

Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System

Emergency Shelter: Reimagining a Housing Focused Place People Want to Use

Thursday, May 16





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 welcomed and included as facilitators, attendees, and guests in all forums.

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 all forums 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
Effective Street Outreach: From Unsheltered to Housed	January 18, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	>> View the Recording and Download Resources
Targeted Homelessness Prevention: Stemming the Inflow	February 15, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	>> View the Recording and Download Resources
Housing Problem-Solving: From Diversion to Rapid Exit and Beyond	March 21, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	>> View the Recording and Download Resources
Coordinated Entry: Best Practices in Centering Equity and Ensuring Effectiveness	April 18, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	>> View the Recording and Download Resources
Emergency Shelter: Reimagining a Housing Focused Place People Want to Use	May 16, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	REGISTER
Rapid Re-Housing: A Proven Approach to Ending Homelessness	June 20, 2024 3:00 – 4:30 P.M. ET	REGISTER
Joint Transitional Housing/Rapid Re-Housing (TH-RRH): Am I Doing this right?	August 15, 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...



EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY SHELTER

Reimagining a Housing Focused Place People Want to
Use



THE FIVE KEYS TO EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY SHELTER



HOUSING FIRST APPROACH

Align shelter eligibility criteria, policies, and practices with a Housing First approach so that anyone experiencing homelessness can access shelter without prerequisites, make services voluntary, and assist people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.



SAFE & APPROPRIATE DIVERSION

Provide diversion services to find safe and appropriate housing alternatives to entering shelter through problem-solving conversations, identifying community supports, and offering lighter touch solutions.



IMMEDIATE & LOW-BARRIER ACCESS

Ensure immediate and easy access to shelter by lowering barriers to entry and staying open 24/7. Eliminate sobriety and income requirements and other policies that make it difficult to enter shelter, stay in shelter, or access housing and income opportunities.



HOUSING-FOCUSED, RAPID EXIT SERVICES

Focus services in shelter on assisting people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.



DATA TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE

Measure data on percentage of exits to housing, average length of stay in shelter, and returns to homelessness to evaluate the effectiveness of shelter and improve outcomes.

The Role of Shelter in the Crisis Response System...Ideally

Integrated with coordinated intake system (accepts referrals, provides real-time data)

Diverts people who can safely maintain their current housing

Prioritizes shelter beds/rooms for those who need it most

Provides immediate and low-barrier access through coordinated entry to shelter and crisis services without barriers to entry, as stable housing and supports are being secured

Quickly connects people who experience homelessness to housing assistance and/or services tailored to the unique strengths and needs of households

Shelter Practice

Philosophy Shift

- Shelter is life saving
- It should be easy to access
- It should be easiest for the most vulnerable



Practice Shift

- Few to no prerequisites to shelter
- No sobriety requirement
- Prioritize households with the most needs
- 24/7 access
- Rules should only pertain to safety
- All work is focuses on moving guest to housing quickly

Thank You

Speakers:

- Nichele Carver nichele.carver@USICH.gov (Moderator)
- Jonathan Russell Jonathan.russel@acgov.org
- Michele Conderino mconderino@opendoorsct.org
- Jon DeCarmine jdecarmine@gracemarketplace.org
- Marybeth Adkins director@family-crisis.org

Please reach out to jjohnson@naeh.org with any series questions.

See the [Roundtable Series – Stronger Together: A Roadmap to An Effective Homeless System](#)