



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

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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.

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 including testing and vaccination.

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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.
4. **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
5. **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.

Community Spotlight: Collier County, Florida

Rehousing, Vaccination, and Employment

Collier County Hunger & Homeless Coalition

- Mitch Watson – Outreach
- Michael Overway – Executive Director

Community Spotlight: Nashville, TN

- *Outreach coordination: Understand geographic reach as well as levels of outreach.*
- *Use Rapid ReHousing as bridge housing: motels & vouchers*
- *Reviewing our coordinated entry assessment tools*

Community Spotlight: Employing People with Lived Expertise

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Q & A

