



# **Strategies for Understanding and Addressing the Needs of People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness**

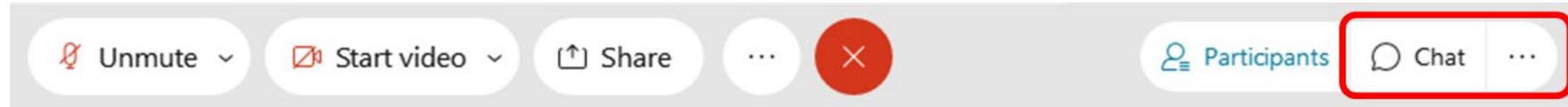
October 29, 2020



# Housekeeping

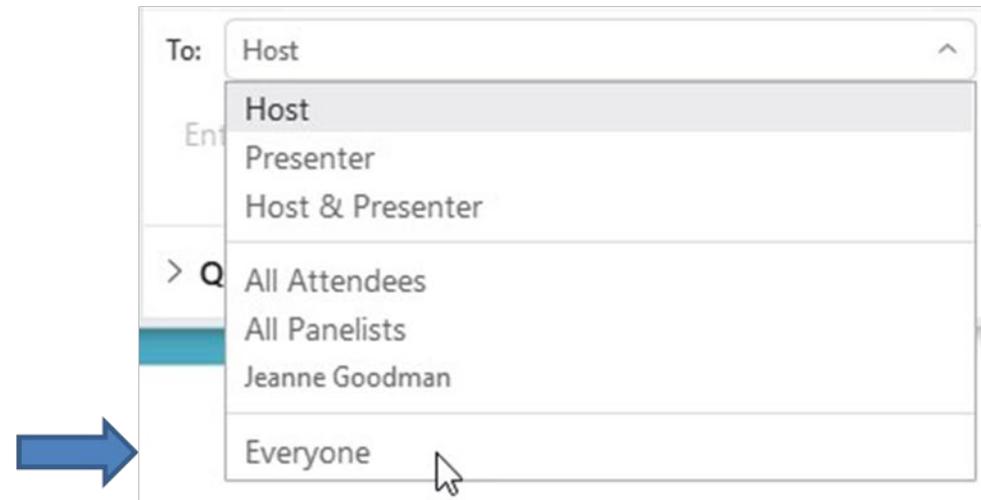
- A recording of today's session, along with the slide deck and a copy of the Chat and Q&A content will be posted to the HUD Exchange within 2-3 business days
- Event information for upcoming Office Hours, along with copies of all materials can be found here:  
<https://www.hudexchange.info/homelessness-assistance/diseases/#covid-19-webinars-and-office-hours>
- To join the webinar via the phone, please call in using:  
1-415-655-0002 Access code: 171 027 8510  
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# Chat Feature



Select the Chat icon to make a comment or ask a question.

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# Panelists and Resource Advisors

- Norm Suchar - Office of Special Needs Assistance Program (SNAPS)
- Brett Esders - SNAPS
- Janis Ikeda - CSH
- Mitch Watson - Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition
- Michael Overway - Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition
- Donald Whitehead - National Coalition for the Homeless
- Abby Miller - SNAPS
- Lisa Coffman - SNAPS
- Katie Kitchin - CSH
- Regina Cannon - C4
- Christy Hahn – Collaborative Solutions
- Korrin Bishop

# Overview

- COVID-19 poses new challenges, including greater urgency, to ending unsheltered homelessness.
- Many communities have had some successes in addressing unsheltered homelessness, but strategies should be revisited with the influx of CARES resources and new concerns due to COVID-19.
- A multi-pronged approach rooted in considerations of racial equity is the most effective way to address unsheltered homelessness and reduce public health concerns.

# Webinar Objectives

- Review a range of activities that communities can undertake as part of a larger community rehousing and crisis assistance strategy to address unsheltered homelessness.
- Share strategies for getting a full understanding of local needs and embedding considerations of equity in your rehousing strategy for people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Highlight the strategy and benefits of employing people with lived expertise in outreach and other programs.

# Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness: Overview

- 1. Work to understand community needs and embed racial equity considerations in planning your response.** Work closely with key stakeholders, including people with lived expertise, to understand the needs on the ground in your community and how best to address them.
- 2. Accelerate rehousing from unsheltered locations.** Consider changes to outreach approaches, Coordinated Entry Systems, training, and policies and procedures to ensure that people experiencing unsheltered homelessness can be engaged, assessed, and supported with a direct transition to permanent housing.
- 3. Support basic health and safety needs.** Ensure that people in encampments and other unsheltered situations have access to the resources and services required to provide for basic needs and minimize risk of disease transmission

# Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness: Overview

- 4. Provide robust outreach that is coordinated, permanent housing-focused, and trauma-informed.** Engage with all partners doing outreach work locally to ensure strategic use of resources, comprehensive coverage, and shared goals around addressing unsheltered homelessness.
- 5. Streamline pathways to emergency shelter for clients when moving directly to permanent housing is not an option.** Reduce barriers to entry for emergency shelter. Analyze data on who is getting access to shelter, NCS, temporary shelter, etc., to identify any inequities and work to address
- 6. Target prevention to reduce entries into unsheltered homelessness.** Use data and input from people experiencing homelessness, including Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, to understand where people are coming from and use this information to develop strategies to prevent entries to unsheltered homelessness.

# 5 Tips to Approaching Rehousing with Racial Equity

1. Understand Factors that Contribute to Racial Disparities
2. Co-Design your Rehousing Strategy with Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, and People with Lived Expertise
3. Continuously Evaluate Data - Expand What Creates Equitable Outcomes and Change What Does Not
4. Build and Budget Programs that Account for Structural Employment Barriers
5. Expand your Landlord Reach and Diversify Housing Options

# Understanding Local Needs and Embedding Considerations of Equity

1. Engage key partners, including people with lived expertise, Black people, Indigenous people, and other people of color, outreach teams, culturally-specific organizations, and others to get a fuller understanding of the needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
2. Engage culturally-specific organizations, faith-based groups, and other organizations that can help you identify people that may be unknown to outreach teams.

# Community Spotlight: Employing People with Lived Expertise

## Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition

- Mitch Watson – Outreach
- Michael Overway – Executive Director

# Community Spotlight: Employing People with Lived Expertise

## **Donald H. Whitehead Jr.**

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# Q & A

