

# CCEH Workshop Summary

## From the 2018 National Conference on Ending Homelessness



### **How Child Welfare Agencies Can Prevent and End Homelessness**

A summary of this workshop by CCEH's Carl Asikainen.

Child Welfare agencies are vital partners in the work to end homelessness. Often these state level agencies operate outside of the realm of homeless service provision and may only interact with these partners in moments of crises. Coordinating responses with child welfare through housing authorities, school districts, and the usual suspects of shelter providers and housing advocates within regional areas occurs nationwide fitfully. The following are suggestions for improvements within this system.

- As advocates we should ask child welfare agencies to at least:
  1. Assess housing stability of all clients and families
  2. Target resources for these families when identified
  3. Establish accountability for all partners involved in helping families and
  4. Continue planning how to provide opportunities for collaboration.
- Child Welfare in DC is linked to HMIS for looks at the shelter system.
- UCONN and The Connection partnered to create QRAFT which is an assessment that is given to families and children upon entering child welfare system that focuses on housing security.
- Housing Authorities can and should provide preference for Foster Families as well as homeless families.
- Child Welfare investigators need to be connected to Youth Navigators and other specific youth service providers affiliated with coordinated entry.
- A broad goal is to work to help make Child Welfare agencies Housing First.