

# Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System

Targeted Homelessness  
Prevention: Stemming the  
Inflow

Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>



National Alliance to  
**END HOMELESSNESS**



Center For  
**CAPACITY BUILDING**  
National Alliance To End Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness is the leading national voice on the issue of homelessness. The Alliance analyzes policy and develops pragmatic, effective policy solutions. The Alliance works collaboratively with the public, private, and nonprofit sectors to build state and local capacity, leading to stronger programs and policies that help communities achieve their goal of ending homelessness. The Alliance provides data and research to policymakers and elected officials in order to inform policy debates and educate the public and opinion leaders nationwide.

Working with a strong network of innovators, the National Alliance to End Homelessness identifies and evaluates hundreds of policy and program strategies and their impact on homelessness. The Alliance's Center for Capacity Building helps communities replicate and customize the best of those strategies. The Center focuses on strategies that are cost effective, data driven, and can be implemented at a scale that can significantly reduce homelessness.

# National Alliance to End Homelessness Statements for Participation

The Alliance works to ensure that diverse voices are included as facilitators, attendees, and guests in our office hours and forums. All voices are welcome.

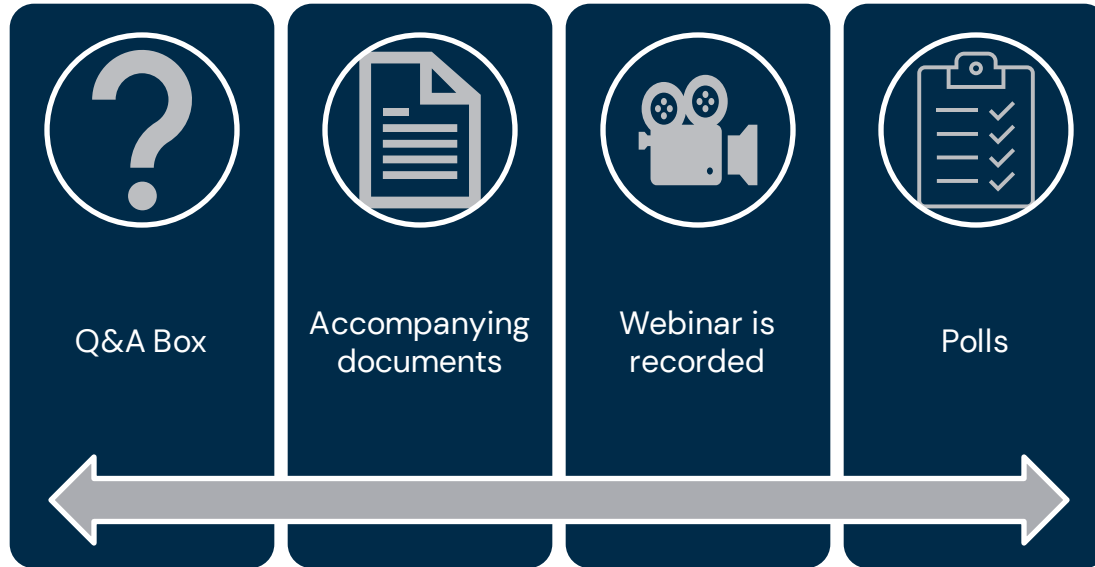
The organization has a zero-tolerance policy for any form of discrimination or abusive behavior. The Alliance is committed to ensuring that all its events are safe and respectful for all participants.

Participants acknowledge that any form of discrimination, violence, or abusive behavior may result in removal from an office hour or forum depending on the situation.

If any discrimination is witnessed or experienced during the webinar, or if you feel unsafe, please notify any member of the Alliance staff.

The National Alliance to End Homelessness strives to create a diverse, inclusive, accepting, and safe space for everyone.

# Housekeeping



# Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System

## Roundtable Series – Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System

December 22, 2023 | Videos

This series is designed for **advocates** (including people with lived expertise), **system leaders, funders, program managers, and direct service providers.**

A pandemic, natural disasters, lack of funding, low wages that fuel staff turnover, and the disappearance of truly affordable housing continue to impact homeless response systems. In many communities, these realities have led to increased homelessness, especially unsheltered homelessness. Now homeless response systems must reexamine and restrengthen its efforts by coordinating and ensuring fidelity to best practices in the interventions offered.

