

# Continuums of Care and Head Start Working Together to Address Housing Vulnerability of Pennsylvania's Families



PENNSYLVANIA HEAD START  
STATE COLLABORATION OFFICE  
**PA HSSCO**   
[www.pakeys.org](http://www.pakeys.org)



This brief is brought to you by the Pennsylvania Head Start State Collaboration Office and People's Emergency Center, in partnership with Dr. Grace Whitney, Consultant.

## Executive Summary

This report contains information and key data on children and families enrolled in Head Start<sup>1</sup> who are experiencing homelessness<sup>2</sup> and seeking housing assistance, in Pennsylvania. This report includes Head Start data for the 2018-2019 program year (school year). This report also presents these Head Start data for each of Pennsylvania's 16 **Continuum of Care (CoC)** regions.<sup>3</sup>

### Highlights include:

- Pennsylvania's 76 Head Start agencies promote the school readiness of children ages birth to 5. During the 2018-2019 program year, the state's Head Start programs served approximately 45,000 children and 40,000 families.
- 2,690 children and 2,508 families participating in Head Start experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 program year, and roughly 6% of enrollments were based on categorical eligibility under the McKinney-Vento Act.<sup>4</sup> Six hundred and ninety (690) families who experienced homelessness acquired housing during the year, or 28%.
- 12% (1 in 8) of families enrolled in PA Head Start during the 2018-2019 program year needed or requested some type of housing-related assistance.<sup>5</sup> The data on family services indicate that 4,618 families requested or needed housing related services during the 2018-2019 program year and 4,030 families received such services, thus many of the Head Start families needing housing supports were able to receive them. Head Start is a valuable partner for Continuums of Care in prevention by stabilizing housing situations. Strengthening working relationships between

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<sup>1</sup> The singular term 'Head Start' is used in this document to represent all program options: Head Start and Migrant Head Start for preschool-aged children, Early Head Start for pregnant women, infants and toddlers, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for infants and toddlers, and it will include center-based programs, family childcare homes, and home visiting services that are offered through the various program options.

<sup>2</sup> In this report, the terms 'homeless' or 'homelessness' are defined by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. See 'Defining Homelessness' on page 2 of this report for further explanation.

<sup>3</sup> According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a Continuum of Care is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. [What is a Continuum of Care? - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> Office of Head Start. (2019). Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report (2018-2019). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

PA Head Start and Continuums of Care systems and providers can benefit families and communities.

### Recommendations:

We recommend implementing the following next steps to strengthen the social safety net of support provided by Head Start and Continuums of Care systems:

1. CoC Regions are encouraged to **proactively outreach** to Head Start programs to offer housing assistance. An outreach plan can be developed, perhaps a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which describes what ongoing contacts and periodic visits occur throughout the year.
2. Head Start program staff are **encouraged** to develop relationships with their CoC leadership to identify how to help their families access housing assistance and to explore what strategies would work best in their region.
3. Head Start and CoCs are encouraged to **engage** the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Regional Coordinator, LEA Liaisons and local schools, and representatives of the CoC region's Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) to establish a strategic plan with action steps aimed at increasing housing assistance for families and accessing early learning benefits for families thus increasing enrollment in quality early learning for children experiencing homelessness.
4. **Focus group data** with families enrolled into Head Start and the staff would be needed to learn more about the efforts to support families in need of housing.

For more information about this report, contact Tracy Duarte, Director, PA Head Start State Collaboration Office at [tradua@pakeys.org](mailto:tradua@pakeys.org) or Joe Willard, VP of Policy, People's Emergency Center at [jwillard@pec-cares.org](mailto:jwillard@pec-cares.org).

## Continuums of Care and Head Start Working Together to Address Housing Vulnerability of Pennsylvania's Families

This report contains information and key data on children and families enrolled in Head Start<sup>6</sup> who are experiencing homelessness<sup>7</sup> and seeking housing assistance, in Pennsylvania. This report includes Head Start data for the 2018-2019 program year (school year). This report also presents these Head Start data for each of Pennsylvania's 16 **Continuum of Care** (CoC) regions.<sup>8</sup>

This report was developed for the **PA Head Start State Collaboration Office** to support three objectives.

1. **Inform** individual Head Start providers as they develop action steps to increase enrollment of children and families experiencing homelessness into Head Start programs.
2. **Inform** the CoC/homeless housing system on **where to locate** families of young children experiencing homelessness who need rental assistance and other housing supports which can help them sustain their involvement in Head Start.
3. Offer ideas for Pennsylvania's early care and education community strategic planning at the state and local levels aimed at **increasing enrollment** of children experiencing homelessness into quality early learning programs.

## Profile of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness

Young children experiencing homelessness are at increased risk of poor health and academic outcomes, and the experience of homelessness can slow a child's development, resulting in persistent delays. Additionally, young children experiencing homelessness are more likely to lack access to and participate regularly in early childhood programs and services known to help alleviate deleterious effects of homelessness and any of the range of co-occurring trauma or toxic stress known to accompany unsafe, unstable, and inadequate housing.

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<sup>6</sup> The singular term 'Head Start' is used in this document to represent all program options: Head Start and Migrant Head Start for preschool-aged children, Early Head Start for pregnant women, infants and toddlers, and Early Head Start-Child Care Partnership programs for infants and toddlers, and it will include center-based programs, family childcare homes, and home visiting services that are offered through the various program options.

<sup>7</sup> In this report, the terms 'homeless' or 'homelessness' are defined by the education subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. See 'Defining Homelessness' on page 2 of this report for further explanation.

<sup>8</sup> According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, a Continuum of Care is a regional or local planning body that coordinates housing and services funding for homeless families and individuals. [What is a Continuum of Care? - National Alliance to End Homelessness](#)

Research has shown that children experiencing homelessness had lower pre-reading skills, higher rates of behavior problems, and more early development delays compared to national norms for children their age. However, children ages three and four who participated in Head Start or other early education and center-based care displayed stronger pre-math and pre-reading skills than those who were only in parental care, and, for children enrolled in Head Start, housing instability did not interfere with their regular attendance.<sup>9</sup>

## Profile of Head Start Families

Head Start programs promote school readiness for infants, toddlers, and preschool-aged children from low-income families. Services are provided in a variety of settings. Most Head Start programs are in center-based settings but Head Start is also offered in family childcare homes and in children's own homes through home visiting. Head Start programs support children's growth in a positive learning environment through a variety of services that promote child development and promote overall family health, economic security, and well-being.

Pennsylvania's 76 Head Start agencies promote the school readiness of children ages birth to 5. During the 2018-2019 program year, the state's Head Start programs served approximately 45,000 children and 40,000 families

Head Start primarily serves children whose family income is at or below the federal poverty line. Additionally, many children are categorically eligible due to parental eligibility for TANF or SSI or their placement in foster care or their status as homeless under the Education Subtitle of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Families with incomes above federal poverty may participate based on service needs, such as a child's disability or family trauma.

## Defining Homelessness

Continuums of Care and Head Start define homelessness differently in determining eligibility. It is important to understand how each definition is applied to ensure access to benefits and services.

Continuums of Care are required to use a definition set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), which leads the nation's strategy for addressing homelessness. See [HUD's Definition of Homelessness: Resources and Guidance - HUD Exchange](#)

Head Start, like other programs regulated by the U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services and Education uses the definition for children and youth found in the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act [42 USC §11434a]. When children and families are staying with others, including family and friends, due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason, they meet this definition of homeless and, therefore, are categorically eligible for Head Start.

[schoolhouseconnection.org/the-head-start-program-performance-standards-and-homelessness/](https://schoolhouseconnection.org/the-head-start-program-performance-standards-and-homelessness/)

<sup>9</sup> Brown, S.R., Shinn, M., and Khadduri, J. (2017). Well-being of Young Children after Experiencing Homelessness. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Homeless Families Research Brief, OPRE Report No. 2017-06. [file:///C:/Users/grace/OneDrive/Documents/OPRE homefam brief3 hhs children 02 24 2017 b508.pdf](file:///C:/Users/grace/OneDrive/Documents/OPRE%20homefam%20brief3%20hhs%20children%2002%2024%202017%20b508.pdf)

## Head Start Provides Family Services, including Help with Housing

Head Start provides **comprehensive services** which means that, in addition to being a quality child development program, all families have access to health and family service staff and a wide range of supports. Family service staff build relationships that foster parent engagement and work collaboratively with teachers and other Head Start staff to ensure that children are achieving positive outcomes. Family service staff ensure that Head Start children and families have access to program services, public benefits, and community resources.

