

## Appendix 5: Glossary

**Affordable Housing:** Housing that costs one-third or less of a household's income.

**Average Wage for Renters:** The hourly wage that a typical or average renter is likely to earn.<sup>1</sup>

**Children Living in Poverty:** Children residing in families whose incomes are at 100% of the Federal Poverty Level and below.

**Child Well-Being:** Measured in the Report Card by food security, health outcomes, and educational proficiency.

**Doubled-Up:** Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

**Early Stages of Planning:** Report Card planning score that indicates that a state has recently established an Interagency Council on Homelessness and therefore has not created a 10-year plan to end homelessness.

**Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC):** A tax reduction and wage supplement for low- and moderate-income working families that allows states to provide an economic “boost” to help reduce child poverty, increase effective wages, and cut taxes for families struggling to make ends meet. If refundable, families can receive the entire EITC as a refund even if they have no tax liability.<sup>2</sup>

**Extensive Planning:** Report Card planning score that indicates that a state has an active Interagency Council on Homelessness and has created a comprehensive 10-year plan to end homelessness that includes a focus on children and families.

**Extremely Low-Income:** Families who earn less than 30% of the area median income.

**Fair Market Rent (FMR):** Determined by HUD and includes the cost of shelter and all utilities except telephones.

**Federal Poverty Level (FPL):** Used to determine the number of Americans in poverty each year and to determine eligibility for various federal programs. Also sometimes referred to as the “Federal Poverty Thresholds” (U.S. Census Bureau) and the Federal Poverty Guidelines (Department of Health and Human Services, [HHS]).

**Food Insecurity<sup>3</sup>:** Limited access to adequate food due to limited financial and other resources.

**Food Security:<sup>4</sup>** Assured access for every person to enough nutritious food to sustain an active and healthy life including food availability (adequate food supply); food access (people can get to food); and appropriate food use (the absorption of essential nutrients).

**Homeless:<sup>5</sup>** Children who are:

- Sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason (sometimes referred to as doubled-up);
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative accommodations;
- Living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- Abandoned in hospitals;
- Awaiting foster care placement;
- Using a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings;
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned, buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; and
- Migratory children who qualify as homeless because they are living in circumstances described above.

**Homeless Children:** Children and youth from birth to age 18 who are accompanied by one or more parent(s) or caregivers. Assumed to reside in families who fall at 50% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or below.

**Housing Trust Fund:** Established by ordinance or legislation on a state, county, or city level, and targeted to low-income households. Relies on public revenue sources (e.g., real estate transfer taxes, interest from state-held funds, document recording fees, etc.) to support affordable housing, including new construction, rehabilitation/preservation, acquisition, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, emergency rental assistance, and services for special populations.

**Inadequate Planning:** Report Card planning score that indicates a state has not created an Interagency Council on Homelessness, has an Interagency Council on Homelessness that has made little progress in planning, or has drafted a plan that has not been adopted by any agency or is inactive for other reasons. It also indicates that the state's 10-year plan, if they have one, does not mention children or families.

**Local Education Agencies:** Commonly referred to as school districts.

**McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act:** Requires that states ensure that homeless children have access to a free, appropriate public education and that school districts provide data to the federal government.

**Medicaid:**<sup>6</sup> State-administered health insurance program for eligible groups of low-income individuals and families, including pregnant women and children under age 6 whose family income is at or below 133% of the Federal Poverty Level, and children ages 6 to 19 with family income up to 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Middle-Income Children:** Children residing in families whose incomes are at 200 - 399% of the Federal Poverty Level.

**Moderate Planning:** Report Card planning score that indicates that a state has an Interagency Council on Homelessness and has created a 10-year plan to end homelessness that includes some mention of children and families.

**Moderate to Severe Health Conditions:** The National Survey of Children's Health indicator used in the Report Card to describe general health (includes asthma, dental health, and emotional disturbances).

**National Housing Trust Fund:** A permanent program with a dedicated funding source established under the Housing and Economic Recovery Act of 2008. At least 90% of the funding is used to produce, preserve, rehabilitate, or operate rental housing for people with very low and extremely low incomes.

**National School Lunch Program (NSLP):**<sup>7</sup> Federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. Provides nutritionally balanced, free, reduced-price, or paid (depending on family income) lunches to children each school day.

**National School Lunch Program-Eligible Children:** Children residing in families whose incomes are at 185% of the Federal Poverty Level and below. Homeless children are categorically eligible for this program.

