Berith House
Community Revival
Berith House

Thank you for interest and vision to make the world a better place. Your willingness to help fund endeavors to that end is refreshing. Our hope and prayer is that with your support and that of our Community Partners, friends, associates, and residents of Pasco County we will be embarking on a new and long-term solution to true community transformation.

Based in Land O’ Lakes, Berith House is a non-profit outreach dedicated to helping the least, the last, lost and the forgotten of Pasco County. Our ministry provides hope by meeting both tangible and spiritual needs. We provide food, clothing, shelter, life rehabilitation, education and job training, Biblical training and much more, through our ministries and outreaches. We are here to help reach those who are hurting and in need. Welcoming; Unconditional love; Fair and non-judgmental treatment; Encouragement; Holistic approach; Alleviation of suffering; Truth; Pursuit of social justice; and Independence!

Berith House works to partner with people, organizations and other outreaches to reach help meet the communities’ most basic and greatest needs. Our outreaches provide food, clothing, housing, education, and job training to thousands of hurting and needy children and adults of different races and cultures. The strategy behind each new service component is to empower the poor and homeless individuals with the capacity to improve their situation by finding stable employment and housing, conquering addictions and progressing toward improved mental, spiritual and emotional well-being. The development of a wider array of services for the poor and homeless has become a consensus among agency management, board and staff, that a homelessness prevention strategy is a crucial to the outcome of existing services.

Berith House was founded by Dr. Cory Crocker and Dr. Tracey D. Crocker as a response to the homeless and low income population in the Pasco County who were seeking assistance.
Berith House
Mission Statement

Berith House Inc. is a faith based therapeutic community outreach. Providing shelter and life recovery; with each individual being treated with dignity and respect in a safe Christ centered environment.

We seek to fulfill this mission, through the expression of our core values: Welcoming; Unconditional love; Fair and non-judgmental treatment; Encouragement; Holistic approach; Alleviation of suffering; Truth; Pursuit of social justice; and Independence

For many, the journey out of homelessness begins with shelter, food, and compassion and leads to stability, permanent housing, a job and self-sufficiency.

Berith House of Hope began its journey in 2006 as Covenant House of Tampa, offering safe alternative to men and women in the Tampa Bay area.

We have expanded by providing a comprehensive range of programs and services, including housing, outreach, and job training. The ultimate goal for all of our programs is making permanent housing a real possibility everyone.

Project Description and Goals
Community Revival

Our goal is to implement the Berith House Model for true Christ Centered Community Transformation and Economic Empowerment. The model provides a comprehensive Christ centered approach to addressing all basic Spiritual, Physical and Psychological needs of the community (Low Income and homeless).

- Emergency Shelter Housing for up to 55 souls a night
  Family
  Single Mother
  Women
  Men

- Substance Abuse treatment program

- Transitional Family Apartment Complex Phase I

- Transitional House Phase II (Single Family Residential)

- Services to provide permanent Housing
With Peer to Peer Supportive Services for everyone completing the Berith Life Recovery Program for five years after graduation, to ensure their continue success.

- **Life Skills**
  Life Skills teaches new skill sets in which an individual will need for maximized opportunity for success in life. Life skills classes will be offered to both those within Berith House and to the community at large. This program will serve the needs of both adults and children alike.

  Environmental Skills
  Financial Skills
  Social/Civic Skills
  Parenting Skills
  Employability Skills
  Friendship/Intimacy Skills
  Learning/Education Skills
  Life Planning Skills
  Self-Management Skills

- **Outpatient Recovery**
  Outpatient recovery for substance abuse disorders will be offered to both Adults and Youth outreach.

- **Supportive Services**
  Supportive Services will provide any additional needs both those within Berith House and the community at large may need.
  