Each Head Start family can work with a family service worker, family advocate or home visitor to develop a strength-based plan of action – the Family Partnership Agreement. Head Start maintains data on the need for and the provision of sixteen types of family services offered.<sup>10</sup> During the 2018-2019 program year, about 60% of Pennsylvania Head Start families sought some type of family service assistance.

Table 1 contains the most frequently provided family services. Housing assistance, which is defined by Head Start as assistance related to obtaining help with subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc., and emergency/crisis support, which includes referrals for temporary shelter, were among the most sought-after services offered to Head Start families. In fact, 12% (1 in 8) of families enrolled in PA Head Start during the 2018-2019 program year needed or requested some type of housing-related assistance.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 1. Ranking of family services requested/identified as needed by PA Head Start Families<sup>12</sup>**

	2013	2015	2017	2019
1	Parenting Education	Parenting Education	Parenting Education	Parenting Education
2	Health Education	Health Education	Health Education	Health Education
3	<b>Emergency/crisis support, including shelter referral</b>			
4	Adult education	<b>Housing assistance</b>	<b>Housing assistance</b>	<b>Housing assistance</b>
5	<b>Housing assistance</b>	Adult education	Adult education	Mental health
6	Job training	Mental health	Job training	Adult education
7	Mental health	Job training	Asset building	Asset building
8	Substance abuse	Child abuse/neglect	Mental health	Job training

- Notable is that data on family services indicate that 4,618 families requested or needed housing related services during the 2018-2019 program year and 4,030 families received such services,

<sup>10</sup> The 16 family services tracked are emergency/crisis intervention, including food, clothing, shelter, etc., housing assistance, e.g., subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc., mental health services, English as a second language (ESL), adult education, e.g., GED, college, job training, substance abuse prevention, substance abuse treatment, child abuse and neglect, domestic violence services, child support assistance, health education, assistance to families of incarcerated individuals, parenting education, relationship/marriage education, asset building services, e.g., financial education, opening bank accounts, etc.

<sup>11</sup> Office of Head Start. (2019). Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report (2018-2019). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

<sup>12</sup> Office of Head Start. (2013, 2015, 2017, 2019). Head Start Program Information Report (PIR) Summary Report (2012-2013, 2014-2015, 2016-2017, 2018-2019). U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

thus many of the Head Start families needing housing supports were able to receive them.<sup>13</sup> Head Start can be a valuable partner for Continuums of Care in prevention through stabilizing housing situations. Strengthening working relationships between PA Head Start and Continuums of Care systems and providers can benefit families and communities.

## Head Start and Homelessness

In Pennsylvania, 2,690 children and 2,508 families participating in Head Start experienced homelessness during the 2018-2019 program year, and roughly 6% of enrollments were based on categorical eligibility under the McKinney-Vento Act.<sup>14</sup> As shown in Figure 1, the percent of enrollment of pregnant women and children based on housing status and the percent of children and families experiencing homelessness participating in Head Start in Pennsylvania during the 2018-2019 program year are all slightly higher than the national averages.

**Figure 1. Comparisons of the Percent of Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness and Eligibility Based on Homeless Status for Head Start in Pennsylvania and Nationally for the 2018-2019 Program Year<sup>15, 16</sup>**

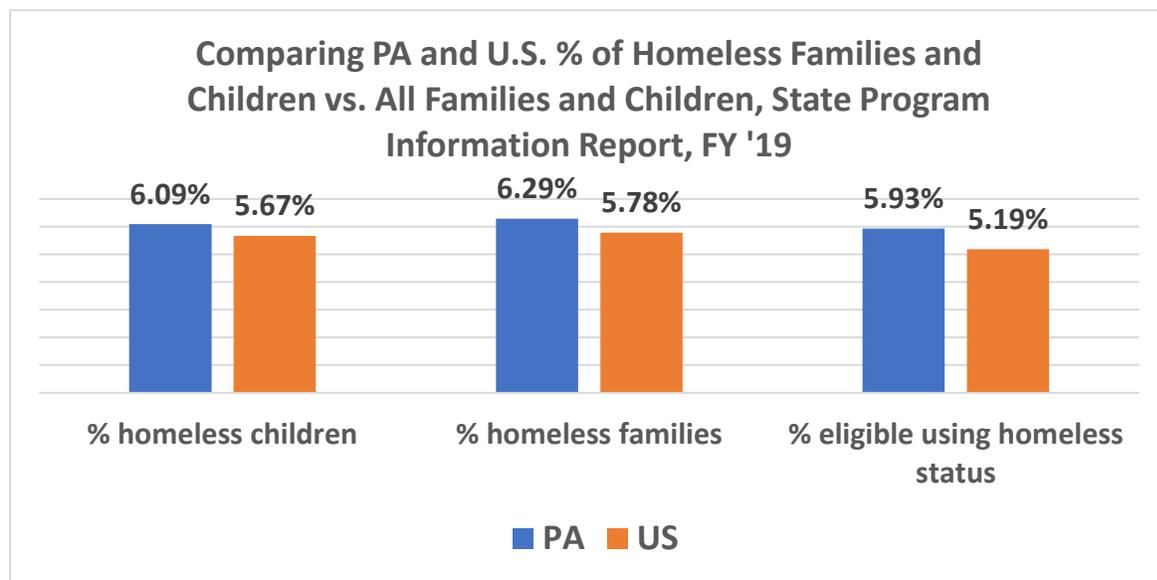


Figure 1

Unfortunately, **only 690 (28%) of the 2,508 families experiencing homelessness acquired housing** during the program year. Thus 72% of families experiencing homelessness, or the majority of homeless

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Note that values vary for those who qualify for enrollment based on homeless status, the numbers of children and families experiencing homelessness. This can be due to pregnant women enrolled in Early Head Start based on homeless status being included in eligibility data, children and families identified as homeless or becoming homeless during the school year being included in the cumulative numbers of children and families experiencing homelessness during the year, and families who have more than one child enrolled in Head Start.

families, failed to find fixed, regular, and adequate housing.<sup>17</sup> Such instability threatens the consistent participation of children in early childhood programs and their healthy development and learning.

Since many Continuums of Care have the mission of making homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring, they can be a critical resource for Head Start children and families since they provide housing and housing related services and access to housing resources.

## Head Start and Continuums of Care – Natural Partners

Both Head Start and Continuums of Care are essential resources for families and critical partners in communities. As already highlighted, Head Start can be a valuable partner for Continuums of Care in prevention through stabilizing housing situations and providing access to quality early learning, and Continuums of Care can be critical resources for Head Start families in providing housing and housing related assistance. Both Head Start and Continuums of Care offer benefits to families based on housing needs, and though the supports each provides are different, they can complement one another to create stronger supports systems for families.

As stated earlier, this report was developed for the PA Head Start State Collaboration Office to support three objectives.

1. **Inform** individual Head Start providers as they develop action steps to increase enrollment of children and families experiencing homelessness into Head Start programs.
2. **Inform** the CoC/homeless housing system on **where to locate** families of young children experiencing homelessness who need rental assistance and other housing supports which can help them sustain their involvement in Head Start.
3. Offer ideas for Pennsylvania’s early care and education community strategic planning at the state and local levels aimed at **increasing enrollment** of children experiencing homelessness into quality early learning programs.

## Individual Continuum of Care Regional Profiles

To guide the efforts of Head Start and CoCs moving forward, this report contains profiles for each of the sixteen regional Continuums of Care in Pennsylvania. Head Start provides information on both the **prevalence** of homelessness among its children and families and the **housing vulnerability** experienced by Head Start children and families.

There are five indicators per CoC region:

- **Prevalence of homelessness**
  - Number/percent of children experiencing homelessness compared to all enrolled
  - Number/percent of families experiencing homelessness compared to all enrolled
- **Housing vulnerability**

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<sup>17</sup> Ibid.

