

CHILD HOMELESSNESS INTERCEPT MAPPING AND ENGAGEMENT

THE CURRENT LANDSCAPE

Socio-Economic Challenges for Families

In Boston, the number of children and parents experiencing homelessness, poverty and housing instability has surged due to rising living costs, a severe shortage of affordable housing and global humanitarian crises. Despite being the nation's 28th largest city, Boston now has the second-highest number of homeless families.

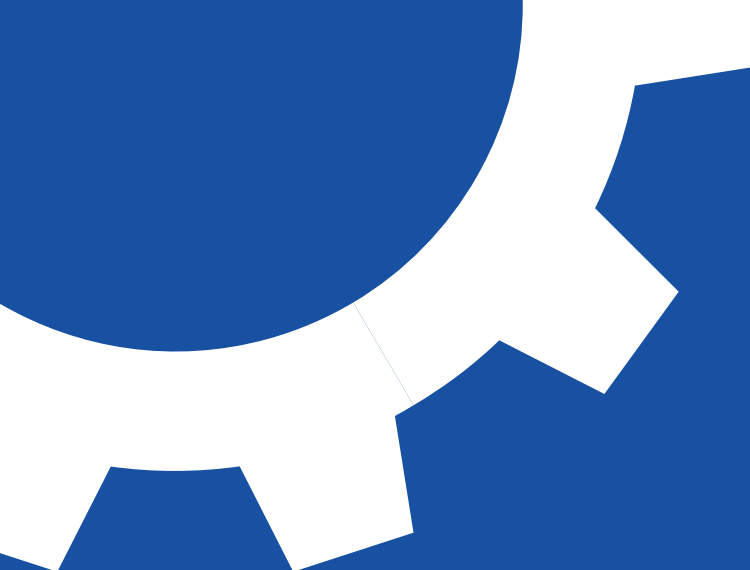
In response, the Commonwealth is curbing spiraling economic costs by limiting shelter stays for families and reducing flexible, social health and housing programs for poor families funded through Medicaid waiver programs. A coordinated response to the needs of children experiencing homelessness is more essential than ever as research shows they are at higher risk of behavioral health challenges, poor academic and employment outcomes and, ultimately, becoming homeless adults.

A CALL TO ACTION

Coordinated, Effective Whole-Family Solutions

The ongoing difficulties for Boston families experiencing poverty and homelessness underscore the need for cross-sector coordination to help them achieve stability. By fostering a more integrated approach, we can improve systems of support for both children and parents that can ultimately alleviate the stress and instability of homelessness.





OUR GOALS

CHIME improves the long-term health and educational, housing, economic and social well-being of children in families experiencing homelessness by engaging community stakeholders to achieve four goals.

ABOUT CHIME

Funded by Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Ascend at the Aspen Institute, the Child Homelessness Intercept Mapping and Engagement (CHIME) initiative is a multi-year effort to improve services for children experiencing homelessness with their families.

OUR MISSION AND VISION

CHIME engages Boston's key community champions, government administrators, service providers and those with lived experience to map and enhance systems of care for accompanied children experiencing homelessness.

CHIME envisions a future in which whole-family services for children experiencing homelessness are easily accessed and support children in becoming healthy, thriving adults.

1

EXPAND
program capacity

2

ENHANCE
access and coordination
of child services

3

INCREASE
awareness among leaders,
service providers
and families

4

ENCOURAGE
greater utilization of
available resources

Our Approach

Community-Driven Collaboration

CHIME combines and adapts the evidence-based Sequential Intercept Model (SIM) with Ascend at the Aspen Institute's 2Gen approach. Our systems-level process engages advocates, leaders and families in mapping how children and their caregivers interact with six systems of support when experiencing homelessness.

CHIME then drives community-led change by facilitating participant-determined action plans. This approach ensures that services – and access to them – are continuously improved based on community input and involvement.

