

Family Promise Toolkit on July 24th Executive Order

We know that many of you are grappling with the news of the White House's [recent Executive Order](#), which represents a significant shift in homelessness policy and a threat to the safety of the children and families we serve.

The picture of homelessness described in the White House's recent Executive Order does not match reality, including for children and families. While families are largely not the focus of this EO, children and families still stand to be negatively impacted in many ways.

Therefore, we must mobilize and help lawmakers and other stakeholders understand the implications of this order for families and the work of Family Promise.

Here are the top 5 things you can do to respond to the Executive Order:

- Prepare your data, talking points, and family stories.
- Check in with your CoC on their strategy.
- Talk to your state and local lawmakers.
- Write to your federal representatives.
- Draft an op-ed, letter to the editor, blog, or social media post

Below is some template language, data, and talking points for you to use in your outreach:

Template Language

Family Promise of XX is has been operating for XX years to prevent and end family homelessness in our community. Last year, we served XX families, working with them from the moment a housing crisis arose until they regained secure, sustainable housing.

Despite our effectiveness, we still struggle to meet the unmet needs in our community. We greatly fear that the White House's July 24th Executive Order will further limit our ability to address child and family homelessness in XX.

This Executive Order represents a significant shift in our country's homelessness policy. While the order is largely not focused on families, it will have significant negative consequences for them, causing changes in requirements for nonprofits serving families experiencing homelessness.

To start, this order puts providers in the inappropriate position of conducting surveillance on families by proposing to require us to collect health-related information from all people served and then share this data with law enforcement and federal agencies. Families experiencing homelessness are still entitled to privacy, and this new requirement will likely deter many families in a housing crisis from seeking assistance, putting more children in danger and pushing families to desperation. It is also unrealistic for many service providers already stretched thin to be expected to collect and report significant amounts of data.

This order also may result in families having to separate to receive homelessness assistance, when Family Promise knows firsthand that keeping families together is often critical to their success, health, and well-being, and separating family members by age or gender can exacerbate the trauma of homelessness. We

prioritize keeping families intact in shelter and housing, and we remain gravely concerned about our ability to continue to do so.

*Finally, it will prevent families from accessing effective services that support their long-term stability. At Family Promise, we work to address the root cause of family homelessness in order to solve, not just manage, the problem. **Nationally, more than 80% of the families that Family Promise serves** go on to secure or maintain long-term housing. This Executive Order calls for placing additional requirements on families before they can obtain shelter or housing, which we know will impede the ability of many families to find safety while they work towards economic mobility.*

*From our decades of experience in addressing homelessness in **XX**, we know that the picture put forward of homelessness in the Executive Order does not match the reality that we see on the ground every day. **Nationally, nearly 40% of our families are employed when coming to Family Promise,** but still find themselves in a housing crisis due to our community's lack of affordable housing and low wages in many industries. They are working hard but are still struggling to make ends meet.*

We hope you will join us in educating others in our community about the impact of this order on children and families in a housing crisis. We welcome the opportunity to work together.

Key Data and Talking Points

- All children deserve safe and stable homes to learn, grow, and play. Homelessness causes volatility and disruption to a child's routine and sense of stability. The stress that results from this upheaval in their lives can be particularly harmful for young children as they undergo significant stages of brain development.
- [Child homelessness is on the rise in the United States](#), and the number of children experiencing homelessness has more than doubled in the past 15 years. [See here](#) to find state and local data.
- [Many homeless adults first experienced homelessness as children or youth](#). Efforts to intervene before children and youth reach adulthood can help reduce unsheltered homelessness in the future.
- [Many families that experience homelessness are employed](#) but still can't afford housing. Family Promise knows this firsthand, for nearly 40% of families that come to us for help are employed but are still facing a housing crisis.
- In 2024, 48% of the families served by Family Promise were not led by single mothers. Many of these households are 2-parent households that could be forced to separate to receive services under the order.
- Due to our commitment to providing long-term, wraparound support for children and families, more than 80% of the families that Family Promise serves secure or maintain long-term housing.
- [30% of children live in a household with a high housing burden](#), meaning that housing costs consume more than a third of their monthly income. This means a significant percentage of children are in households that may be one unexpected expense away from losing their housing. [See here](#) for state-specific data.
- Only 35 affordable and available rental homes exist in the United States for every 100 households experiencing poverty. ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)). [See here](#) for state-specific data.
- On average, an hourly wage of \$33.63 is needed to afford a modest two-bedroom home anywhere in the United States, and \$28.17 per hour for a one-bedroom. This means the average minimum-wage

worker in the U.S. must work 116 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom rental home. ([National Low Income Housing Coalition](#)). [See here](#) for state-specific data.

- [Rents remain higher than pre-pandemic levels](#). Between April 2020 and April 2025, the typical rent for an apartment in the U.S. increased by nearly 30%. Rising rent prices are outpacing wage growth, for the median household income over the past five years has only increased by 23%.