- Number/percent of families with an expressed interest in or identified need for housing assistance<sup>18</sup>
- Number/percent of families receiving housing assistance
- Number/percent of families experiencing homelessness who acquire housing

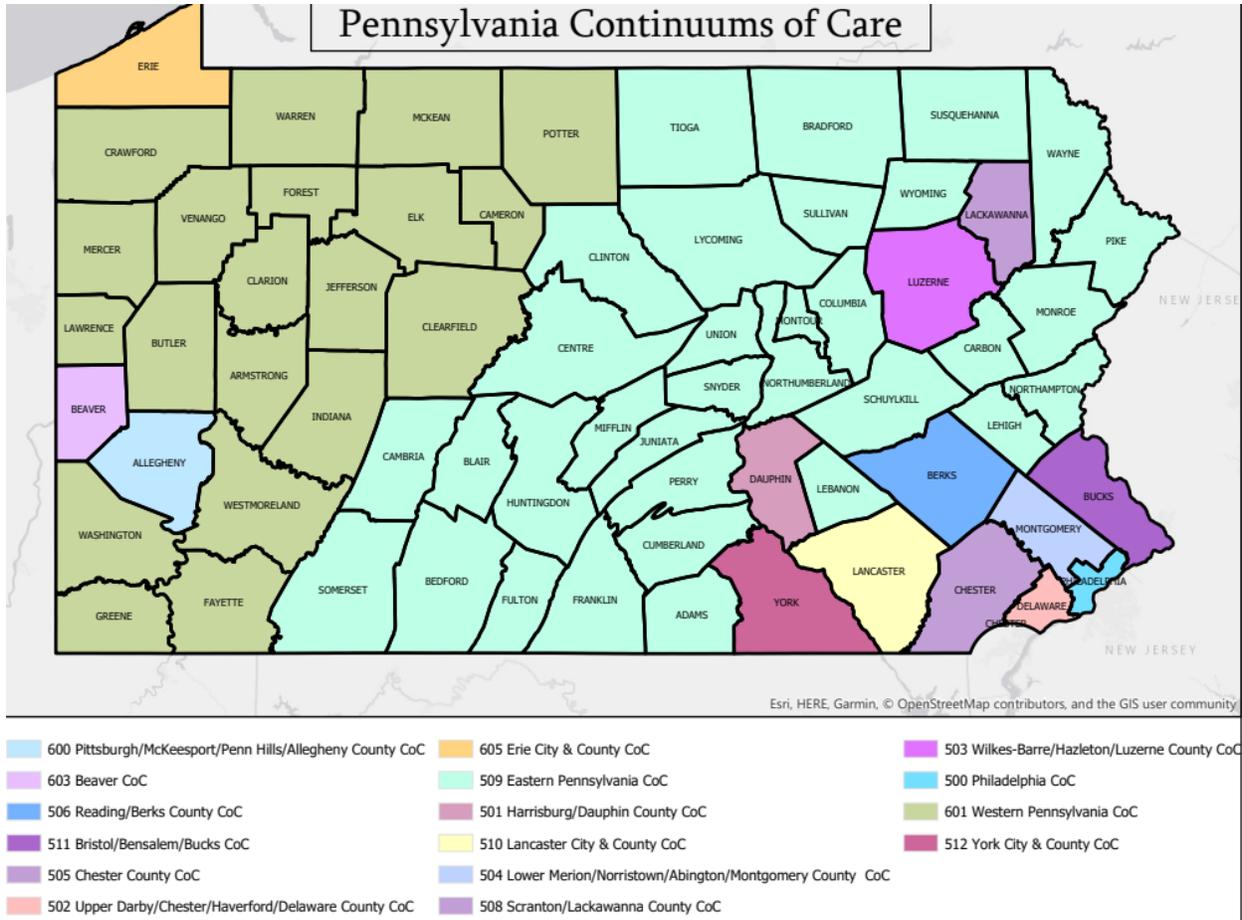


Figure 2: Pennsylvania’s Continuums of Care by Region

Figure 2 provides a map of Pennsylvania’s Continuum of Care programs. Each of the 16 CoCs are identified by a number and name. Data presented by CoC region can be compared across CoC regions and with state level data to identify unique challenges facing individual CoC regions and Head Start programs. For example, a CoC region’s data on Head Start homeless families who acquire housing may confirm CoC data on access to or lack of affordable housing or housing vouchers compared with other regions.

<sup>18</sup> Defined by Head Start as assistance related to obtaining help with subsidies, utilities, repairs, etc.

## Highlights of CoC Regional Profiles

### Prevalence of homelessness:

In FY 2019, there were 2,690 children in 2,508 families experiencing homelessness enrolled in Head Start in Pennsylvania.

- Pennsylvania **matched** the nationwide average percent of Head Start enrolled homeless families – roughly 6%.
- Only three regions **exceeded** the state average of 6% of Head Start enrolled children experiencing homelessness: Bucks, Eastern PA, and Dauphin (Harrisburg).
- Beaver County is the only region to **match** the state average of 6% of Head Start enrolled children experiencing homelessness.

Pennsylvania's 16 Continuum of Care Programs	# Families experiencing homelessness enrolled in Head Start, SY'19	Total Children Experiencing Homelessness Enrolled in Head Start, SY'19
PA-500 Philadelphia	446	443
PA-501 Dauphin	134	137
PA-502 Delaware	23	26
PA-503 Luzerne	59	60
PA-504 Montgomery	15	15
PA-505 Chester	15	17
PA-506 Berks	31	32
PA-508 Lackawanna	48	36
PA-509 Eastern	567	657
PA-510 Lancaster	56	59
PA-511 Bucks	46	49
PA-512 York	31	33
PA-600 Allegheny	262	287
PA-601 Western	326	356
PA-603 Beaver	9	11
PA-605 Erie	5	13

## Housing Vulnerability:

- 12% (1 in 8) of all families enrolled in PA Head Start were identified as needing housing assistance.
- The following CoC regions **exceeded** the state average in Head Start families in need of housing assistance: Allegheny, Beaver, Chester, Erie, Dauphin (Harrisburg), Philadelphia, and Western PA.
- 690 homeless families, or 28%, acquired housing during their enrollment in Head Start, suggesting that the majority (or 72%) remained unstably housed.
- The following CoC regions **exceeded** the state average of 28% of Head Start homeless families acquiring housing: Allegheny, Bucks, Chester, Lancaster, Luzerne, Western PA, and York.
- The Eastern PA region **matched** the state average of 28% of Head Start homeless families acquiring housing.

## Charts of Continuum of Care Regions

**Eastern and Western CoCs:** A total of **1,013 children and 893 families experiencing homelessness were enrolled in Head Start.**

- These two CoCs serve 53 mostly rural counties.
- The Eastern CoC **exceeds** the state average of enrolling homeless young children into Head Start.
- 28% of Homeless Families and 75% of All Families in *need* of housing in Eastern PA CoC *received* housing assistance.

- 45% of homeless families and 63% of All Families in *need* of housing in Western PA CoC *received* housing support.

