

## Definition of Homelessness

Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—

- Sharing the housing of other due to the loss of housing, economic hardship, or similar reason.
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, camping grounds due to a lack of adequate alternative accommodations.
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters.
- Living in a public or private place not designed for humans to live.

Children who **lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence**—

- Living in cars, parks, abandoned buildings, **substandard housing**, bus or train stations, or similar settings.
- Awaiting foster care placement (until 12/10/16)

When determining if a child lives in substandard housing, the LEA may consider the following:

- Does the setting lack one of the fundamental utilities such as water, electric or heat?
- Is the setting infested with vermin or mold?
- Does the setting lack a basic functional part, such as a working kitchen or toilet?
- Does the setting present unreasonable dangers to adults, children or persons with disabilities?

**Definition Unaccompanied Homeless Youth:** child or youth who meets the McKinney-Vento definition and is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian.

- Many children become separated from parents due to lack of space in living situations or shelter policies.
- Many flee abuse: 20-50% sexual; 40-60% physical
- Many flee family dysfunction: Over 2/3 Hotline callers report at least one parent abuses drugs or alcohol.
- Roughly 1/3 homeless youth identify as LGBTQ.
- 10% of currently homeless female teens are pregnant.
- Many are not enrolled in school.