For any homelessness system – no matter if newly formed, restructuring, or well-established – this onset of unprecedented challenges may have led to decreased use of best practices across a

### Schedule and Registration

Webinar Title	Date and Time	Status
<a href="#">Effective Street Outreach: From Unsheltered to Housed</a>	January 18, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<a href="#">&gt;&gt; Recording</a> <a href="#">&gt;&gt; Handout</a> <a href="#">&gt;&gt; Slides</a>
<a href="#">Targeted Homelessness Prevention: Stemming the Inflow</a>	February 15, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<b>REGISTER</b>
<a href="#">Housing Problem-Solving: From Diversion to Rapid Exit and Beyond</a>	March 21, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<b>REGISTER</b>
<b>Coordinated Entry:</b> Best Practices in Centering Equity and Ensuring Effectiveness	April 18, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<i>Save the Date</i>
<b>Emergency Shelter:</b> Reimagining a Housing Focused Place People Want to Use	May 16, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<i>Save the Date</i>
<b>Rapid Re-Housing:</b> A Proven Approach to Ending Homelessness	June 20, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	<i>Save the Date</i>

# WHY STRONGER TOGETHER?

Creating An Effective Homeless Response System



# GOAL OF AN EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT, AND EQUITABLE HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM

**DIVERT** people from  
imminent homelessness  
whenever possible

**HOUSE** people as quickly  
as possible



# HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM: ENDGAME

HOMELESSNESS IS  
RARE,  
BRIEF,  
AND  
ONE-TIME



People in a housing crisis have access to immediate help, including a safe place to go



People are not unsheltered



People do not spend long periods of time homeless



People exit homelessness quickly and do not quickly cycle back into homelessness



# HOMELESS RESPONSE SYSTEM: ENDGAME

## ESTABLISH SYSTEM PERFORMANCE MEASURES



Reduce in-flow into homelessness



Increase exits to permanent housing



Decrease average length of homelessness



Decrease returns to homelessness

# SYSTEM INTERVENTIONS

Street Outreach

Targeted Homelessness Prevention

Diversion

Coordinated Entry

Emergency Shelter

Rapid Re-Housing

Transitional Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

# INCREASE SYSTEM FLOW

An efficient and coordinated process that moves people from homelessness to housing as quickly as possible



# Consider How Current Resources Are Being Utilized and Working Together...

If you make investments without considering how it impacts the system and how it is coordinated...



If the interventions working together...



# TARGETED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION

Stemming the Inflow



# Role of Targeted Prevention

## What is it?

- Targeted assistance for persons **most likely to become homeless** when losing housing **based on local community data** indicating vulnerability to entering the homeless system

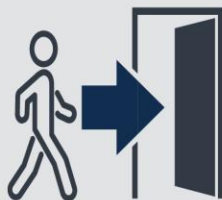
## What role does it play in improving system outcomes?

- **Decreases first time homelessness** by helping people who are **extremely vulnerable** to homelessness stay housed and outside of the homeless service system.

# Targeted Prevention and Diversion = Decreased Inflow into the Homeless System

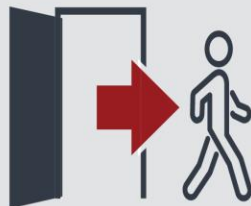
## Closing the Door to Homelessness\*

Preventing homelessness before it starts is critical to ending it.



