Every day in our valley, more than 600 students leave school unsure of where they’ll lay their heads that night. While support is available for some, approximately 80% of these children and their families are not eligible for existing programs designed to address homelessness because they fall through a crack in the system...they aren't living on the streets. Their instability is hidden, as these families often find temporary shelter in motels or move from one home to another as reluctant houseguests in need of a place of their own.

Nearly 80% of homeless children are not eligible for existing programs.

This reality has broad implications for students:

- Inconsistent attendance leads to gaps in skill development, causing the student to remain in a frustrating and demoralizing state of enrichment.
- Unmet medical, dental and mental health challenges emerge as students face chronic hunger, fatigue, poor hygiene, vulnerability to illness and feelings of shame and depression.
- Student’s ability to be prepared for school is severely impaired by the absence of privacy and personal space. Homework is often incomplete and necessary school supplies are not readily available.
- Social and behavioral concerns commonly arise as students become wary of developing close relationships with peers and teachers and often these students view poor behavior as a diversionary tactic.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

“We had to wake up at 5 o’clock in the morning because our school was far away. Sometimes we had to go to school late because we had to wait for the bathroom. But since it wasn’t our house, they could use the bathroom first. But at school, we would get truant. I could not go to recess because of this.”

- Quote from 12-year-old girl experiencing homelessness
Case managers work to assess and secure services related to the family’s underlying challenges:

- **Academic support**
- **Employment**
- **Health/Wellness**
- **Adult education**
- **Income stability**
- **Food assistance**
- **Other crisis interventions**

**FAMILY SUPPORT**

Case managers work to assess and secure services related to the family’s underlying challenges:

- Academic support
- Employment
- Health/Wellness
- Adult education
- Income stability
- Food assistance
- Other crisis interventions

**HOUSING**

Participants are paired with family case managers. Case managers identify affordable housing options. United Way subsidizes transition to stable housing and additional costs associated with stabilizing the family.

**INITIAL ASSESSMENT**

Partnership with Roanoke City’s Homeless Services Central Intake assesses each family’s housing situation and refers families to available housing support.

**FAMILY IDENTIFICATION**

Partnership with Roanoke City School System identifies children and engages families as participants in the RYSE program to quickly secure stable housing for the family.

**SELF-SUFFICIENCY**

Family is stable and parents or guardians have adequate income to meet family needs. Children thrive in a secure environment with the ability to focus on learning.

**PROCESS REVIEW**

Review panel will consist of representatives from participating organizations and key funders to assess process effectiveness, efficiency and opportunities for quality improvement.