Building Early Links for Learning

Midpoint
Forum Overview
March 16, 2017
Building Early Links for Learning
‘Big picture’

• Promoting Resilience
  • Children who experience risk but do well in life
  • Add protection; Remove risk
  • Keep development on course
Homelessness as risk – Threats to development

**CHRONIC:**
- Extreme poverty
- Challenges for parents
  - Limited educational backgrounds
  - Unemployment
  - Disability, mental illness
- Lack of social support
- History of stressful events/trauma
- Residential instability

**ACUTE:**
- Loss of housing, possessions
- Challenges for parents
  - Domestic violence / other serious relationship problem
  - Loss of control in shelter
  - New requirements in shelter
- Disconnected from family, friends, community
- Ongoing stress or trauma
- Crowded living spaces
PROMOTE & PROTECT
Developmentally Friendly EH/TH

PROMOTE & PROTECT
Quality Early Childhood Education

Homelessness
DETOUR

EH / TH
Building Early Links for Learning

Primary goals:

1) Enhance developmental friendliness of emergency and transitional housing (EH/TH)

2) Increase enrollment in quality early childhood education for children in EH/TH
Key Strategies

• Increase developmental friendliness of emergency and transitional housing
  *ACF Early Childhood Self-Assessment for Family Shelters*
  • Physical improvements / Resources
  • Policy and practices
  • Professional development

• Increase connections to quality Early Childhood Education (ECE)
  • Information: Benefits of quality ECE for children
  • Ask the question: Support parents in pursuing ECE
  • Relationships with quality ECE facilities near EH/TH
  • How to: Qualifying for and enrolling in existing Pre-K programs
  • Innovating: Models of providing ECE to families experiencing homelessness
Blueprint for today

• **Developmental friendliness**
  • Spaces and Policies

• **Preschool Challenges?**
  • Can we know who’s going? Who’s not?
  • Parent and Provider Perspectives
  • Supply and demand: What’s available nearby?

• **Preschool Solutions?**
  • Landscape
  • A model that links

• **Next steps**