2009; Metropolitan Housing Coalition, “Homeless—Not Helpless,” *Metropolitan Housing Coalition Newsletter*, October 2010.
- Volunteers of America of Kentucky, *Volunteers of America Program Snapshot: Family Housing Program*, 2009.
- Louisville Metro Government, “Neighborhood Place,” <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/NeighborhoodPlace>; Louisiana Neighborhood Place, <http://www.laneighborhoodplace.org>