  Food Pantry
  On Site feeding
  Clothing
  Legal Aid
  Homeless Court
  Medical Clinic
  Dental Clinic
  Vision Clinic
  Chiropractic Clinic
  Professional Counseling Services
  Advocacy Services
  Homeless
  Government Social Investment programs;
    Food Stamps
    Medical
    Housing
• **Education**
  Berith House will provide Educational opportunities for children, youth and adults from the community and within Berith House alike.
  - Daycare - 24-hour cycle
  - Preschool
  - After School tutoring
  - GED classes
  - ESOL classes
  - Training addiction Specialist a year

• **Economics**
  Berith House will lead the economic empowerment of the Pasco County area through not only its work but through the formation of numerous for profit companies and Financial Services (i.e. banking and financial management services)
  Berith House will create an economic impact in Pasco County in regards to jobs and income. This will be accomplished by:
  - Berith Employment Service
  - Berith Economic Enterprise will create jobs at living wage ($16.60 per hour)
  - Berith House employees and contractors
Berith House
Housing Model

- Emergency Shelter
- Permanent Housing
- Transitional Housing Phase I
- Family Transitional Housing
- Transitional Housing Phase II
Berith House
Recovery Model

- Detox
- Life Recovery
- Drug & Alcohol Recovery
- Pastoral Counseling
- Mental Health
- Peer To Peer
- Case Management
Berith House
Supportive Services Model

- Legal
- Outreach
- Public Relations
- Communication
- Security
- Transportation
- Cloth Closet
- Food Pantry
- Vision
- Dental
- Health
- Advocacy
- Food Services

Berith House
Berith House
Educational Model

- Bible College & Theological Seminary
- Adult Education
- Berith Christian Academy
- Career Central
- Community College
- Berith Daycare
- University of South Florida
- St. Leo College
- University of Tampa
Berith House
Economic Model

- Berith Employment Services
- Financial Services
- Career Central
- Economic Enterprises
- Pasco County Chamber Of Commerce
- Berith Business Incubator
- Economic Development Funds
Target Market and Geographic Area Served

Berith House will serve New Port Richey, and Pasco County. The population in this area is in 466,457, and over 4,000 homeless. Pasco County Florida has the second largest homeless population in the state of Florida.

Organizational Description

Governed by a board of directors and primary stake holder is Berith Ministries International. Additionally Berith House will have a community advisory board consisting of representatives from each of its community partners, representatives from homeowner associations, local and state officials.

Primary Contact

Rev. Dr. Tracey D. Crocker, CEO
813.410.6573

Evaluation and Accountability:
The progress and effectiveness of Berith House will be determined by ongoing analysis and oversight of staff, Berith House Advisory Board, and Board of Directors, Board of Directors of Berith Chapel Ministries, Inc. and outside consulting firms.

Technical Assistance:
Berith House will also receive technical assistance from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Federal Reserve, Department of Justice, Department of Veteran Affairs, SAMSHA, Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation, American Bar Association Committee on Poor and Homeless, Neighborhood Works of America, C-12 Inc., Christian Community Development Corporation, North American Association of Christians in Social Work, Net Institute, Inc. NAADAC, Florida Department of Correction and the Florida department of Children and Families.
Program List

Berith Life
- Ongoing Emergency Food Assistance
- Material Goods (i.e. furniture and household items)
- Clothing
- Emergency Hygiene Items

Who Am I?
- ID Replacement Services

Berith Employment Program
- Job Interview Training
- Job Search Resource Centers
- Resume Preparations Assistance
- Career Counseling
- Job Placement Services
- Job Placement for Convicted Felons

Berith Advocate
- Homeless Advocacy

Berith Recovery (certified addictions counselors)
- Alcoholism Counseling
- Drug Abuse Counseling

Berith Intervention
- Alcohol Related Crisis Intervention
- Drug Related Crisis Intervention

Berith Relationships (professional pastoral counseling)
- Family Violence Counseling
- Marital Counseling
- Blended Family Counseling
- Battered Women Counseling

Berith Peer-to-Peer (multi-year recovery support)
- Peer to Peer Recovery Supportive Services

Life Skills
- Classes on money management, savings, and budgeting
- Peer counseling and/or peer support for issues of daily living (money, meals, medication, living skills)
- Classes in nutrition, meal planning, food buying, cooking
- Workshops on renting an apartment, buying a house, setting up utilities, etc.
- Workshops on parenting in recovery
- Workshops for families in recovery
- Social skills workshops and groups

Health and Wellness
- Classes in HIV and STD prevention
- HIV management workshops
- Psycho educational workshops or discussion groups (e.g., understanding depression, body image, maintaining intimate relationships)
- Health workshop series
- Sexuality workshop series
- Addiction workshop series
- Relapse prevention workshops
- Smoking cessation workshops
- Classes in cooking and nutrition

Gender-Specific
- Men’s and women’s support groups
- Pre-employment assessment and services for men and women entering/returning to the workforce

