The public health crisis has caused hardship to many families in Cleveland, leaving many in need of support for basic necessities, including food and affordable housing. Help is available for families seeking shelter and for students who are attending school while their family is homeless and in transition.

By law, children and families are considered homeless if they do not have a “fixed,” regular and adequate nighttime residence, or are:

- living in a shelter, including emergency and transitional shelters for domestic violence and runaway/homeless youth shelters;
- living doubled-up with a friend, relative or someone else due to eviction, foreclosure, natural disaster or economic hardship;
- staying in a motel, hotel, trailer park or campground because they have nowhere else to go;
- staying in substandard housing;
- living in places not ordinarily used for sleeping, including cars, parks, public places, abandoned buildings or bus/train stations;
- abandoned in a hospital;
- children and youth not living at home, who:
  - were asked to leave home by a parent/legal guardian.
  - left home without consent of parents (runaways).
  - are living doubled-up without a legal guardian due to economic reasons or due to lack of formal custody papers while parent(s) are incarcerated, hospitalized or in a rehabilitation center.

School Supports for Homeless Children & Youth

Project ACT is a Cleveland Metropolitan School District program dedicated to supporting homeless children and families with support in every grade, including life skills coaches at select schools, referrals for counseling services, help with obtaining birth certificates, medical coverage, food stamps and social security.

Project ACT provides a weekly food bag, meal pickup and incentives for good attendance and academic progress in school.