1. Use the funds — to the maximum extent possible — to REDUCE the number of people who are currently experiencing literal homelessness.

This is the group with the most urgent need. And, reducing the number of people who need shelter will result in a more right-sized homelessness system.

2. Use the funds to help people with the highest needs, where possible.

It makes sense to help people at highest risk first. Because those with higher needs often stay homeless the longest, this will also increase the homelessness system’s capacity to help all in need.

3. Use the funds in ways that reduce racial disproportionality and disparities.

BIPOC populations disproportionately experience homelessness, and there are disparities in the homelessness system. Racial equity can be centered in the use of these resources.

4. Create solid partnerships to ensure housing and needed services.

Public Housing Authorities, Continuums of Care, HOME Participating Jurisdictions and health care entities will have to coordinate to achieve their mutual goals of stable housing and good health for people now experiencing homelessness.

5. Act with urgency! But with care....

Congress provided these funds for the emergency. And people who are experiencing homelessness need help NOW. Use proven, basic practices to help people quickly and with minimum bureaucracy.