Education and Career Planning
- English as Second Language classes
- GED classes
- Reading and study skills program
- Information regarding college and career choices for adults
- Job skills and career aptitude workshops
- Vocational training or linkages to vocational rehabilitation
- Work readiness groups
- Assistance with scholarships and financial aid
- Assistance with college applications
- Preparation for SAT and other college entrance tests
- Peer counseling/peer support for job readiness, job training, interviewing skills, appropriate attire, and other employment behaviors and skills
- Job training, job coaching
- Resume writing workshops
- Computer skills training

Leadership Skills Development
- Peer-leadership development workshops
- Peer support group training and facilitation (how to conduct meetings and groups)
- Peer helping skills training and development (process skills)
- Peer volunteer content training: public health issues (HIV, TB, STD’s,..), community resources, addiction treatment and recovery issues
- Communication skills
- Conflict resolution skills
- Diversity training

**Other Services**
- Physical Education and Fitness
- Cultural Activities
- Alcohol- and Drug-Free Social Recreational Activities
- Library, resource center, clearinghouse
- Information and referral
- Transportation assistance service
- Shower facilities for homeless
- Respite programs
- Thrift store
Homelessness does not discriminate
Approximately 3.5 million individuals experience homelessness each year; that equals 1%-2% of the total US population annually. Homelessness does not discriminate. Families with children, single adults, teenagers, and elderly individuals of all races can be found struggling with the devastating effects of homelessness.

Who are the homeless?

An estimated 842,000 adults and children are homeless in a given week, with that number swelling to as many as 3.5 million over the course of a year. People who are homeless are the poorest of the poor. While almost half (44%) of people who are homeless work at least part-time, their monthly income averages only $367 compared to the median monthly income for U.S. households of $2,840. Those who have disabilities and are unable to work can find it nearly impossible to secure affordable housing in virtually every major housing market in the country.

The homeless population is diverse. According to the 27 cities surveyed by the U.S. Conference of Mayors, including Boston, Burlington, Cedar Rapids, Charleston, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Denver, Detroit, Kansas City, Louisville Metro, Los Angeles, Miami, Nashville, New Orleans, Norfolk, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland, Providence, Salt Lake City, San Antonio, San Francisco, Santa Monica, Seattle, St. Paul, and Trenton, the homeless population can be classified by the following demographic information:

- 41% are single men.
- 14% are single women.
- 5% are unaccompanied children.
- 40% are families with children.
- 67% are single parent families.
- 23% are mentally disabled.
- 10% are veterans.
- 30% are drug or alcohol dependent.
- 50% are African-American
- 35% are White
- 12% are Hispanic
- 2% are Native American
- 1% are Asian

Slashed Services and Government Assistance: At the same time earned income for the poor was decreasing, assistance programs were severely cut.

- Over 40% of homeless persons are eligible for disability benefits, but only 11% actually receive them.
- Most are eligible for food stamps, but only 37% receive them.
- Most families are eligible for welfare benefits, but only 52% receive them.
- Some 12% of children are denied access to school, despite federal law.
The majority is unaccompanied adults, but the number of homeless families is growing:
- 66% are single adults, and of these, three-quarters are men
- 11% are parents with children, 84% of whom are single women
- 23% are children under 18 with a parent, 42% of whom are under 5 years of age

Ethnic minorities, particularly African Americans, are overrepresented:
- 40% are non-Hispanic whites (compared to 76% of the general population)
- 40% are African Americans (compared to 11% of the general population)
- 11% are Hispanic (compared to 9% of the general population)
- 8% are Native American (compared to 1% of the general population)
Homelessness continues to be a largely urban phenomenon:
- 71% are in central cities
- 21% are in suburbs
- 9% are in rural areas

People who are homeless frequently report health problems:
- 38% report alcohol use problems
- 26% report other drug use problems
- 39% report some form of mental health problems (20-25% meet criteria for serious mental illness)
- 66% report either substance use and/or mental health problems
- 3% report having HIV/AIDS
- 26% report acute health problems other than HIV/AIDS such as tuberculosis, pneumonia, or sexually transmitted diseases
- 46% report chronic health conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, or cancer

People who are homeless also have high rates of other background characteristics:
- 23% are veterans (compared to 13% of the general population)
- 25% were physically or sexually abused as children
- 27% were in foster care or institutions as children
- 21% were homeless as children
- 54% were incarcerated at some point of their lives

