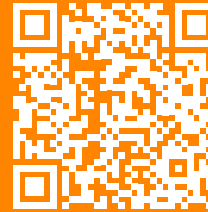


Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness

Facts, Failures, and Real Solutions

LEARN MORE



Communities Have a Choice:

Supportive Housing Makes “Cents”

No matter the community, supportive housing is a more cost-effective approach.

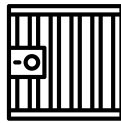


HOSPITALIZATION

\$1,200

PER PERSON

OR



INCARCERATION

\$131

PER PERSON

OR



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

\$72

PER HOUSEHOLD

Mandating treatment without housing fails to address the root causes of homelessness, ignores the overwhelming data on our housing shortage, and will once again prove to be a financial burden for states and localities.

–Deborah De Santis

President and CEO, CSH

Five Proven State Actions to Reduce Unsheltered Homelessness

In response to recent executive orders, these practical, evidence-based strategies deliver measurable results.

1

Respond urgently to encampments

Street outreach should be statewide with a focus on exits to housing. Secure new funding to move people immediately from encampments to housing with services.

2

Address access barriers

Fix barriers to shelter and treatment programs, including rules in shelters, help for uninsured and extensive waiting times for treatment.

3

Build more housing

Cut red tape, fix zoning and building rules; align services' funding sources. Make it easier to build affordable and supportive housing.

4

Reduce inflow

Prevent homelessness through eviction prevention, reentry and release planning for jails, hospitals, and foster care.

5

Ensure data transparency

Continue to publish outcome and investment data and refine interventions as needed.

 WHAT POLICYMAKERS ARE HEARING	 WHAT WE KNOW	 WHAT POLICYMAKERS CAN DO
Homelessness has increased a lot in our community.	Cost of housing is on the rise. For every \$100 rent increase, homelessness rises by 9%. Rents nationally have increased \$400/month from 2020 to 2024.	Create a proactive strategy to address unsheltered homelessness and transition people out of encampments quickly. Strategies like employing outreach workers and getting people off of the street quickly into available housing is critical while still planning for the long-term housing development needs. Cities like Houston, Dallas, Denver, and Boston have done just that.
Why don't homeless people just go to a shelter and get off the street?	High-barrier shelters and treatment-focused transitional housing programs result in high exits/ returns to homelessness with only 33% of people exiting successfully to long-term housing.	Prioritize low-barrier options and proven approaches that provide robust services with housing.
People are homeless because they have mental health issues and drug problems. They need help.	Treatment alone doesn't solve homelessness. Two thirds of those who enter treatment while homeless exit treatment still homeless. Treatment works best when it's connected to a stable place to live. On-demand access to treatment is needed but is not available in most communities.	Provide access to on-demand services while people are still living on the streets and connect short-term interventions with a long-term housing and services strategy. With overwhelming bipartisan support, state legislatures like Nevada and Michigan are committing substantial bridge funding to ensure immediate access to supportive services.
We spend too much money on homelessness.	Prioritizing an enforcement approach to homelessness costs more and does not address underlying reasons people become homeless. To jail a homeless person costs \$131 per day; to hospitalize a homeless person costs \$1,200 per day. In contrast, it costs \$72 per day for a supportive housing unit for an individual or family.	There are many more cost-effective approaches to reduce homelessness, including: targeted prevention, housing-focused shelter programs, coordinated outreach and by name lists, increasing the supply of affordable and supportive housing, and tracking and tackling bottlenecks in the system. Supportive housing is the most cost-effective approach for people with complex needs and long histories of homelessness.
Nonprofits serving homeless people aren't accountable.	Every community is required to use a data tracking system and are held accountable/data is published by HUD.	Publicize outcomes and continue to leverage data to refine your community's approach. System Performance Dashboard Tableau Public
Homeless people get free housing but aren't required to work.	This is a myth. Everyone in supportive housing pays 30% of their income in rent, and many of them transition into the workforce once their housing and disability needs have stabilized.	Ensure your community has an employment and benefits counseling strategy like supported employment to help people return to the workforce and keep healthcare insurance.