

**The National Alliance to End
Homelessness Presents:
Interim Strategies For
Responding To Unsheltered
Homelessness**

Wednesday, February 12

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



Acknowledging Our Current Context

Please view the chat for instructions on how to join our email and advocacy lists to stay updated and advocate for the resources needed to end homelessness in your community.

WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THIS GUIDANCE?

Promoting Effectives, Safety, Health, and Dignity in the Homeless Response System



The Context of Unsheltered Homelessness

Permanent housing—paired with individualized services—remains the only real solution to ending homelessness. But during a long-standing affordable housing and accessible services crisis, the Alliance recognizes that communities may need to consider other temporary strategies and approaches to address the immediate needs of unsheltered homelessness while working towards those long-term solutions.



Unsheltered homelessness continues to rise in many communities.



Communities lack adequate housing and sheltering options.



Each year, communities can only allocate scarce resources.



Public pressure can lead to cycles of encampment evictions and displacement.

Guidance Topline Messages

Interim strategies should be grounded in evidence-based practices, such as low-barrier and housing-focused approaches.

No interim strategy should be coercive.

Investing in any of these interim strategies should only happen in conjunction with continued efforts to expand permanent solutions.

Permanent housing strategies remain both an immediate and the sole long-term solution to homelessness.

Examples of Interim Strategies

*While the Alliance **does not endorse** any specific interim strategy, we hope to provide guidelines around alternative options that communities are actively considering and pursuing in the short-term. These strategies should not involve harmful encampment sweeps or other punitive measures, and the community should continue to pursue and invest in evidence-based solutions that aim to uphold the dignity of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.*



Safe Parking Sites



Tiny Homes



Non-Congregate Shelter



Self-Governed Supported Encampments

Quick Poll

What is your community's current investment in interim strategies?

- Haven't discussed any strategies*
- Are in the planning stages to invest in these strategies*
- Have moderate investments in these strategies*
- Have significant investments in these strategies*

Fundamental System Principles

Integrate Housing Problem Solving

Directly House People from the Streets

Remove Barriers from Existing Shelters

Treat Interim Strategies as Temporary

Engage People with Lived Experience

Integrate Efforts into the CoC

Create Plans to Sunset Strategies



**COMMON
BARRIERS
THAT
SHELTERS
SHOULD
REMOVE**

Restrictive household configuration requirements

Unreasonable restrictions on personal time and space.

Rules that prohibit pets

Charging fees to access resources

Identification and documentation requirements

Inconvenient or inaccessible emergency shelter locations

Unclean, unsafe, or overcrowded conditions within shelter

Lack of personal space and/or access to sufficient and secure storage for personal belongings

Limited access to emergency shelter during certain times of day (i.e., curfews)

Strict adherence to sobriety and required participation in sobriety activities

Unflexible “good behavior” and/or cooperation with emergency shelter rules

Restrictive income or criminal background screenings

Universal Design Principles: Space & Safety

Maintain Accessibility (Physical, Language, etc.)

Ensure Safety & Security

Provide Sufficient Space & Storage

Integrate Pet-Friendly Practices

Accommodate All Types of Households

Universal Design Principles: Health + Wellness

Ensure Adequate Sanitation

Provide Accessible Bathroom Facilities

Ensure Access to Clean Food & Water

Provide Proper Storage for Medication

Train Staff to Prevent Overdoses

Prepare for Extreme Weather

Considerations for Program Design Elements

Provide Immediate and Low-Barrier Access

Integrate Housing-Focused Strategies

Ensure Culturally Appropriate Programming and Policy

Invest in Adequate Staffing and Case Management

Considerations for Program Design Elements

Consider the Needs of People With Substance Use Disorder

Identify Key Data Elements to Measure Performance

Integrate Strategies for Other Sub Populations

Ensure Sites are in Geographically Accessible and Strategic Areas

Conclusion

These strategies are not a substitute for moving unsheltered persons directly into permanent housing and should only be considered as a way to create healthier and safer spaces for people to reside temporarily until their permanent housing is secured.

Quick Poll

What should subsequent guidance address?

- *Additional details on recommended policies and protocols*
- *Emerging practices for improving effectiveness*
- *Financing mechanisms for these strategies*
- *More guidance on systems-level planning*
- *Other*

We Want to Hear From You!

Let Us Know in the Chat

- What are emerging effective community practices?
- Where are there policy/practice/research gaps?

Connect with Us

- Email avandenberg@naeh.org if you have any sample protocols, guidance, or other documents & examples of programs and strategies you find effective in your community.