**908,530**

Average who entered homelessness each year between 2017 and 2020



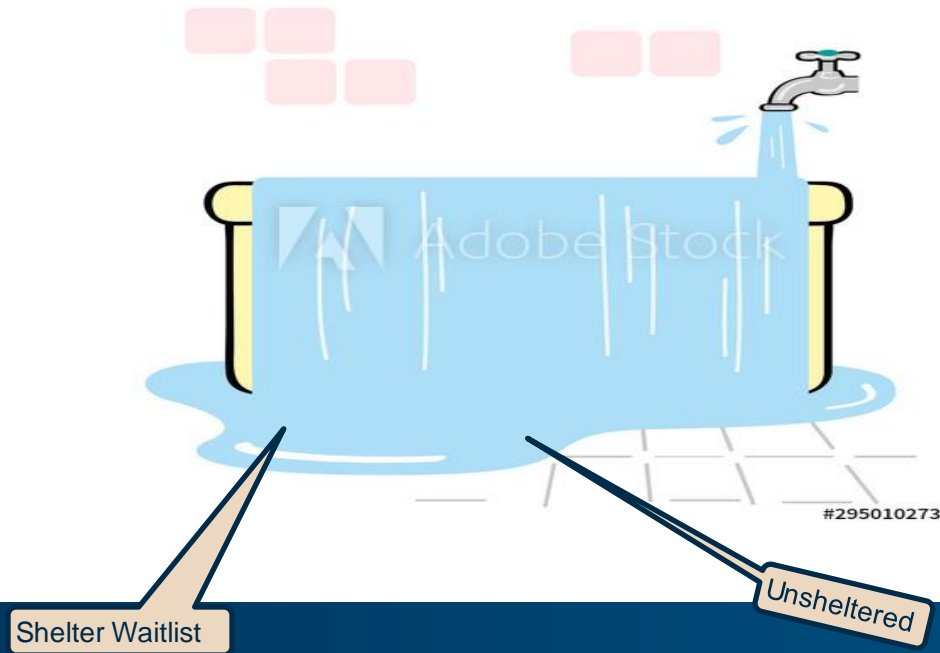
**900,895**

Average who exited homelessness each year between 2017 and 2020

*Prevention Pillar:*  
Upstream Prevention &  
Eviction Prevention

*Homelessness Response Pillar:*  
Targeted Prevention &  
Diversion

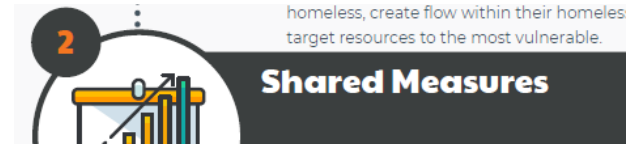
# Targeted Homelessness Prevention Reduces Inflow





# Desired Impact of Targeted Prevention

- Decrease number of first time homeless
- Decrease the number of people living unsheltered
- Decrease number of people entering shelter
- Decrease number of people on shelter waiting list



# TARGETED PREVENTION IN PRACTICE

Our Panel



# Key Concepts

- ✓ **Efficient:** well targeted assistance that *reaches the right people* - those very likely to become homeless unless (“but for”) timely, individualized help

**“Poor targeting leads to an inefficient strategy and inefficient strategies are rarely effective.”**

Martha Burt, et al (2005): Strategies for Preventing Homelessness. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research
- ✓ **Effective:** assistance that *reduces or eliminates a person's housing crisis*, including stopping someone from becoming homeless
- ✓ **Equitable & Evidence-Based:** rooted in evidence-based, data-informed research and prioritization that centers racial and other equity considerations using data-driven indicators