Pasco County

Over 4,000 men, women and children are homeless in Pasco County Florida, of that number; 1,700 are children. Pasco County Florida has the 2nd largest homeless population in the state of Florida. Berith House, is working for long-term faith-based holistic solutions to homelessness.
Pasco County Statistics
- 3200 persons were unsheltered
- 368 persons were veterans
- 815 chronic homeless persons (more than one year)
- 13 chronic persons were sheltered
- 802 chronic persons were unsheltered
- 79% adults between the ages of 18 to 60
- 1% elderly adults over 60
- 38% were homeless for more than one year or longer
- 25% were homeless one to three months
- 4% were homeless for more than a week but less than a month
- 1776 children doubled-up, sheltered and unsheltered

We are committed to address the underlying causes of homelessness, not just symptoms:
A Hand up not a Hand out.

Why People Become Homeless…

The primary cause of individual and family homelessness is the lack of housing. However, other conditions exist that are barriers to permanent housing:

Lack of affordable housing: The growth in the housing market is adversely affecting families living on limited or fixed incomes. Low-income renters are increasingly facing evictions or extreme rent increases.

Non-living wages: Tampa Bay’s housing prices are among the highest in the nation, yet wages have not gone up at the pace of rents and housing prices. In addition, families receiving public assistance, such as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) receive a fixed amount of a few hundred dollars a month for basic needs, such as housing, food, and healthcare.

Domestic Violence: When a victim of domestic violence decides to leave her abuser, she is usually making the choice between her safety (and her children’s safety) and housing and financial stability. Too often, the survivor – who, more often than not, has been isolated from friends and family – is often faced by a choice of returning to the batterer or homelessness.

Substance Abuse: Alcohol or drug addiction is a disease that permeates society across social classes. However, individuals living on the edge of poverty lack the social or financial supports to address the addiction and are at a higher risk of homelessness. Homeless addicts often lack adequate health care, access to addiction treatment, or supportive housing, which is compounded by the stigma of addiction.

Disability: People with disabilities who are unable to work and must rely on entitlements such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI) can find it virtually impossible to find affordable housing.
People receiving Federal SSI benefits, which were $545 per month in 2002, cannot cover the cost of an efficiency or one-bedroom apartment in any major housing market in the country.

**Mental Illness:** affects a significant portion of homeless individuals. Depression, anxiety, bipolar personality disorder, and schizophrenia are among the most common. Though not a direct cause of homelessness, poor mentally ill individuals have a lack of access to support services to secure appropriate housing or treatment.

**Job or Income Loss:** is another risk factor for families who are “one paycheck away from homelessness”. Although the poor are most at risk of homelessness, middle class families who lose the wage-earner’s income – whether due to job loss, a disability, death, or for other reasons – may not be able to continue monthly housing payments leading to evictions or mortgage defaults from their homes.

Many homeless and poor people in Florida are employed by labor pools. Labor pools are temporary services which provide unskilled manual laborers for construction, warehouses, and other industries on a short-term basis. To apply for work, one simply has to show up at the labor hall, ask for work, and wait to get picked. Labor pools often pay lower wages than promised, sub-minimum wages or no wages at all. Labor pools often charge workers for safety equipment and, transportation to and from job sites. Those labor pools which do cash their own payroll checks, charge the homeless and low income for the service. After these numerous charges, workers are commonly left with only $30 to show for an entire work day. Coincidentally, $30 is about the same cost for a one night stay at a drug infested motel in the ghetto; leaving next to nothing left for food.

“Declining wages have put housing out of reach for many workers: in Hillsborough County, an individual would need to make $14.33 per hour at a forty hour work week be able to afford a two-bedroom apartment at Fair Market Rent which is $809.00 per month. In fact, in Hillsborough County a minimum-wage worker would have to work 149+ hours each week to afford a two-bedroom apartment at 30% of his or her income, which is the federal definition of affordable housing. In Hillsborough County, over 15,000 people are on waiting lists to obtain a dwelling in this range to be able to provide for their families. Unfortunately many of these families have “worst case housing needs,” which means they pay more than half their incomes for rent, living in severely substandard housing or both”. Waiting time for subsidized housing is on average at least one year or longer. 48,056 households in Hillsborough County (that is 11% of total households for the county) pay more than 50% of income for housing. According to the City of Tampa Florida the community immediately around Berith House and Berith Chapel the poverty rate is at 71.9% along with having one of the highest crime rates in Hillsborough County.

