Request For Proposals (RFP)
Strategies for Reducing Unsheltered Homelessness Research Project

Post Date: October 28, 2022
Due Date: December 20, 2022
Contact: Joy Moses, research@naeh.org

About the Grant

Updated November 21, 2022

Unsheltered homelessness has increased every year since 2015, and fifty-nine percent of the unsheltered population lives on the West Coast (California, Oregon, and Washington). Thus, there is an urgent need to reduce and end unsheltered homelessness, especially in regions where it is highly prevalent. Unevaluated promising practices exist, and HUD will soon fund new efforts.

The Alliance is seeking to fund research focused on questions such as the following:

- Are specific strategies, interventions, or program models effectively and efficiently ending unsheltered homelessness for individuals/families?

- What types of congregate and non-congregate shelter are effective in ending a household's unsheltered homelessness while serving as a useful step on the road to housing stability and the overall well-being of program participants?

- What models successfully move people directly from unsheltered homelessness to permanent housing?

The Alliance anticipates that models could take various forms, such as multi-disciplinary street outreach teams, re-envisioned shelters that are low-barrier and/or non-congregate, multiple types of subsidies/vouchers, or family reconnection efforts.

Although open to other proposals, the Alliance anticipates a mixed methods approach that includes:

- analyzing data to evaluate the model's success in moving unsheltered people into temporary or permanent housing;

- analyzing data to assess identity-based disparities (for example, those rooted in race, gender, family status, or age); and
- qualitative efforts (surveys or interviews) focused on consumer satisfaction with the interventions.

Given the health and well-being factors associated with living unsheltered, the Alliance would like to avoid experimental designs—we prefer quasi-experimental ones (comparing the outcomes of people participating in an intervention to those who don't).

We invite research teams to identify study-worthy programs and strategies. The Alliance -will also connect researchers to relevant models to be funded through a HUD special funding opportunity (also known as the "Unsheltered and Rural Homelessness NOFO") that will distribute resources in 2023. Models will likely be in states with significant unsheltered populations. California is uniquely of concern (especially major cities like Los Angeles), but other potential states include Florida, Oregon, Nevada, Texas, and Washington.

Researchers will be expected to work with the Alliance to publish their findings and share them with the Alliance's audience (policymakers, practitioners, media, and others; details to be negotiated).

About the National Alliance to End Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is a nonpartisan, non-profit organization whose sole purpose is to end homelessness in the United States. We use research and data to find solutions to homelessness; we work with federal and local partners to create a solid base of policy and resources that support those solutions; and then we help communities implement them.

Our strength is that we are an outcome-driven organization. Starting with our name and continuing with how we choose the work we do, allocate staff time, and use our resources, we focus on one thing: ending homelessness.

This mission is what drives us. It is how we measure our impact.

Additional Details

Eligibility
Applicants must be researchers who have pursued post-baccalaureate studies (e.g., PH.D. earners and candidates). They should be based in the United States at the time of application. Also required is an association with a research institution (e.g., a college, university, think tank, or consulting firm). Junior faculty and researchers of color are encouraged to apply.

Funding

The grant will provide funding up to $200,000 (depending on project scale, including the number of models being studied).

Contract Period

Research is available for up to 18 months from the award date, beginning as early as March 2023.

Schedule

RFP Issued	October 28, 2022
Application Deadline	December 20, 2022
RFP Interviews	Week of January 23, 2023
Notification of Award	Week of February 6, 2023
Contract Begins	February/March 2023

Application Requirements

Proposals should be submitted electronically to research@naeh.org by December 20, 2022.

Applicants should provide the following materials as one PDF file:

1) *Cover Page*
   Each application must include a cover page with the title of the proposed research; the applicant's name(s) and institutional affiliations (if there are multiple researchers, identify the project lead); and contact information (mailing address, email address, and phone number).

2) *Project Summary* (250 words max)
   The summary should be a non-technical explanation of the project objective, methods, expected results, and potential implications.

3) *Research Design* (3 single-spaced pages max)
   The application should include a description of past research on the focus area, the proposed research questions (including an explanation of their significance), the methodology and approach for addressing those questions, and critical data sources.

4) *Expected Results and Policy Impacts* (1 single-spaced page max)
   A list of expected research results/findings should be included in the application. Additionally, the project's potential real-world implications should be explained.

5) *Budget Justification.*
   Applicants must include a detailed budget that accounts for the efforts and time of key personnel, the costs of data collection and other aspects of research, and administrative

costs.

6) *Timeline.*

A proposed project timeline, including primary project goals and deliverables, should be a part of the application.

7) *Curriculum Vitae of Key Team Members.*
The Curriculum Vitae of key researchers and staff should be in the appendices. The CVs must include the highest educational degree obtained, current and past employment, and a list of previously published research.

Selection Process

Proposals will be evaluated by a panel consisting of external research partners, NAEH staff, practitioners, and people with lived experience of homelessness. Scoring will be on a 100-point scale and encompass multiple factors, including:

- *Methodology* (40 points)
  Proposals will be evaluated based on the appropriateness and feasibility of the proposed research design, the applicant's grasp of past research, and the extent to which the proposed methods expand upon prior studies.

- Personnel (30 points)
  Reviewers will consider the skills, professional experience, personal lived experience and expertise, and published work of key research team members. Plans to incorporate (and compensate) the voices of practitioners and people with lived experience on the research team will be highly valued. Also considered will be the amount of time team members have available for the project (as evidenced in the budget).

- Budget (20 points)
  Proposals will be assessed based on the reasonableness of the budget. Projects should request funds necessary to satisfactorily complete the described work while being mindful that the Alliance is a non-profit organization that strives to responsibly manage resources dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness.

- Timeline (10 points)
  The reasonableness and feasibility of the timeline will be evaluated. It should demonstrate that key team members are appropriately prioritizing the project.