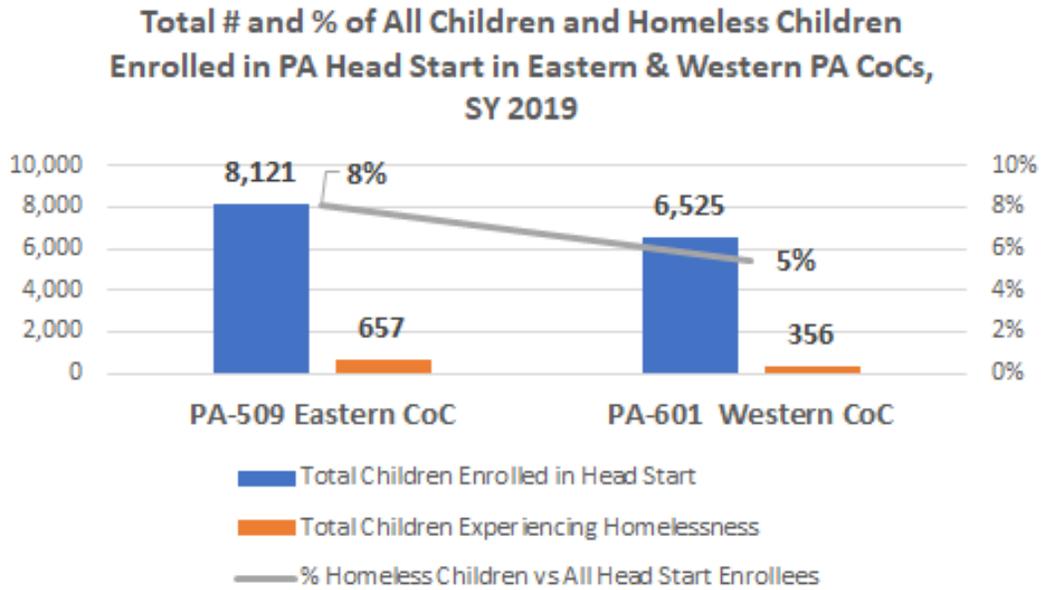


Figure 3: Eastern and Western CoCs

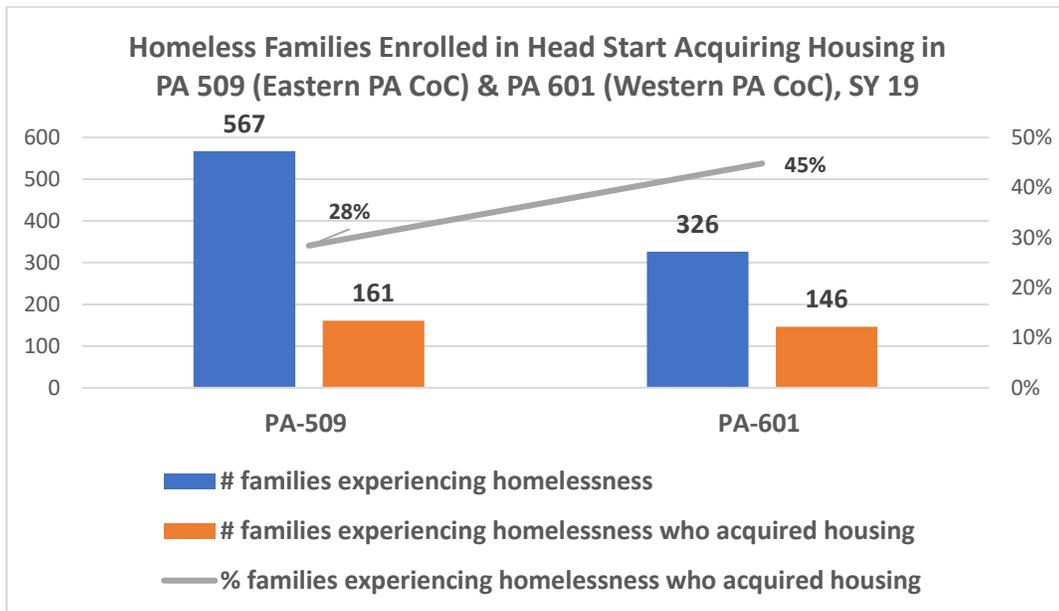
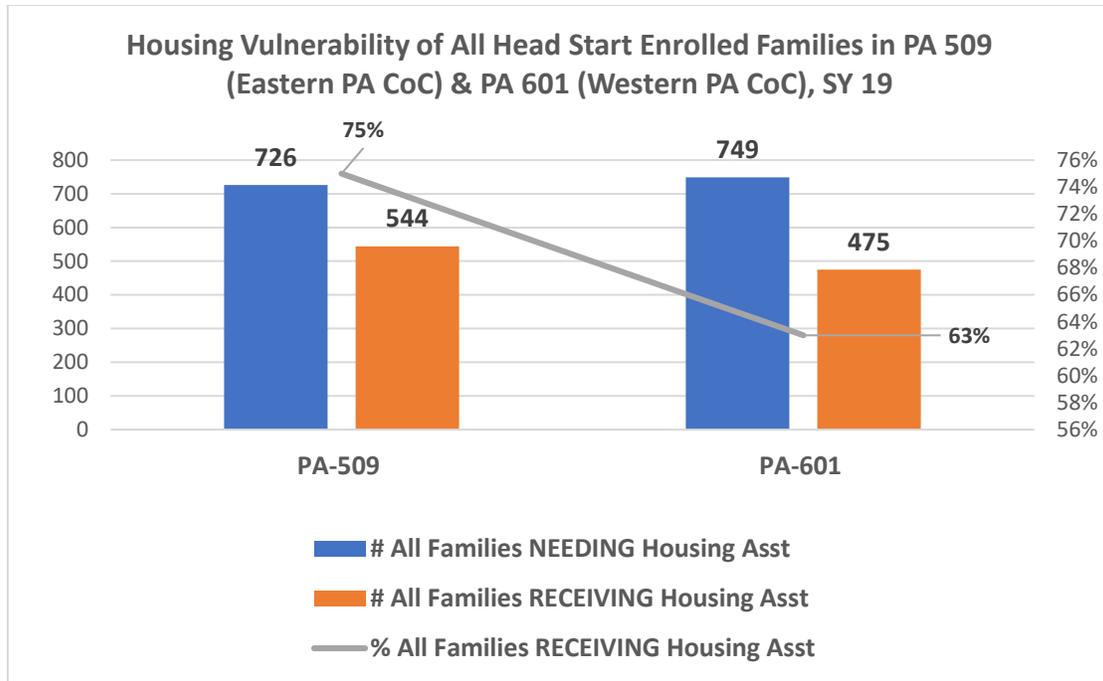


Figure 4: Eastern and Western CoCs



*Figure 5: Eastern PA and Western PA CoCs*

**Allegheny, Beaver, and Erie CoCs: A total of 311 children in 285 families experiencing homelessness were enrolled in Head Start in these three CoCs.**

- While Beaver County matches the statewide average, Allegheny and Erie fall below the average.
- Both Allegheny and Erie have opportunities to increase the number of vulnerable families in need of housing support.

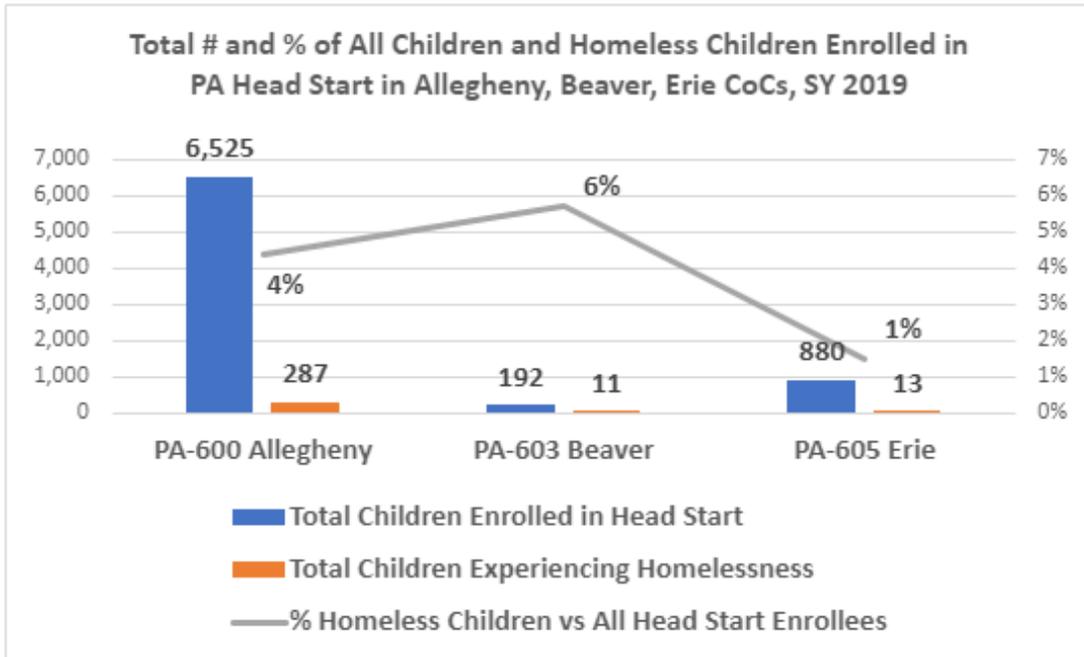


Figure 6: PA 600 (Allegheny), PA 603 (Beaver), PA 605 (Erie)