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**The Poor and Impoverished**
"Nearly two-thirds of all Americans and more than 90 percent of African Americans will experience at least one year of living below the poverty line during their lifetimes,"

Mark R. Rank, Ph.D., University's George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Cornell University

Over 100,000,000 Americans are considered “POOR”.
U.S. Census Bureau

**Florida**

**Demographics of Low-Income Children** [1]

Research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to meet their most basic needs. Children living in families with incomes below this level—$40,000 for a family of four in 2006—are referred to as low income. The United States measures poverty by an outdated standard developed in the 1960s.

**Children in Florida, by Income Level**

![Pie chart showing income levels]

In Florida, there are 2,207,634 families, with 3,954,199 children.

**Low-Income Children**: 40% (1,582,407) of children live in low-income families (National: 39%), defined as income below 200% of the federal poverty level.

**Parental Employment**

**Parents' Employment Status in Florida, by Income Level**
58% (914,266) of children in low-income families have at least one parent who is employed full-time, year-round.

26% (413,536) of children in low-income families have at least one parent who is employed either part-year or part-time.

16% (254,604) of children in low-income families do not have an employed parent.

### Parental Education

#### Children in Low-Income Families in Florida, by Parents' Education

- **78% (345,280)** of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in low-income families.
- **57% (569,729)** of children whose parents have a high school degree, but no college education live in low-income families.
- **27% (667,398)** of children whose parents have some college or more live in low-income families.

### Parental Marital Status

#### Children in Single-Parent Families in Florida, by Income Level
52% (822,182) of children in low-income families live with a single parent.

19% (457,846) of children in above low-income families live with a single parent.
**Child's Race/Ethnicity**

Children in Low-Income Families in Florida, by Race

- **White**: 25% (521,042) of white children live in low-income families.
- **Black**: 65% (544,543) of black children live in low-income families.
- **Latino**: 51% (457,474) of Latino children live in low-income families.

**Child's Age**

Children in Low-Income Families in Florida, by Age

- **Under age 6**: 43% (536,166) of children under age 6 live in low-income families.
- **Age 6 & over**: 39% (1,046,241) of children age 6 or older live in low-income families.

**Type of Residential Area**

Children in Low-Income Families in Florida, by Residence

- **Urban**: 47% (376,477) of children in urban areas live in low-income families.
- **Suburban**: 37% (893,474) of children in suburban areas live in low-income families.
- **Rural**: 46% (78,830) of children in rural areas live in low-income families.
Residential Move

**Children Who Have Recently Moved in Florida, by Income Level**

- **Low income**: 21% (337,099) of children in low-income families moved last year.
- **Above low income**: 14% (322,511) of children in above low-income families moved last year.

Parental Nativity

**Children in Low-Income Families in Florida, by Parents' Nativity**

- **Immigrant parents**: 53% (459,712) of children of immigrant parents live in low-income families.
- **Native-born parents**: 38% (1,051,988) of children of native-born parents live in low-income families.

Home Ownership

**Children in Owner-Occupied Housing in Florida, by Income Level**

- **Low income**: 49% (767,619) of children in low-income families live in owner-occupied housing.
- **Above low income**: 85% (2,013,921) of children in above low-income families live in owner-occupied housing.
Family Structure

Children Living in Families in Florida with no Parent Present, by Income Level

- 7% (106,475) of low-income children live in families with no parent present.
- 3% (60,381) of above low-income children live in families with no parent present.

* This estimate should be used with caution. It may be unreliable due to a small sample size.

Some graphs may not be shown because of extremely small sample sizes.

Because of rounding, not all figures will add up to 100%.

The federal poverty guidelines are issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The demographic findings on this page were calculated using a more complex version of the federal poverty measure—the thresholds issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information about federal poverty measures, see The 2006 HHS Poverty Guidelines.

**Poverty:** Income below the federal poverty level (FPL), $20,000 per year for a family of four in 2006.

**Low income:** Income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); $40,000 per year for a family of four in 2006.

**Child:** A child is defined as an individual under the age of 18. Children living independently, living with a spouse, living in group quarters, and children ages 14 and under living with only unrelated adults are excluded from these data.