**Presumptive Eligibility:** Allows certain places that routinely serve low-income families (e.g., health centers, Head Start programs) to enroll a child in Medicaid or SCHIP without verifying his/her family's income first.

**Proficient:**<sup>8</sup> One of the three NAEP achievement levels, representing solid academic performance for each grade assessed. Students reaching this level have demonstrated competency over challenging subject matter, including subject-matter knowledge, application of such knowledge to

real-world situations, and analytical skills appropriate to the subject matter.

**School Breakfast Program:** Provides children with a healthy breakfast at school that is free, reduced-price, or paid depending on family income.

**State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP):**<sup>9</sup> State-administered insurance program for children residing in families who fall at 200% of the Federal Poverty Level and below.

**Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC):**<sup>10</sup> State-administered federal grant program that provides free nutritious foods, nutrition education, and referrals to health and other social services to low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age five who are at nutrition risk.

**Summer Food Service Program:** Offers free meals and snacks at local summer education and enrichment programs in areas where at least 50% of children are eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Federal program that provides financial assistance to help families purchase groceries. Formerly called the Food Stamp Program.

**Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):** Federal block grant program administered by state, territorial, and tribal agencies that provides time-limited income assistance, work opportunities, and other services to needy families. Formerly the Aid to Families and Dependent Children (AFDC) program.

**Unaccompanied Youth:** Young people who are unattached to families and generally range in age from 16 to about 22 years (e.g., runaway, throwaway, or homeless youth).

**Unit (e.g., Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing, Permanent Supportive Housing):** Housing or shelter for one family.

**Very Low Food Security:**<sup>11</sup> Food insecurity experienced with hunger, disrupted eating patterns, and reduced food intake.

**Vouchers (Section 8 or Housing Choice):** Federal housing assistance programs designed to bridge the gap between household income and rent.

<sup>1</sup> National Low Income Housing Coalition. (2008). *Out of Reach 2007-2008*. Washington, D.C.: National Low Income Housing Coalition. Retrieved from [www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2008/index.cfm](http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2008/index.cfm)

<sup>2</sup> Nagle, A. & Johnson, N. (2006). A Hand Up: How State Earned Income Tax Credits Help Working Families Escape Poverty in 2006. Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. Retrieved October 19, 2008, from [www.cbpp.org/3-8-06sfp.htm](http://www.cbpp.org/3-8-06sfp.htm)

<sup>3</sup> USDA, Economic Research Service. (2007). Food security in the United States: Hunger and food security. Website. Retrieved October 24, 2008, from [www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/labels.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/labels.htm)

<sup>4</sup> Bread for the World Institute. (2006). Frontline issues in nutrition assistance: Hunger report 2006. Washington, DC. Retrieved November 5, 2008, from [www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/hunger-report-pdfs/hunger-report-2006/06-Title-TOC-Foreword.pdf](http://www.bread.org/learn/hunger-reports/hunger-report-pdfs/hunger-report-2006/06-Title-TOC-Foreword.pdf)

<sup>5</sup> National Center for Homeless Education. (2007). Education for homeless children and youth program, Title VII-B of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001: Analysis of 2005-2006 federal data collection and three-year comparison.

<sup>6</sup> Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. (2005). Medicaid at a glance: 2005 – A Medicaid information source. Publication No. CMS-11024-05. Retrieved November 30, 2008, from [www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicaidgeninfo/](http://www.cms.hhs.gov/Medicaidgeninfo/)

<sup>7</sup> USDA Food and Nutrition Service. (2008). National school Lunch program. Retrieved November 30, 2008, from [www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/](http://www.fns.usda.gov/cnd/Lunch/)

<sup>8</sup> National Center for Education Statistics. (2008). NAEP technical documentation: NAEP data collection. Retrieved October 19, 2008, from [www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreport-card/tdw/data\\_collection/](http://www.nces.ed.gov/nationsreport-card/tdw/data_collection/)

<sup>9</sup> SCHIP Information Center. (n.d.). What is SCHIP? Website. Retrieved November 30, 2008, from [www.schip-info.org/](http://www.schip-info.org/)

<sup>10</sup> USDA, Food and Nutrition Service. (2006). WIC: The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children. Retrieved November 30, 2008, from [www.fns.usda.gov/wic/factsheets.htm](http://www.fns.usda.gov/wic/factsheets.htm)

<sup>11</sup> USDA, Economic Research Service. (2007). Food security in the United States: Hunger and food security. Website. Retrieved October 24, 2008, from [www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/labels.htm](http://www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/foodsecurity/labels.htm)