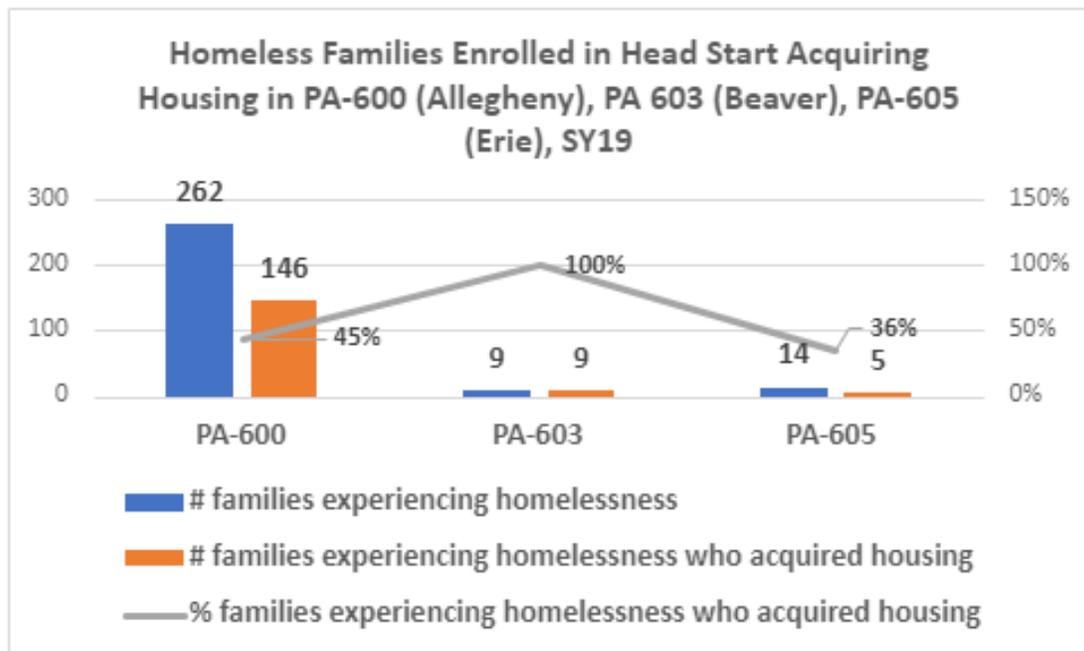


Figure 7: Allegheny, Beaver, and Erie CoCs

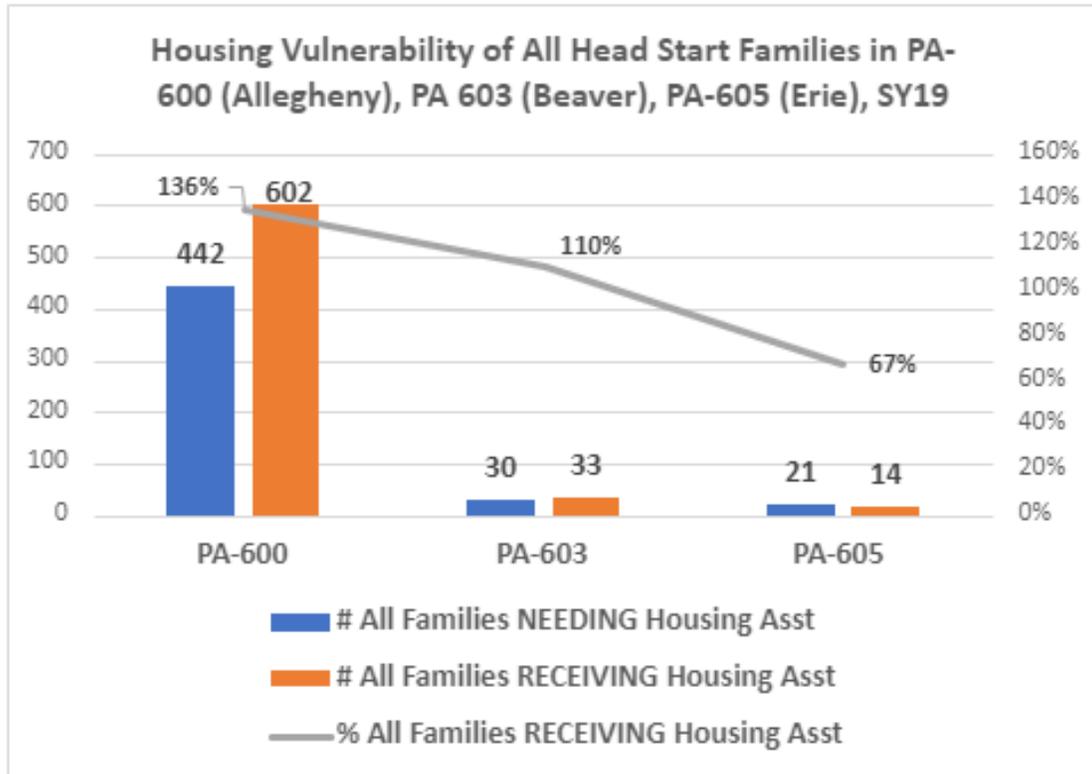


Figure 8: Allegheny, Beaver, and Erie CoCs

**Southeastern Pennsylvania Continuum of Care programs: A total of 572 children and 576 families experiencing homelessness in these regions were enrolled in Head Start.**

- Bucks County far exceeded the state average by enrolling 9% of its homeless children into Head Start.
- All other Continuums in SE Pennsylvania fell below the statewide average.
- Only 91 Head Start-enrolled Homeless Families received housing in SE PA CoCs, while 1,000 total families received some type of housing support.