**Parent:** For children who do not live with at least one parent, parental characteristics are those of the householder and/or the householder’s spouse.

1. State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the U.S. Current Population Survey from 2004, 2005, and 2006, representing information from calendar years 2003, 2004, and 2005. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2006 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.
Florida

Demographics of Poor Children[1]

For 2006, the federal poverty level is $20,000 for a family of four. Children living in families with incomes below the federal poverty level are referred to as poor. But research suggests that, on average, families need an income of about twice the federal poverty level to meet their basic needs. The United States measures poverty by an outdated standard developed in the 1960s.

Children in Florida, by Income Level

In Florida, there are 2,207,634 families, with 3,954,199 children.

Poor Children: 17% (682,759) of children live in poor families (National: 18%), defined as income below 100% of the federal poverty level.

Parental Employment

Parents' Employment Status in Florida, by Income Level

35% (237,533) of children in poor families have at least one parent who is employed full-time, year-round.

34% (233,841) of children in poor families have at least one parent who is employed either part-year or part-time.

31% (211,386) of children in poor families do not have an employed parent.
**Parental Education**

**Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Parents' Education**

- 45% (198,236) of children whose parents do not have a high school degree live in poor families.
- 26% (262,667) of children whose parents have a high school degree, but no college education live in poor families.
- 9% (221,856) of children whose parents have some college or more live in poor families.

**Parental Marital Status**

**Children in Single-Parent Families in Florida, by Income Level**

- 68% (461,467) of children in poor families live with a single parent.
- 25% (818,560) of children in not poor families live with a single parent.
Child's Race/Ethnicity

Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Race

- 10% (198,772) of white children live in poor families.
- 33% (275,403) of black children live in poor families.
- 20% (183,298) of Latino children live in poor families.

Child's Age

Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Age

- 19% (241,473) of children under age 6 live in poor families.
- 16% (441,287) of children age 6 or older live in poor families.

Type of Residential Area

Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Residence

- 21% (172,686) of children in urban areas live in poor families.
- 16% (379,845) of children in suburban areas live in poor families.
- 18% (31,143) of children in rural areas live in poor families.
**Residential Move**

**Children Who Have Recently Moved in Florida, by Income Level**

- 25% (167,293) of children in poor families moved last year.
- 15% (492,316) of children in not poor families moved last year.

**Parental Nativity**

**Children in Poor Families in Florida, by Parents' Nativity**

- 20% (169,767) of children of immigrant parents live in poor families.
- 18% (492,117) of children of native-born parents live in poor families.

**Home Ownership**

**Children in Owner-Occupied Housing in Florida, by Income Level**

- 35% (239,229) of children in poor families live in owner-occupied housing.
- 78% (2,542,311) of children in not poor families live in owner-occupied housing.
Family Structure

Children Living in Families in Florida with no Parent Present, by Income Level

8% (57,773) of poor children live in families with no parent present.
3% (109,082) of not poor children live in families with no parent present.

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Low income: Income below 200 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL); $40,000 per year for a family of four in 2006.

Child: A child is defined as an individual under the age of 18. Children living independently, living with a spouse, living in group quarters, and children ages 14 and under living with only unrelated adults are excluded from these data.

Parent: For children who do not live with at least one parent, parental characteristics are those of the householder and/or the householder’s spouse.

1. State data were calculated from the Annual Social and Economic Supplement (the March supplement) of the U.S. Current Population Survey from 2004, 2005, and 2006, representing information from calendar years 2003, 2004, and 2005. NCCP averaged three years of data because of small sample sizes in less populated states. The national data were calculated from the 2006 data, representing information from the previous calendar year.
Basic Facts about Low-Income Children: Birth to Age 18

What is the federal poverty level (FPL) in 2006?[1]

- $20,000 for a family of 4.
- $16,600 for a family of 3.
- $13,200 for a family of 2.

Is a poverty-level income enough to support a family?

Research suggests that, on average, families need an income equal to about two times the federal poverty level to meet their most basic needs.[2] Families with incomes below this level are referred to as low income:

- $40,000 for a family of 4.
- $33,200 for a family of 3.
- $26,400 for a family of 2.

These figures approximate the average minimum income families need to make ends meet, but actual expenses vary greatly by locality. For a family of 4, the cost of basic family expenses is about $36,000 per year in Houston, $40,000 in Chicago, and $49,000 in Hartford.[3]

How many children in the United States live in low-income families?