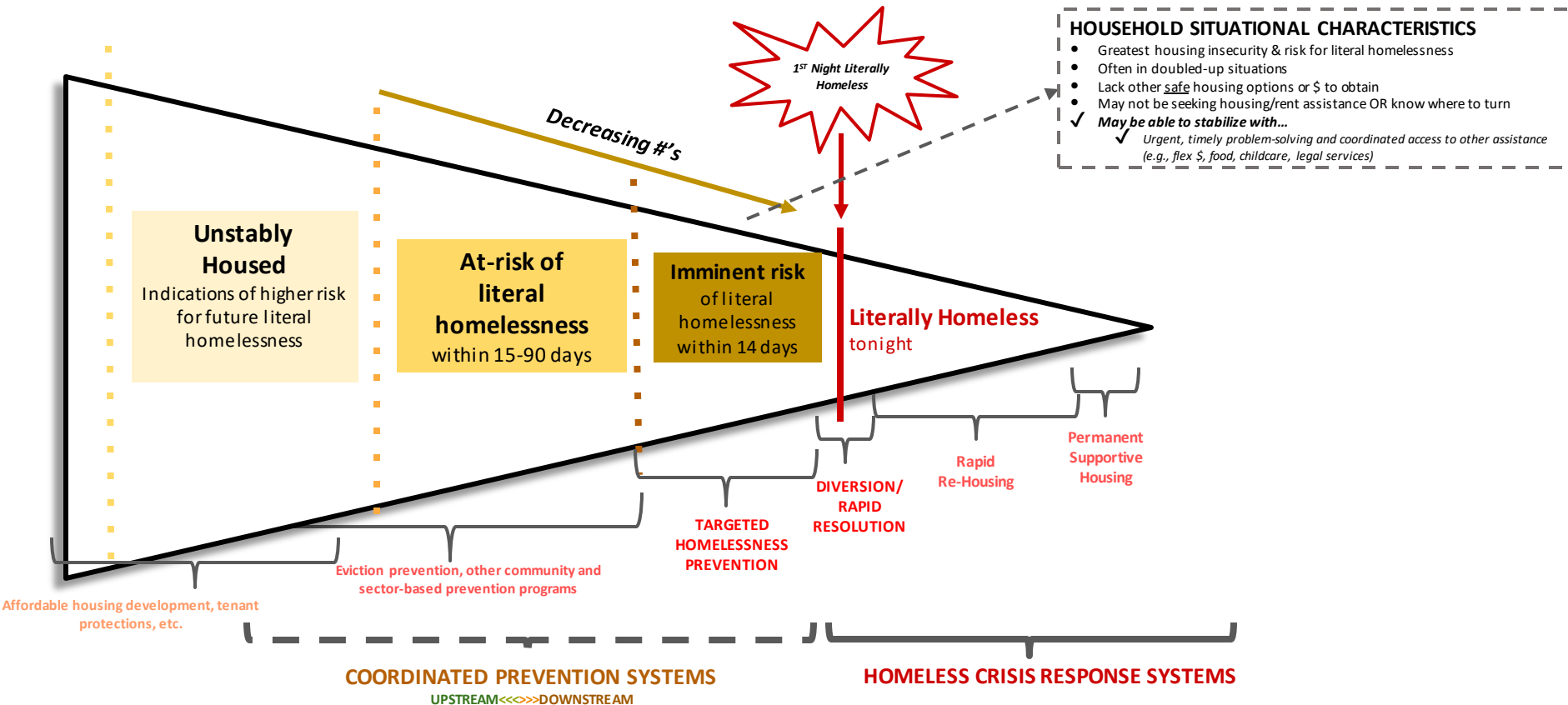
# Key Concepts

**Targeted Homelessness Prevention and Diversion** are forms of secondary homelessness prevention that targets assistance to households at greatest risk for literal homelessness within a defined period of time (e.g., 14 days or less) and who lack other safe housing options and resources to avoid literal homelessness “but for” timely and individualized prevention assistance. Relies on:

- Understanding ***eviction prevention does not = homelessness prevention***
- ***Standardized risk/vulnerability screening*** and ***coordinated access*** across a wide variety of community and institutional settings to quickly and effectively screen & assist people most at-risk for literal homelessness
- Consistent with “***targeted universalism***” - approaches vary in intensity, duration, type to assure all achieve same goal
- Coordination of existing targeted HP and diversion efforts
  - Federal **Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)** and **Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) Programs** funded HP is targeted based on federal eligibility requirements. SSVF grantees conduct additional screening to prioritize limited financial assistance (***SSVF HP Screener***)

# Putting it all together:

## Community Homelessness Prevention & Response



- 3-year demonstration (2020-2023)
- Community Shelter Board (CoC lead) operated as part of broader network
- 28 city-funded, trained/certified *Housing Resource Specialists*
- Standardized risk typology and screening
- Zip code-based analysis of to guide partnering and geographic targeting
  - 4 Priority Zones, sub-population and general population coverage leads
- Housing problem-solving training certification, train-the-trainer approach
- HP system manager, HMIS, ongoing training and support