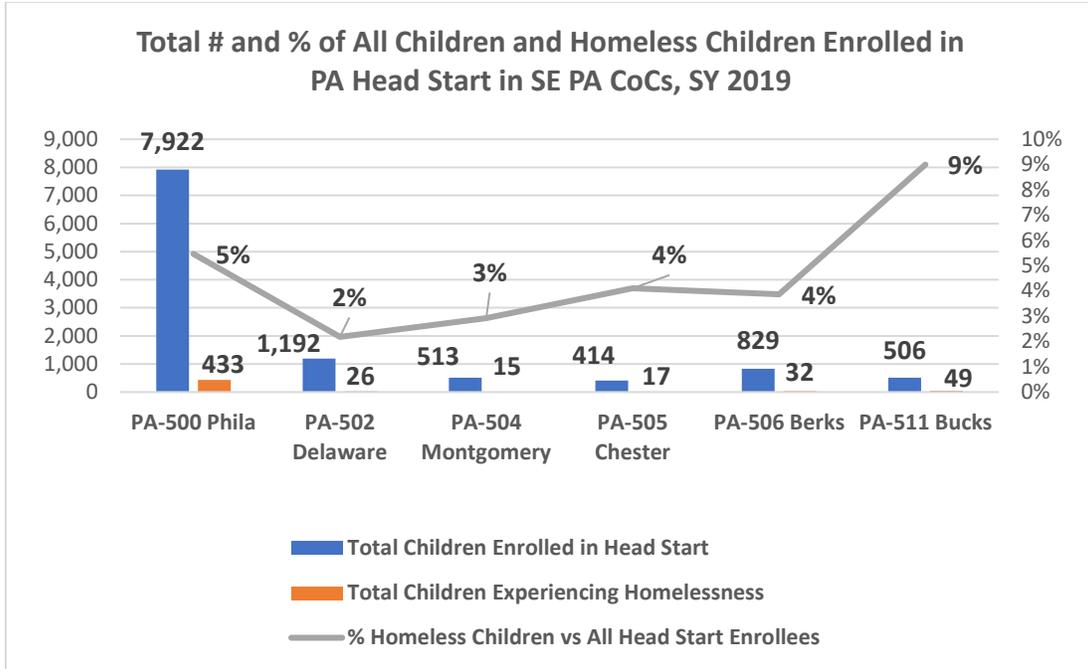


Figure 9: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia CoCs

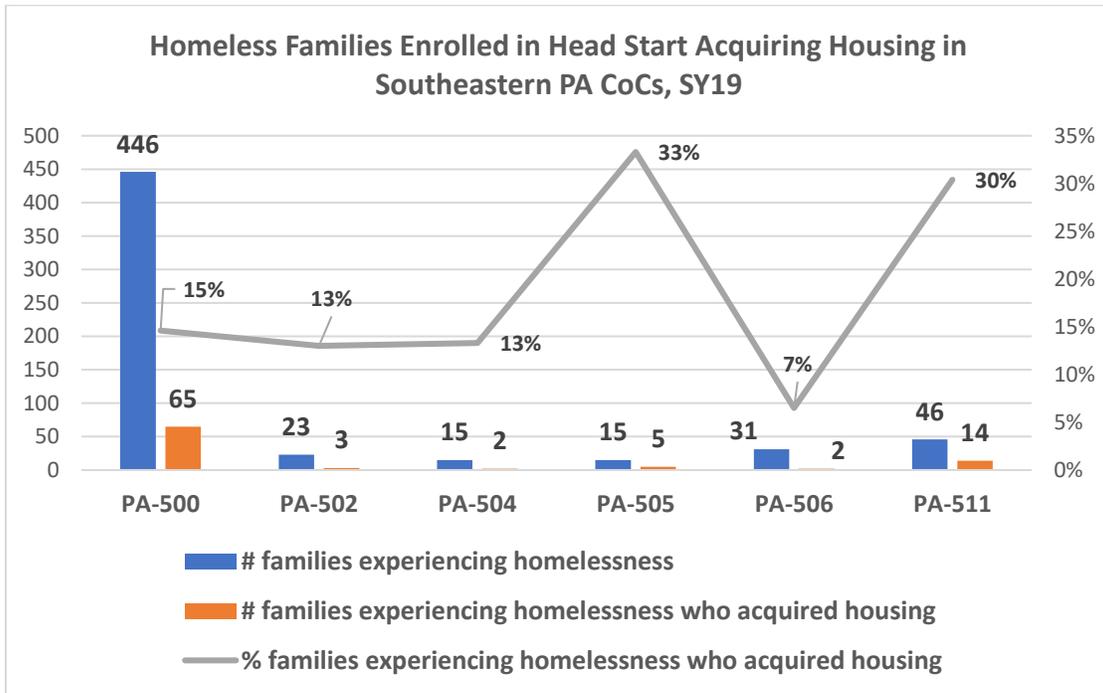
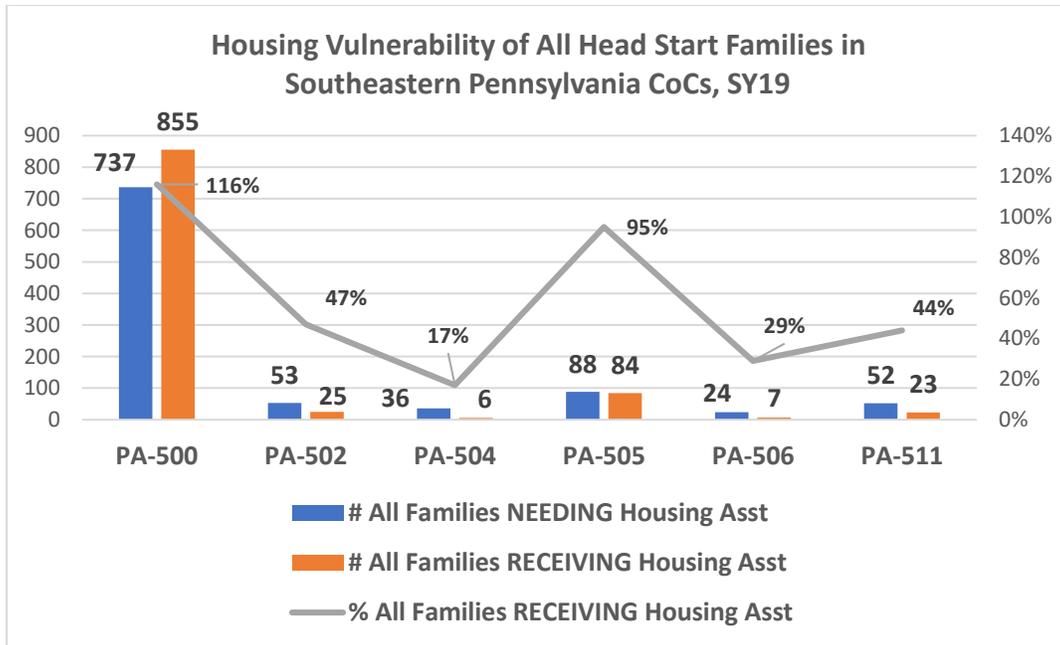


Figure 10: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia CoCs



*Figure 11: Berks, Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia CoCs*

**Northeast Pennsylvania: Lackawanna and Luzerne CoCs: A total of 96 children and 107 families experiencing homelessness in these two regions enrolled into Head Start.**

- Both counties fell below the statewide average.
- Only 28 Homeless Families and 407 of All Families received housing assistance. Lackawanna supported 84% of all its families with housing assistance; however, only 2% of its homeless families received housing during the year.

