

Doubled Up Family Homelessness

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Uncounted & Underserved

“It is Not a Choice!”

What makes me less vulnerable than the next person?

I am without a home . I have children who never know from day to day what tomorrow will be like.

I am working and leaving my children in the care of my oldest – who is not old enough for this responsibility

I am hungry and so are my children, we eat something every day, but it is not enough to fully fill our bellies or to provide real nutrition

I am asking for help and being told over and over that I must wait my turn. We need to be seen and counted!

There is not enough help and I need help. My children need help

Our community needs help. I am willing to work to make a better life.

I find some safety and security for my children. I am not a gap in the system.

I am not in the system. That's right, I am not even counted as homeless because I do not fit the definition.

If not having a home or place to lay down my family's heads does not make me homeless - what does?

Definitions of Homelessness



The definition of homelessness that is used by schools, HeadStart, RHY, Child care and others, includes the doubled up population.

- [Definitions of Homelessness for Federal Programs](#)
- [Aligning Early Childhood Programs to Serve Children Experiencing Homelessness: A Comparison of Preschool, Head Start, and Child Care Policies](#)
- [Early Care and Education for Young Children Experiencing Homelessness HUD Definitions comparison](#)
- [Youth Homelessness](#)

There are aspects of Doubled Up/Self Paying populations that could be entered onto our priority list currently but aren't: 14 - day until homeless, Fleeing DV, evicted, lost income, natural disaster, unsafe living conditions, runaway youth Other reasons that cause and are examples of homelessness.

What supports do doubled up homeless families currently receive?

- **Diversion** - redirects from shelter & can place others' housing at risk
- **Housing Navigation** - this is not a viable resource due to focus on singles and issues of capacity
- A few, very small programs that have no coordinated source of entry or referral



Most doubled up homeless families are receiving *little or no* tangible assistance to help them find housing or enroll in a housing program under our current structure. Some have been waiting a long time (longer than the shelter waitlists).

What can we do to better support Doubled Up Homeless?

Doubled Up Registry:

- Capture information & determine family needs
- Support service development and access points along the continuum
- Examine local resources and barriers to determine registry structure
- Not a replication of Balance of State priority list; we need to find an approach that is responsive to our local context



Doubled Up Homeless Specialist - to support the development of registry and identify type of alternative information to gather, to identify vulnerabilities and needs of doubled up homeless

Key Take-away Thoughts

- We aren't prioritizing our own neighbors and community members!
- We need to start making this population visible and understand their needs so we can find ways to better serve them
- A County-wide examination of doubled up homelessness should be undertaken, so funding opportunities, creative problem-solving, and collaboration can occur



Doubled Up Homeless Articles and Resources

[Cambridge News Doubled Up Homeless Article](#)

[Sun Prairie Star Doubled Up Homeless Article](#)

[Doubled Up Statement](#)

Northside News Article (only in print version currently)

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