

INCREASING ACCESS AND SERVICES TO ALL UNDER-RESOURCED FAMILIES

»» PRIORITIZING SERVICES FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND FAMILIES IN NEED

As the COVID-19 pandemic destabilized an already fractured Early Childhood Education system, it also exacerbated the homelessness crisis for households with children.



As of 2021, there are **4,775 YOUTH** experiencing homelessness throughout Los Angeles County, a **19% INCREASE FROM 2019**.

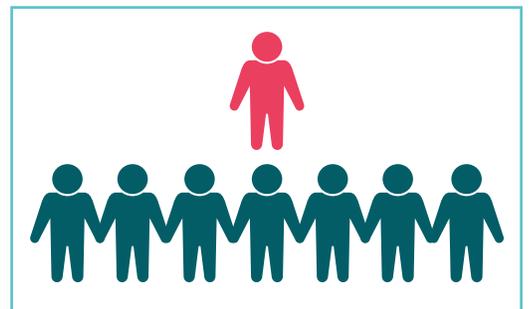


- An estimated 120,000 households with **184,000 CHILDREN COULD EXPERIENCE HOMELESSNESS** because of the pandemic.
- From 2015-2016 there were roughly **240,000 CHILDREN** under the age of six experiencing **HOMELESSNESS** in California.

Several parents are **UNAWARE** that they qualify for subsidized child care programs for homeless families. For those who do apply for assistance, they often find the enrollment process difficult.

»» PRIORITIZING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

California is facing severe shortages in special education teachers across the state. **In 2019, 1 in 8 California children enrolled in K-12 programs received special education.** This represents an increase of nearly 14 percent from the number of children receiving special education services in 2014-2015. Lack of funding for specific resources and lack of adequate funding for special needs teachers have contributed to the problem.





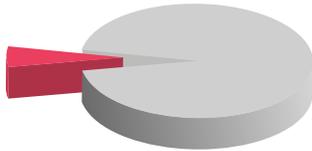
More than **1 out of 5** teachers in special education schools in California left their positions between 2015-2016. Nationally, they are leaving at almost double the rate of general education teachers.

More than **725,000 K-12 STUDENTS** qualified for special needs services in California in 2018-2019

Early intervention in special education can improve developmental trajectories for children with disabilities and improve outcomes with health, language, cognitive, social, and emotional development.

» EXTENDING SERVICES TO ALL CHILDREN

The state of California offers assistance for paying for child care to qualified families. However, large portions of parents are not eligible for this service.



California has an estimated 2.6 million undocumented immigrants who make up approximately **6% of the state's population** with the majority residing in Los Angeles County.



UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANTS disproportionately work in essential sectors, such as restaurants, grocery stores, and construction, and **EARN LOWER WAGES** compared to U.S.-born workers.

High unemployment rates and poverty in conjunction with the **LACK OF KEY SOCIAL SAFETY NET PROGRAMS** have left this population extremely vulnerable.

The rights and privileges of a child born in the U.S. should fully apply to their parents as well. By providing cash assistance, health care coverage, extended education services, and job training to undocumented parents, households are more likely to be economically stable.

