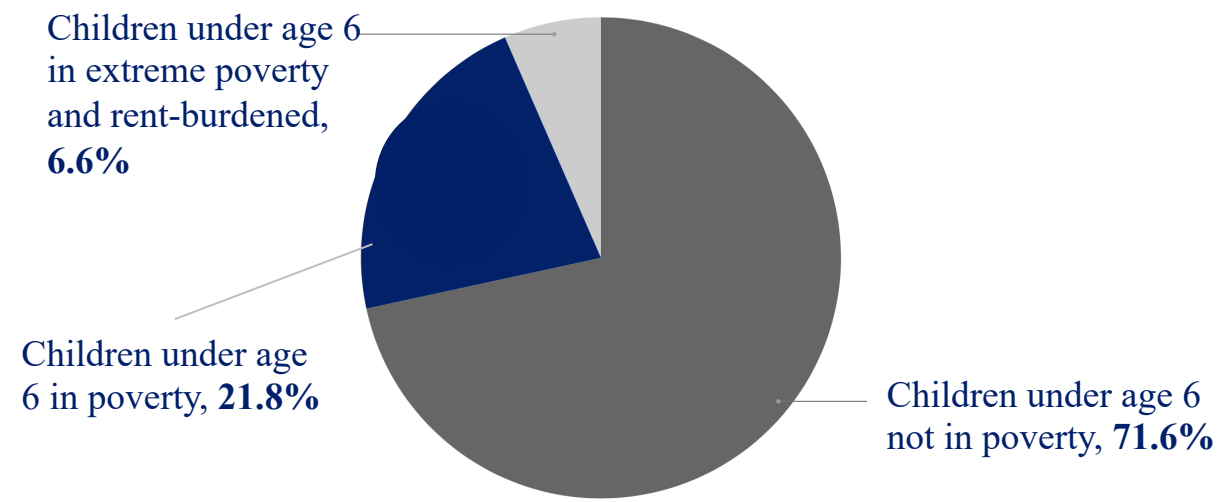


# Early Childhood Housing Instability and Homelessness in North Carolina: Informing Cross-Sector Alignment

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## Background

### 2021 Poverty and Rent Burden in North Carolina



- Housing insecurity associated with poor health, lower weight, and developmental risk among young children.
- Most resources are directed towards adults and school-aged children.

## NC InCK Partnership

- NC Integrated Care for Kids (InCK): one of 7 federally funded child-centered service delivery and payment models to transform care for Medicaid/CHIP insured children in 5 NC counties.
- InCK aims to integrate services across sectors such as healthcare, schools, child welfare, and early childcare to better address social determinants of health.
- Nearly 100,000 children automatically enrolled in NC InCK starting in January 2022.



## Current Gaps



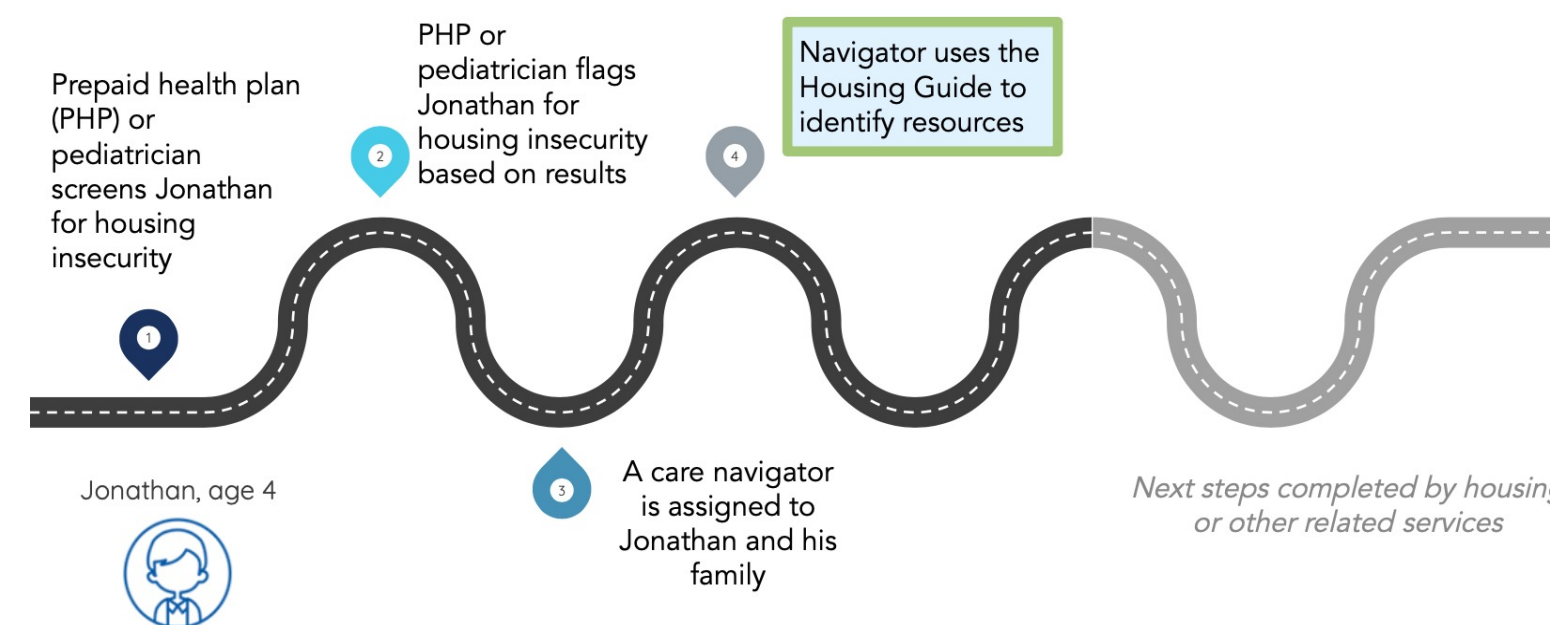
## Objectives

1. **Analyze the current landscape and develop a comprehensive resource** for use by NC InCK and others directly connecting families to resources.
2. **Understand** how families with young children (0-5) who are experiencing housing instability/homelessness are connected to social safety nets and early childhood programs.
3. **Inform effective integration** between housing and early childhood services at the state level and **formulate recommendations** for policy- and practice-level change.

## Housing Guide

- A comprehensive list of housing resources in the 5 InCK counties that will be continuously updated to help support NC InCK Housing Navigators.
- Provides specific information to help navigate different eligibility criteria, e.g., what qualifies as “housing unstable” for a given resource.
- Assist InCK’s Care Navigators in the process of connecting children and families to various resources.
- Disseminated by NC InCK to partners addressing child housing across the state to best facilitate broad usage of the information in the guide across both the NC housing and social sectors.

## Housing Guide Roadmap + Usage



## Qualitative Research Study Methodology

### Cross-Sector Focus Groups

- Purposive sampling of stakeholders with expertise in housing instability and/or homelessness.
- 3 focus groups with anticipated enrollment of 20 experts.
- The topics of the focus groups include screening, journey through organizations, coordination between programs, efficacy of programs, and further needs.

### Family Interviews

- Connecting with Families Moving Forward clients to gain insight into the lived experience of families and children.
- Anticipated enrollment of 4 families.

## Preliminary Themes



## Next Steps

- Currently conducting focus groups and family interviews.
- Using rapid qualitative analysis to identify key themes.
- Will use data to generate and disseminate recommendations to NC InCK and state policymakers around improving alignment of services for families experiencing housing instability.

