

# Solving Child Homelessness in Vermont

*A strategic first step to  
solving all homelessness*



## Child Homelessness in Vermont - 2016 to 2023

The **2016** point-in-time recorded a **28%** reduction in the number of homeless individuals statewide—the largest one year decrease in a PIT count in the nation in 2016. **156** households had children, or **20%** of total households counted.

The **2022** point-in-time count shows the number of people in households with children under 18 increased by **130%** from pre-pandemic levels, from **629** in 2019 to **857** in 2022.

**Today**, approximately **450** families and **over 550** children are experiencing homelessness in Vermont (DCF Data – December, 2022).

# Risks Due to Child Homelessness In Vermont



## Children:

- Have higher levels of emotional and behavioral problems;
- Have increased risk of serious health problems;
- Are more likely to experience separations from their families;
- Experience more school mobility, repeat a grade, are expelled or drop out of school, and have lower academic performance; and
- Are are more likely to experience homelessness as adults.

- [Children and Families - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)  
- [Risk and Resilience Factors for Youth Homelessness in Western Countries: A Systematic Review - PubMed \(nih.gov\)](#)  
- [ChapinHall VoYC NationalReport Final.pdf \(voicesofyouthcount.org\)](#)

# Strategies and Interventions that Work

**Affordable Housing** - *Housing for which the occupant(s) is/are paying no more than 30 percent of income for gross housing costs, including utilities.*

**Rapid Rehousing with Rental Subsidies** – *Intervention that rapidly connects families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing through time-limited financial assistance.*

**Support Services/Prevention** – Targeted support and the coordination of services to place and keep people in housing.

Census data show a 2.4%-4.2% rental vacancy rate for Vermont in **2022**. (Margin of error - 1.7% 2.3%)

<https://www.census.gov/housing/hvs/data/rates.html>

***A Healthy Vacancy Rate is Between 5 % and 7 %***

# Solving Child Homelessness NOW

- Include in the Budget Adjustment an additional \$2.1 million in rental subsidies to rapidly rehouse families. This is an *additional \$2.1 million* to the \$3 million in the Cares Housing Voucher Program already in the BAA.
- Include in Budget Adjustment \$1.5 million this year and *then annually* to increase support services for families through the Family Supportive Housing Program. This State investment will be matched with Medicaid Funding under the Targeted Case Management category.
- Include an additional \$3.5 million in 2024 to sustain the rental subsidies and rapidly rehouse approximately 450 families.
- Include \$2 million annually to continue to house an estimated 80 families coming into homelessness each year.
- Revisit Vermont's Roadmap to End Homelessness, reconvene Vermont's Council on Homelessness and the Child Poverty Council.