Zip Code	ZIP Code Name	Population	C1 Neighborhoods	System Entry Rank	Weighted Rank	Eviction Filings Rank	Weg Rank	SNAP/TANF RISK RATIO	Weighted Rank	OVERALL WEIGHTED SCORE	HPN Number/Primary Location
43232	Cody/Blackick	4201	Southwest	4	17	1	20	3	15	50	
43207	Cody/Clear/Craney	4944	Southside	3	18	6	15	4	12	45	IMPACT
43229	Cody/Washington	4947	Marion/Northeast	14	7	2	39	1	15	41	
43224	Columbus	3809	Marion/Northeast	9	12	5	35	5	11	39	
43228	Columbus	5037	Hilltop	13	8	4	17	2	14	39	
43213	Whitehall	3044		12	9	3	36	7	9	36	
43223	Columbus	2566	Franklin/iron	1	20	12	9	10	6	35	Gladding HIF
43211	Columbus	2500	Garden	2	19	11	30	11	5	34	S. Stephens
43219	Columbus	2323	Northeast	10	11	13	8	8	8	27	
43068	Reynoldsburg	5836		16	5	8	33	9	7	25	
43227	Cody/Whitehall	2540	Southwest	11	10	10	11	13	3	24	
43204	Columbus	4204	Hilltop	7	14	7	34	6	10	24	
43215	Columbus	1290		5	16					18	ICC
43206	Columbus	2884	Near South/Southside	8	13	18	3			15	
43004	Westerville	2272		6	15					15	
43205	Columbus	1272	Near South	7	14					14	COMPAS
43110	Canal Winchester	3347		19	2	9	30			14	CMVA
43123	Granite City	5824		18	3	17	4	12	4	11	
43230	Columbus	5161		20	1	14	7	15	1	9	
43026	Hilliard	5417				16	5	14	2	7	

### Housing Resource Specialist Screening Tool

**Client Information**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email and/or Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Housing Insecurity Risk Screening**

1. In what city/county are you currently staying with the client and are you committed to stay there?  
 Yes (continue to question 2)  
 No (go to question 5)

2. Do you have access to a vehicle, either a personal vehicle, a car loan, or a car lease?  
 Yes (continue to question 3)  
 No (go to question 5)

3. Do you have another safe housing option where you could stay if needed? This could be family or friend's home or housing arranged with money to help from a family member or friend.  
 Yes (continue to question 4)  
 No (go to question 5)

4. When will you no longer have any safe place to stay - even in someone else's home or the housing system and resources available to you?  
 Never (continue to question 5)  
 In 1-3 months (continue to question 5)  
 In 3-6 months (continue to question 5)  
 In 6-12 months (continue to question 5)  
 In 12+ months (continue to question 5)  
 Do not know (continue to question 5)

5. If you work in two months (Risk Level 2), are any of the following true?  
 I am experiencing financial difficulties  
 I am experiencing health difficulties  
 I am experiencing legal difficulties  
 I am experiencing substance use difficulties  
 I am experiencing other difficulties  
 Do not know (continue to question 5)

Summary of Current Immediate Needs:  
 Financial  
 Health  
 Legal  
 Substance Use  
 Other

Person completing this tool: \_\_\_\_\_

### Housing Resource Specialist Screening Tool

**Housing Insecurity Risk Levels**

RISK LEVEL	HOUSING SITUATION	OTHER ACTION OPTIONS & RESOURCES
4 Critical Housing Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>
3 Housing Risk (At-Risk/High Risk)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>
2 At-Risk of Housing Insecurity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>
1 Housing Insecure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>
0 Housing Secure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> <li>Client is in a housing system or treatment facility for a period of 30 days or more.</li> </ul>

**Unsafe Housing:** Housing is considered unsafe when someone is fleeing or attempting to flee their housing or the place they are staying because of domestic violence, sexual violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or threatening conditions related to violence that has taken place in the home or has made them afraid to return to the home, including, but not limited to: trading sex for housing, trafficking, physical abuse, and violence because of the person's sexual orientation or gender identity.

# UPSTREAM PREVENTION

Marcy Thompson



# Upstream Prevention

- Efforts aimed at mitigating the structural factors that result in homelessness and housing instability
  - Strategies to increase income and assets of low-income households
  - Increasing housing opportunities for low-income households and increasing the availability and accessibility of affordable housing.
  - Increase the availability and accessibility of healthcare to address physical, behavioral health, and substance use disorder needs
- Intended to resolve broader, systemic challenges that will result in fewer households experiencing a housing crisis
- Requires other systems beyond the homelessness response system to be accountable to strengthening the social safety net



# Thank You

- **Panelists:**

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- Please reach out to [jjohnson@naeh.org](mailto:jjohnson@naeh.org) with any questions.
- See the [Roundtable Series – Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System](#)