

SOLUTION SPOTLIGHT

CHIME

(CHILD HOMELESSNESS INTERCEPT MAPPING AND ENGAGEMENT)

FamilyAid and its partners are coordinating the systems children depend on — to prevent family homelessness and soften its harm before crisis hits.

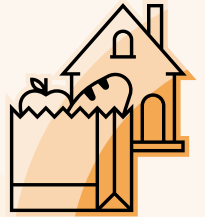
ORGANIZATION

FAMILYAID

LOCATION

BOSTON, MA

FOCUS AREA



HOUSING
& FOOD

THE ISSUE

Family homelessness is a preventable driver of poor health, learning, and well-being for children — fueled by intergenerational poverty, the high cost of living, and systems of care that operate in silos.

Its effects reach across children's physical, mental, social, and academic development, and the services meant to help often aren't built to work together.

20%

20% of Boston children live in poverty.

THE SOLUTION

CHIME — Child Homelessness Intercept Mapping and Engagement — is a systems-level intervention that improves how services reach children experiencing housing instability or homelessness, through collective action.

Led by FamilyAid, CHIME brings families, community leaders, and service providers together to find where children fall through the gaps, strengthen how services connect, and act early.

How Chime Works

- ▶ **Map the intercepts.** Pinpoint where children fall through gaps — and where housing, food, education, and health systems can step in to help.
- ▶ **Engage the whole community.** Convene families, community leaders, and service providers as equal partners, with lived experience at the table.
- ▶ **Move to collective action.** Turn shared findings into coordinated gains in service capacity, coordination, and use across systems.

DESIGNED WITH FAMILIES

Lived experience shaped CHIME from the start. Members of its Executive Committee — the body guiding the work across all six components of the two-generation framework — have themselves experienced homelessness or housing instability as children or parents. Families and children currently experiencing homelessness take part in every convening, helping set the priorities for change.

300+

CHIME has engaged 300+ stakeholders since 2021 — and dozens of new cross-sector collaborations bridging the agencies that families rely on.

HOMELESSNESS ON THE DECLINE IN BOSTON

CITY OF BOSTON 2026 HOMELESS CENSUS DATA

	2025	2026	Change
Persons in Families	3,365	1,636	-51%
Number of Families	1,081	544	-50%

ACCELERATING THE SOLUTION

By aligning services across housing, food access, education, and family well-being — and adapting across municipal, state, and federal systems — CHIME has catalyzed dozens of new collaborations and expanded organizations' capacity to support children and families.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- ▶ **Family homelessness is preventable.** Treating it as a preventable driver of poor health and learning — and acting before crisis hits — protects children's development.
- ▶ **Coordination closes the gaps.** Aligning housing, food, education, and health across agencies and levels of government reaches families any single system would miss.

- ▶ **Lived experience builds better systems.** Families who have experienced homelessness shape CHIME's governance and decisions — including a new citywide Family Advisory Council.

To Learn More, please contact:
info@bostonchime.org

WHAT IS FORWARD WITH FAMILIES?

Forward With Families is a nationwide initiative powered by Ascend at the Aspen Institute to amplify programs, policies, and initiatives that make life affordable, economic mobility possible, and security attainable for every family in America. By lifting up what's already working across the Ascend Community, Forward With Families drives leaders at every level to act on solutions proven to ensure resources go farthest for the children and families who need them most.



THE PATTERSON FAMILY

FORWARD
— WITH FAMILIES —

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