Mapping Social Determinants

CHIME conducts convenings for each of the six determinants of health as defined by Ascend. Expert facilitators, community leaders, frontline staff and people with lived experience collaborate to:

- 1 MAP LOCAL SYSTEMS**
Identify resources, gaps and opportunities within local systems serving accompanied children experiencing homelessness.
- 2 DEVELOP PRIORITIES**
Gain consensus on priority actions based on community input.
- 3 CREATE ACTION PLANS**
Develop and implement action plans to improve the coordination of services for homeless children and families.



Who's Involved

304 Participants

34% Lived Experience

127 Unique Organizations

83 Nonprofit Agencies

24 Municipal Departments

16 State Departments

4 For-Profit Corporations

OUR PROGRESS

2022

Leadership Kick-Off

Housing & Economic Assets Convening

Family Advisory Council

December: The City of Boston Mayor's Office of Housing approves the creation of a Family Advisory Council (FAC).

Comprised of families with lived experience, the FAC will help shape the City's affordable housing policies and practices as it works to prevent and end family homelessness.

2023

Early Childhood Education Convening

K-12 Education Convening

Health & Well-being Convening

National Momentum

December: CHIME recognized as one of 15 U.S. organizations demonstrating 2Gen Best Practices by Ascend at the Aspen Institute.

2024

Postsecondary & Employment Pathways Convening

Social Capital Convening

Bridging Childcare Gaps

March: The Healey-Driscoll administration inaugurates the Early Education and Child Care Task Force at Horizons for Homeless Children.

Led by CHIME Early Childhood Education champions Massachusetts' Commissioner of the Department of Early Education & Care Amy Kershaw, and Boston's Director of the Office of Early Childhood Kristin McSwain, the task force will work to improve access to affordable childcare.

Scaling Solutions

November: CHIME's approach to community-based solutions presented at the 36th Annual Conference of the National Association for the Education of Homeless Children and Youth.

October: A member of the Ascend 2Gen Accelerator Community, CHIME presents its efforts to more than 200 innovators at ThinkXChange, Ascend's national forum on 2-gen approaches.

Setting the New Stage

September: All six convenings have been completed.

The K-12, Early Childhood Education and Housing & Economic Assets plans and reports are now published and publicly available.

AWARENESS TO ACTION

Enhanced Awareness



Our annual community self-assessment revealed a **91% increase in participants' knowledge** of resources for accompanied children experiencing homelessness. That, in turn, led to increased collaborations, partnerships, capacity and prioritization.



NEW PARTNERSHIPS

23 new **cross-sector collaborations**



PRIORITIZING CHILDREN

15 existing services **prioritized for homeless children**



INCREASED TRAININGS

12 new training programs **focused on increasing knowledge and services**



CAPACITY BUILDING

9 organizations with an **increased capacity** to support homeless children





Leadership & Participating Organizations

Champions

Lauren Baker, *Former First Lady, Commonwealth of Massachusetts*
The Honorable Kathleen E. Coffey, *Massachusetts First Justice*
Amy Kershaw, *Massachusetts Department. of Early Education and Care*
Dr. Kiame Mahaniah, *Executive Office of Health and Human Services*
Mary McGeown, *Executive Office of Health and Human Services*
Kristin McSwain, *Mayor's Office of Early Childhood*
Mary Skipper, *Boston Public Schools*

Funders

Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
Ascend at the Aspen Institute

Executive Committee

Kate Barrand, *Horizons for Homeless Children*
Sarah Bartley, *United Way of Massachusetts Bay*
Annissa Essaibi George, *Big Sister Boston*
Brian Marques, *Boston Public Schools*
Mark Reeves, *New England Community Services*
Monica Roberts, *City Year Greater Boston*
Larry Seamans, *FamilyAid*
Snehal Shah, MD, MPH, *Boston Children's Hospital*
Christi Staples, *United Way of Massachusetts Bay*

Advisors

Dean Gautam Yadama, Ph.D., *Boston College of Social Work*
Magnolia Contreras, MSW, MBA, *Dana-Farber Cancer Institute*

Facilitators

Kathleen Kemp, Ph.D., *Brown University*
Patty Griffin, Ph.D.
Marisa Hebble, MPH, *Massachusetts Executive Office of the Trial Court*