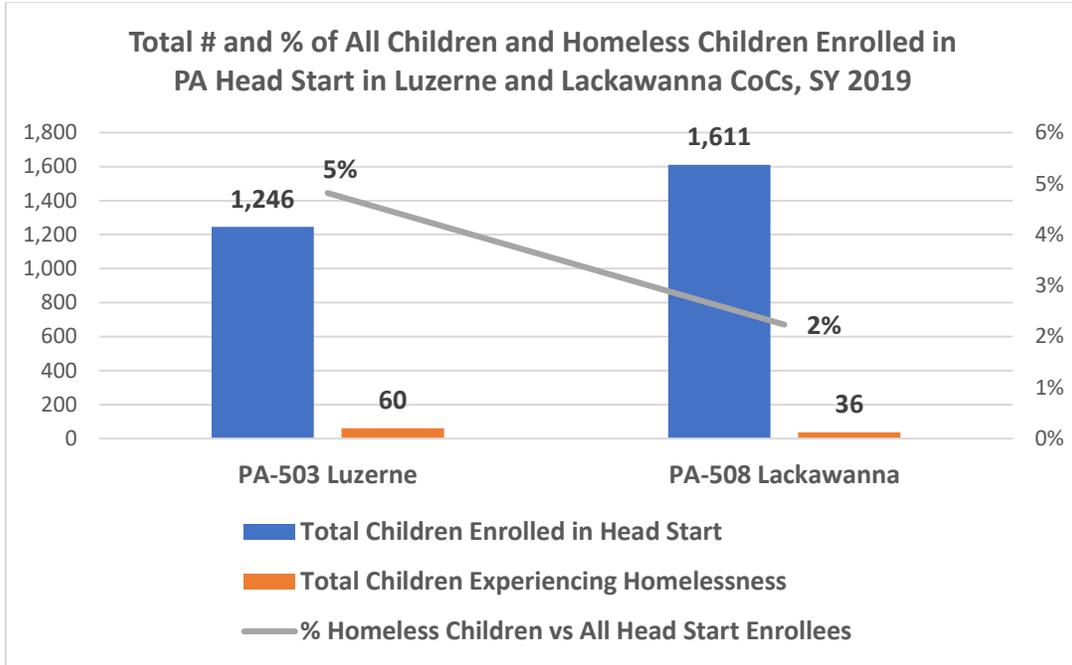


Figure 12: Lackawanna and Luzerne CoCs

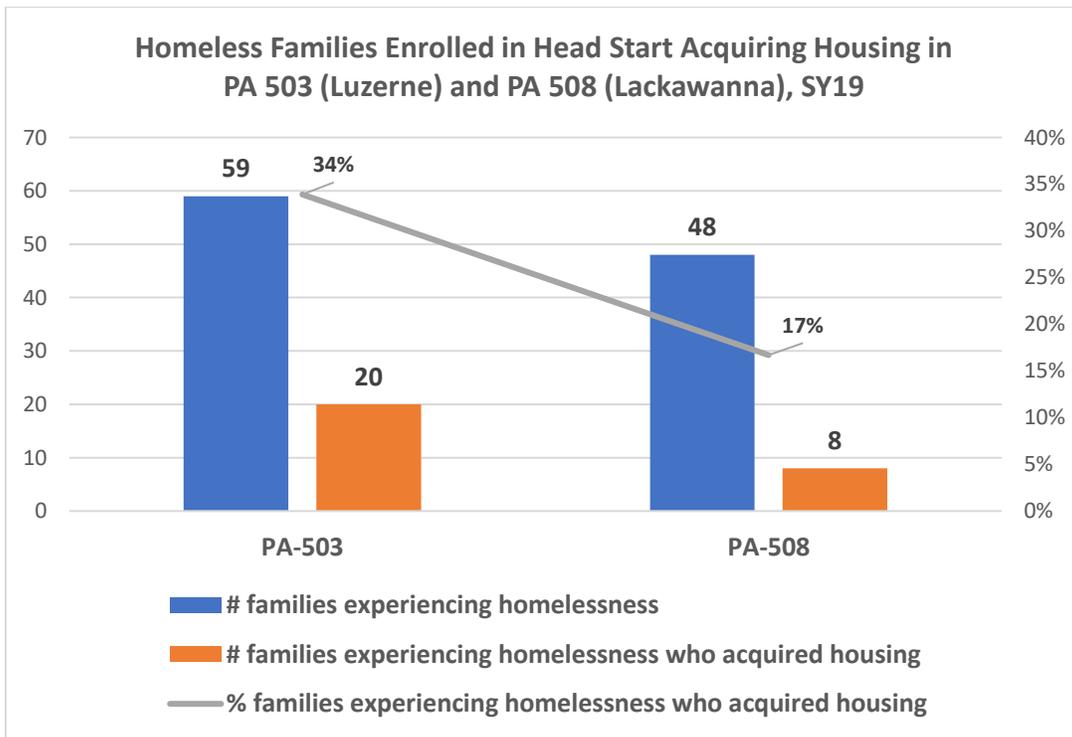


Figure 13: Lackawanna and Luzerne CoCs

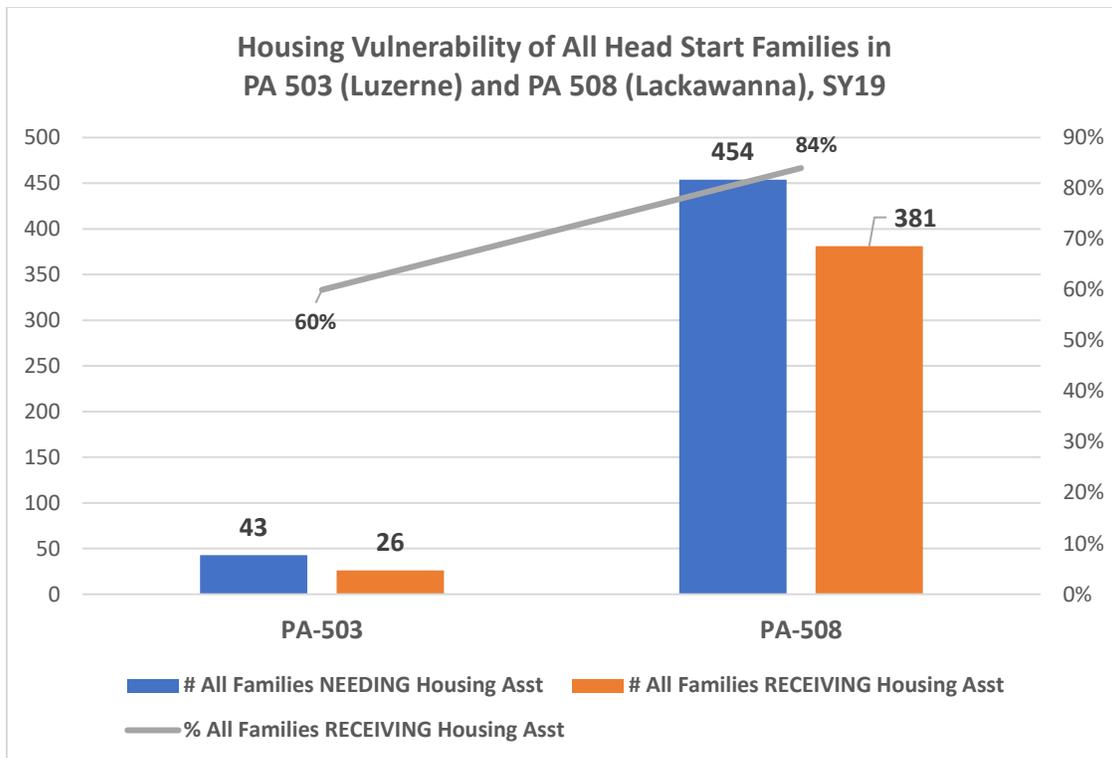


Figure 14: Lackawanna and Luzerne CoCs

**Southcentral Pennsylvania: Dauphin, Lancaster, and York CoC: A total of 229 children and 221 families who experienced homelessness in these three regions were enrolled in Head Start.**

- Dauphin far **exceeded** the statewide average, and Lancaster and York fall below it.
- 43 Homeless Families and 362 of All Families received housing assistance.