There are 73 million children in the United States.

- 39%—28.4 million—live in low-income families.
- 18%—12.8 million—live in poor families.
Have these numbers changed over time?

After a decade of decline, the proportion of children living in low-income families is rising again, a trend that began in 2000.

**What are the family characteristics of low-income children?**

**Parents’ Employment**

- 55% of children in low-income families—15.6 million—have at least one parent who works full-time, year-round.
- 26% of children in low-income families—7.3 million—have at least one parent who works part-time or full-time, part-year.
- 19% of children in low-income families—5.5 million—do not have an employed parent.

**Parents’ Education**

- 26% of children in low-income families—7.3 million—live with parents who have less than a high school education.
- 36% of children in low-income families—10.2 million—live with parents who have only a high school diploma.
- 39% of children in low-income families—10.9 million—live with parents who have some college or more.
Family Structure

- 51% of children in low-income families—14.6 million—live with a single parent.
- 49% of children in low-income families—13.8 million—live with married parents.

Does the percent of children in low-income families vary by children’s age?

Young children are disproportionately low income. 42% of children under age 6—more than 10 million—live in low-income families.

- 43% of children under age 3 years—5.2 million—live in low-income families.
- 42% of children ages 3 and 4 years—3.3 million—live in low-income families.
- 41% of children age 5 years—1.6 million—live in low-income families.
- 39% of children ages 6 through 12 years—10.8 million—live in low-income families.
- 35% of children ages 13 through 17 years—7.4 million—live in low-income families.

Children living in low-income and poor families, by age group, 2005

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Low-income</th>
<th>Poor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Under 3</td>
<td>43% 21%</td>
<td>21%  5.2 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3–4</td>
<td>42% 19%</td>
<td>19%  3.3 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>41% 19%</td>
<td>19%  1.6 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6–12</td>
<td>39% 17%</td>
<td>17%  10.8 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13–17</td>
<td>35% 15%</td>
<td>15%  7.4 million</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Does the percent of children in low-income families vary by race/ethnicity?

- 61% of Latino children—8.8 million—live in low-income families.
- 61% of black children—6.5 million—live in low-income families.
- 28% of Asian children—0.8 million—live in low-income families.
- 26% of white children—11.1 million—live in low-income families.

Although Latino and black children are disproportionately low income, whites comprise the largest group of low-income children.
Does the percent of children in low-income families vary by parents’ country of birth?[4]

- 57% of children of immigrant parents—7.0 million—live in low-income families.
- 36% of children of native-born parents—20.4 million—live in low-income families.

Does the percent of children in low-income families vary by where children live?

Region

- 42% of children in the South—11.2 million—live in low-income families.
- 40% of children in the West—7.2 million—live in low-income families.
- 34% of children in the Northeast—4.3 million—live in low-income families.
- 35% of children in the Midwest—5.7 million—live in low-income families.

Type of Area

![Pie chart showing the distribution of children by race.]

Residential Instability

- 21% of children in low-income families—5.9 million—moved in the last year.
- 10% of children in above low-income families—4.4 million—moved last year.
This fact sheet is part of the National Center for Children in Poverty’s demographic fact sheet series and is updated annually. Estimates, unless otherwise noted, were prepared by Ayana Douglas-Hall, Michelle Chau, and Heather Koball of NCCP based on the U.S. Current Population Survey, Annual Social and Economic Supplement, March 2006. Estimates include children living in households with at least one parent and most children living apart from both parents (for example, children being raised by grandparents). Children living independently, living with a spouse, or in group quarters are excluded from these data. Children ages 14 and under living with only unrelated adults were not included because data on their income status were not available. Among children who do not live with at least one parent, parental characteristics are those of the householder and/or the householder’s spouse. Previous versions of this fact sheet counted children living apart from parents differently; therefore, comparisons with versions published prior to September 2006 are not valid.

1. These numbers are from the federal poverty guidelines issued annually by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The demographic findings in this fact sheet were calculated using more complex versions of the federal poverty measure—the thresholds issued by the U.S. Census Bureau. For more information on measuring poverty, see the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.


3. These figures were derived from NCCP’s Family Resource Simulator.

4. Approximately 1 million low-income children ages birth to 18 live in households with one immigrant parent and one native-born parent. Those children are not counted in this figure.