



GIMME (BETTER)  
SHELTER:  
MODELS AND MISSTEPS

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# PRINCIPLE #1

*Treat people like human beings who know their needs and how best to meet them.*

- Philosophically and practically fundamental
- Lower barrier models aren't "harder"
- It's harder to work against the grain of human dignity and self-determination

# PRINCIPLE # 2

## *Center Relationships. Not Rules*

- Successfully practicing harm reduction, TIC, MI, etc. is predicated upon **trusting relationships**
  - I.e. coercion is transactional
- The difference between Safety and Control
  - Asking the question whether our actions, policies, and community guidelines are oriented toward **cultivating safety or enforcing control**

## PRINCIPLE # 2 CONT.

### *Center Relationships. Not Rules*

- Relational models require adequate resourcing from funders and system administrators
- Under resourcing is a systemic failure and more often than not the primary driver of control/transaction-oriented practices
  - E.g. Constant resourcing stressors and strains drive collapsing into control-oriented behaviors



# SETTING CULTURE VS. DOING TRAINING

- Transitioning to housing-focused, low-barrier shelter models is about culture change, which takes time and more than just training and enforcement
- True uptake of new models and practices (HR, TIC, MI, etc.) is buy-in based on experiencing the mutual benefits in the actual work
- Accountability in practicing new models is a two-way street – system administrators/funders to providers, but also vice versa...



# MISSTEPS AND MISCONCEPTIONS

- The Builders Fallacy
  - *If we build it, they will come!*
- “Launchpad” not “Land of Plenty”
- Non-congregate and congregate contexts can be successful and low-barrier
- It doesn’t always have to cost more
  - E.g. save on security, put it toward flex funds
- Community priorities should drive budget priorities and adjusted investments in turn affect community culture and buy-in

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Homelessness Solutions  
in Alameda County



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