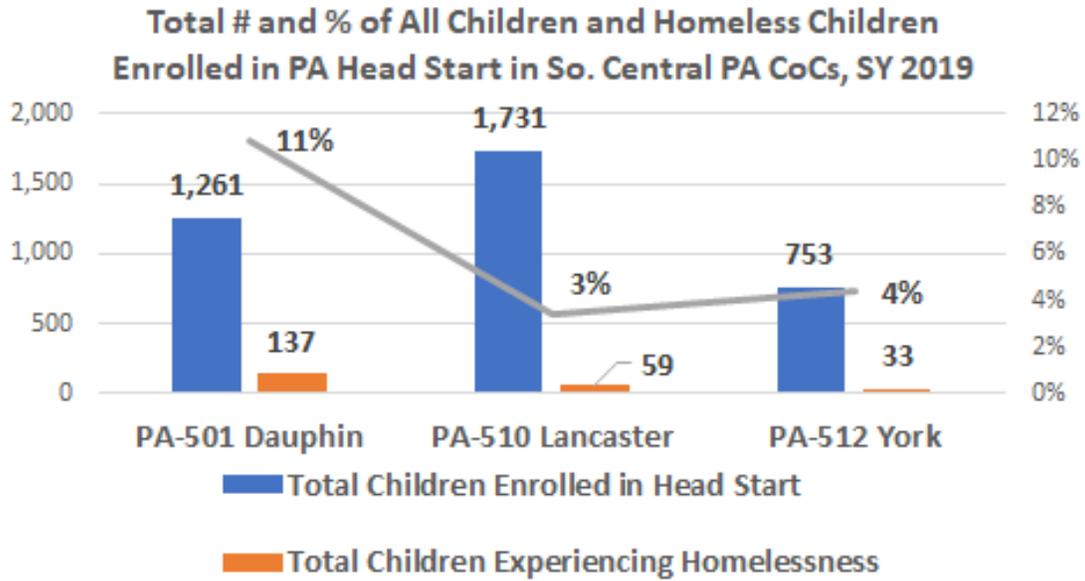


Figure 15: Dauphin, Lancaster, and York CoCs

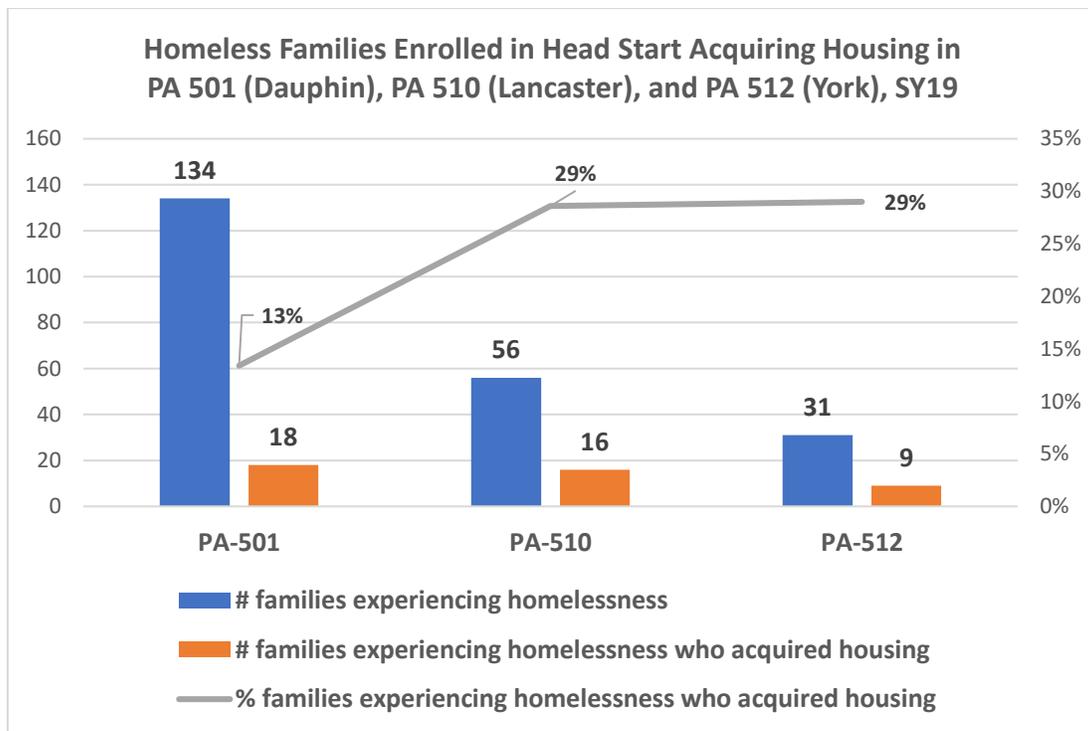
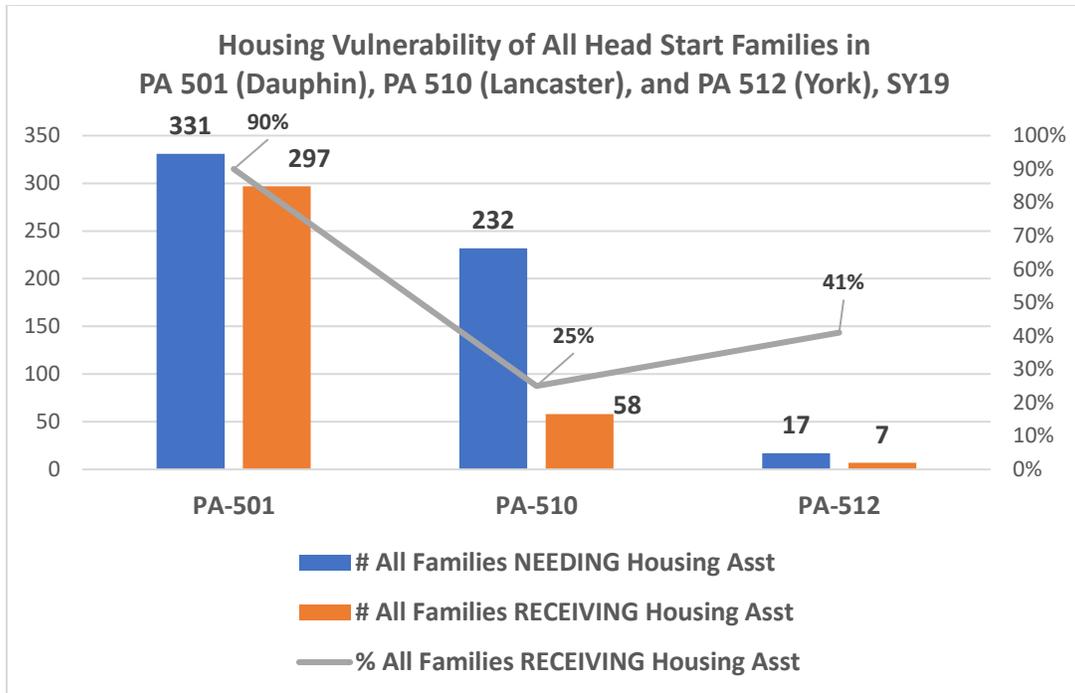


Figure 16: Dauphin, Lancaster, and York CoCs



*Figure 17: Dauphin, Lancaster, and York CoCs*

## Recommendations

We recommend implementing the following next steps to strengthen the social safety net of support provided by Head Start and Continuums of Care systems:

1. CoC Regions are encouraged to **proactively outreach** to Head Start programs to offer housing assistance. An outreach plan can be developed, even a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which describes what ongoing contacts and periodic visits occur throughout the year.
2. Head Start program staff are **encouraged** to develop relationships with their CoC leadership to identify how to help their families access housing assistance and to explore what strategies would work best in their region.
3. Head Start and CoCs are encouraged to **engage** the Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Regional Coordinator, LEA Liaisons and local schools, and representatives of the CoC region's Early Learning Resource Center (ELRC) to establish a strategic plan with action

steps aimed at increasing housing assistance for families and accessing early learning benefits for families thus increasing enrollment in quality early learning for children experiencing homelessness.

4. **Focus group data** with families enrolled into Head Start and the staff would be needed to learn more about the efforts to support families in need of housing.

## Contact Information

**Pennsylvania Homeless Stakeholders Group:** A network of state and non-profit organizations strategizing to the enrollment of young children experiencing homelessness into high quality early learning, including Head Start. Hosts quarterly meetings of providers. Contact Tracy Duarte at [tradua@pakeys.org](mailto:tradua@pakeys.org).

**PA Head Start State Collaboration Office:** The PA HSSCO is located at the Pennsylvania Key in Harrisburg. The HSSCO is federally funded by the US DHHS Office of Head Start through a grant to the PA Department of Human Services, Office of Child Development and Early Learning (OCDEL). Contact: Tracy Duarte, Director, at [tradua@pakeys.org](mailto:tradua@pakeys.org).

**Pennsylvania Continuum of Care:** Information on the Eastern and Western PA CoCs can be found at About the CoC | Pennsylvania Continuums of Care ([pennsylvaniacoc.org](http://pennsylvaniacoc.org))

**PA Head Start Association:** A membership organization for Head Start providers and families. The PAHSA website includes contact information for Head Start programs by county. [paheadstart.org](http://paheadstart.org)

**Education for Children and Youth Experiencing Homelessness (ECYEH) Regional Coordinator and Local Education Agency Liaisons:** ECYEH Regional Coordinators and LEA Liaisons are the federal and state designated contacts to ensure access to education and necessary related supports and services to all students from birth through higher education. Coordinator Contact: [directory.center-school.org/homeless/contacts/display\\_and](http://directory.center-school.org/homeless/contacts/display_and) Liaison Contact: [directory.center-school.org/homeless/liaison/search](http://directory.center-school.org/homeless/liaison/search)

**Early Learning Resource Centers:** ELRCs provide a single point-of-contact for families, early learning service providers and communities to gain information and access to services that support high quality childcare and early learning programs. Contact: [www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/ELRCs.aspx](http://www.dhs.pa.gov/Services/Assistance/Pages/ELRCs.aspx)

## Methodology and Limitations

### Methodology:

- All data originates from Program Information Reports (PIR) submitted annually through the Head Start Enterprise System to the Office of Head Start.

- Statewide Head Start data reported in this document is taken from the 2019 PIR State Summary Report for Pennsylvania. Some of the Head Start grantee data may be missing from regional and individual data sets due to children and families served by programs in other regions. It is recognized that the data in this report might vary slightly from other national reports because of the ways in which data have been combined to achieve regional calculations.
- The source of the state figures is the 2019 PIR State Summary Report for Pennsylvania while the individual program data is obtained from individual 2019 PIR Grantee Summary Reports and combined for each of the individual CoC regions. This data was retrieved during the month of July 2021.
- All data is collected throughout the program year by Head Start staff and reported annually by designated staff into the Head Start Enterprise System, a national web-based data system. Each program uses forms and data collection formats developed by staff and parents to meet the data collection requirements in federal Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), including data on enrollment eligibility criteria, and family needs and progress. Programs record parent requests for assistance and assess needs with parents on the Family Partnership Agreement, also developed by each program's staff and parents, following guidance provided in the HSPPS and the Head Start Training and Technical Assistance System. Eligibility data is collected when children during enrollment. Data on the housing status of children and families and family service requests, needs and responses are recorded as needed. Family Partnership Agreements are developed upon entry if parents wish to enter into such agreements and are reviewed periodically. Data entry is completed by the end of the federal fiscal year for the preceding program year, aka school year. Need to explain how the questions on housing assistance are asked, and when that data are collected.
- Data were entered into Excel spreadsheets, from which charts and graphs were developed.
- The family services ranking chart was developed using data retrieved in July 2021 from the National PIR Summary Reports and Pennsylvania PIR Summary Reports for the four noted years, and the chart lists the eight most requested/needed family services out of a total of sixteen possible services that are tracked.

**Limitations:**

- Head Start PIR data are not available at the individual child and family level. Head Start PIR data is submitted at the program level. Ten Head Start grantees serve multiple CoC regions but data cannot be separated further by CoC region. Therefore, numbers for several CoC regional reports may be artificially low. Notations have been made for those CoC regions.
- Head Start PIR data are not available at the individual child and family level. Head Start PIR data is submitted at the program level. Several CoC regional data suggest more families received housing assistance than requested such assistance. It may be that families received such assistance more than once, but it is not clear from the data.
- The available data is for FY 2019, which is pre-covid. The current situation will obviously be different due to the effects that Covid had on HS operations and parents' interest.