

# JEREMIAH PROGRAM



**Program Type:** Family-centered model, providing housing, coaching, personal skill development, education/occupational training and high-quality early childhood education for single mothers and their children.

**Agency and Location:** Jeremiah Program, 7 communities located across the country in Austin, TX, Boston, MA, Fargo, ND, New York, NY, St. Paul, MN and Rochester, MN.

**Population Served:** Jeremiah serves low-income single mothers with children under age five. Participants in the program lack many of the educational attainment and social-emotional skills critical for career-track employment and sustainable family self-sufficiency. Participants often face challenges in accessing affordable housing and child care.

**Program Description:** Jeremiah Program offers holistic services to support single mothers become self-sufficient with a family-centered approach. Jeremiah provides safe and affordable housing for single mothers and their young children as the mothers earn post-secondary credentials. The guaranteed affordable housing allows women to succeed as students as well as build community ties and social capital. Participants work one-on-one with coaches who provide support, advice, and accountability. Jeremiah mothers also take part in weekly life skills training that covers financial literacy, physical and emotional health, and positive parenting.

In addition, the Jeremiah Program offers on-site, high quality early childhood education and childcare. The early childhood centers allow mothers to focus on their education and career development, knowing their children are receiving high-quality early care and education while they attend classes. Additionally, parenting coaching and classes help mothers support their children's development. These supports ensure both mother and child are set on trajectories for future success.

**Program Perspective:** One mother's work with Jeremiah led her to apply to North Dakota State University. Today, she is pursuing a degree in human development and family science/ elementary education. "I can't wait to become the teacher I have always wanted to be and just have a better life and opportunities for my daughter."

**Results:** Graduates of Jeremiah have earned an average annual income of \$47,600 over the past five years, and the most recent cohort has seen, on average, a 68 percent increase in earnings since starting the program. In addition: Seventy-seven percent of program graduates report decreased reliance on public assistance; and 81 percent of the children who attended a Jeremiah child development center are performing at or above grade level in elementary or middle school.

In 2013, Wilder Research [estimated](#) that every \$1 invested by private funders in the program generated a return of about \$4. Separately, the evaluator found benefits to society through decreased dependence on government assistance, increased taxable earnings and second-generation benefits such as savings from costs associated with crime and special education.

**Federal Funding Used:** Jeremiah Program is primarily funded through private donations. Participants may be eligible for federal and/or local childcare and housing subsidies.

**For More Information:** Contact Gloria Perez, President and CEO at [gperez@jeremiahprogram.org](mailto:gperez@jeremiahprogram.org) or 612-259-3001

