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**National report card ranks Alabama worst for child homelessness
Action needed in state legislature to fund proven housing programs**

This week, the [National Center on Family Homelessness](#) released its [annual state report card on child homelessness](#). While the report emphasized a surge in child homelessness nationwide, the situation in Alabama is the worst for children. The National Center on Family Homelessness based its report on criteria that included the incidence of child homelessness, child well-being data, risk of child homelessness, and state policy and planning efforts to address child homelessness.

“The Alabama legislature needs to take action to end the tragedy of child homelessness in our state,” said Marcie Porter, President of the Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama. “Children deserve an opportunity to succeed in school and in life, which begins with a place to call home. Trying to get your homework done in a motel room or in the back of a car does not work for kids.”

The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama is advocating that the State Legislature establish a housing trust fund, a strategy that 42 other states have in place to provide funding to housing programs proven to prevent and end family homelessness, such as emergency rental assistance and the rental housing with rent affordable to families earning lower wages.

“A lot of hardworking families in Alabama have been hit very hard by this economy, and many are at risk of homelessness or have become homeless for the first time,” said Porter. “As a state, we need to take action to make sure our children have the basics like a stable place to live. Our elected leaders could take a big step in the right direction by creating the Alabama Housing Trust Fund in the upcoming 2012 legislative session.”



The Low Income Housing Coalition of Alabama (LIHCA) is a coalition of Alabamians that joined together to address the housing crisis in our state and increase housing opportunities for those with the greatest financial need. To learn more about LIHCA and the campaign for the Alabama Housing Trust Fund, go to: <http://www.lihca.org>.