Project Manager

Masami Dustin, *FamilyAid*

Evaluator

Health Resources in Action

826 Boston
Action for Boston Community Development
Big Sister Association of Greater Boston
Boston After School & Beyond
Boston Children's Hospital
Boston City Council
Boston College School of Social Work
Boston Family Advisory Council
Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program
Boston Housing Authority
Boston Human Services Cabinet
Boston Mayor's Office for Early Childhood
Boston Mayor's Office of Black Male Advancement
Boston Mayor's Office of Housing
Boston Mayor's Office of Workforce Development
Boston Mayor's Office of Youth Employment & Opportunity
Boston Mayor's Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement
Boston Mayor's Worker Empowerment Cabinet
Boston Medical Center
Boston Partners in Education
Boston Private Industry Council
Boston Public Health Commission
Boston Public Schools Blackstone Innovation School
Boston Public Schools Boston Student Advisory Council
Boston Public Schools Brighton High School
Boston Public Schools Citywide Parent Council
Boston Public Schools Community Hub Schools
Boston Public Schools Margarita Muniz Academy
Boston Public Schools Mario Umana Academy
Boston Public Schools McKinley South End Academy
Boston Scores
Boys & Girls Clubs of Dorchester
Breaktime
Brookline Public Schools
Brookview House
Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School
Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County
Children's Express
Children's League of Massachusetts
Children's Services of Roxbury
Children's Trust
City Year Greater Boston
College Advising Corps
Cradles to Crayons
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute
East Boston Social Centers
Ellis Early Learning
EMPath
FamilyAid
Federal Reserve Bank of Boston
Friends of the Children Boston
GEAR UP
Harvard Ed Portal
Health Imperatives
Health Resources in Action
Higher Ground
Hildebrand Family Self-Help Center
Horizons for Homeless Children
Jeremiah Program
Jewish Family and Children's Service
Jewish Vocational Services
JFK Family Services Center
Justice Resource Institute
KeySteps, Inc.

La Alianza Hispana
Liberty Mutual
Life Science Cares
MA Dept. of Children and Families
MA Dept. of Early Education and Care
MA Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education
MA Dept. of Higher Education
MA Dept. of Mental Health
MA Dept. of Public Health
MA Dept. of Transitional Assistance
MA Early Childhood Funders Collaborative
MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services
MA Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities
MA Executive Office of the Trial Court
MA Head Start Association
MA House of Representatives
MA Office of the Child Advocate
Madison Park Development Corporation
Mass General Brigham
Mass General Hospital Institute of Health Professions
Mass General Hospital Revere Healthcare Center
Massachusetts Association for Mental Health
Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless
Massachusetts Family TIES
Massachusetts House of Representatives
Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
MassHealth
Neighborhood Villages
New England Community Services
Northeastern University
Nubian Square Foundation
Nurtury
Phillips Brooks House Association
Rockland Trust
Root Cause
Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.
Schools on Wheels Massachusetts
Serlin Haley
Shelter Music Boston
Silver Lining Mentoring
Soccer Without Borders
Sojourner House
Sportsmen's Tennis
St. Mary's Center for Women and Children
Suffolk County Family Resource Center
Technical Assistance Collaborative
The Boston Foundation
The Christian Science Monitor
The Dimock Center
The Home for Little Wanderers
Union Capital Boston
Unite Us Massachusetts
United Health Care
United South End Settlements
United Way of Massachusetts Bay
University of Massachusetts Early Education Leaders Institute
Upham's Corner Health Center
Victory Programs
Walker Community Counseling
X-Cel Education
Year Up
YMCA of Greater Boston
YouthBuild Boston

What's Next

Final Reports

Health & Well-being, Social Capital and Postsecondary & Employment Pathways reports and plans to be released.

Action Plans

Root Cause, a Boston-based nonprofit consulting team, to engage volunteer teams to move CHIME Community Action Plans forward.

Community Summit

A spring 2025 Leadership Summit will convene key stakeholders to review progress and set plans for future efforts.

Expanded Networks

Subscribe to our newsletter and follow us on social media for the latest updates and opportunities to get involved.

Sponsors



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