

## Effective Diversion: A Key Strategy For Ending Homelessness.

Key Takeaways: Diversion has the greatest impact on a community's response to homelessness

1. Differentiate between diversion, homeless prevention, and eviction prevention.
  - a. Diversion is assisting **people who have lost their housing** avoid entering shelter or unsheltered homelessness by helping them identify alternative places to stay
  - b. Homeless Prevention is helping **people at high-risk of homelessness and facing imminent housing loss** stay housed (in current or new housing)
  - c. Eviction Prevention is helping **people who are low income and threatened with eviction or housing loss** remain housed (in current or new housing)
2. Why is shelter diversion an effective strategy?
  - a. Diversion reduces shelter stays, reserving shelter space for those without any other options than shelter.
  - b. Diversion's creative problem-solving utilizes less resources than more expensive interventions like shelter, rapid re-housing, and permanent supportive housing, making it a very cost-effective strategy. It also reduces emergency services utilization, which are expensive resources often overutilized by people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness, by quickly identifying housing alternatives.
  - c. Diversion is client-led and therefore empowering, culturally informed, and strengths-based.
3. Increase effectiveness of diversion by coupling solutions-focused, strengths-based problem-solving with flexible financial assistance
  - a. Utilize Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) funds for diversion
  - b. Flexible financial assistance can be utilized to support creative solutions to keep people housed or create new housing options.
4. Engage in problem-solving conversations to create a housing stabilization plan
  - a. Identify barriers to stable housing
  - b. Identify natural and community resources and develop strategy to connect household to these supports
  - c. Conversations should be person-centered, strengths-based, trauma informed, culturally appropriate, housing-focused and solutions-focused.