Housing Focused Street Outreach: Strategic Collaborations and Partnerships

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

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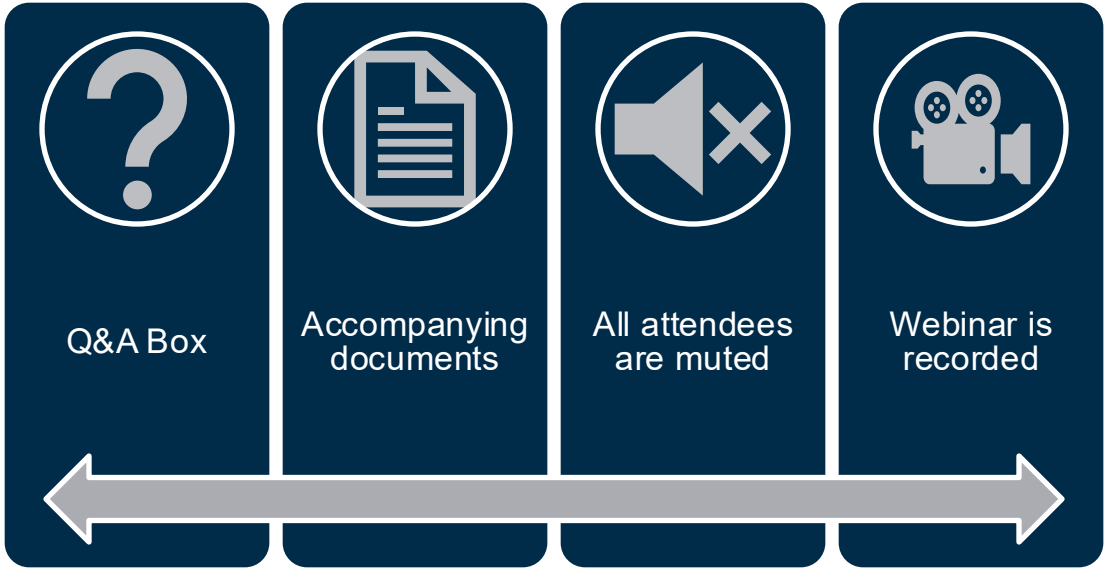


What We Do

Policy and Programs

- Carries out the vital work of educating policymakers and the field about key strategies and policies for ending and preventing homelessness.
- Keeps federal policymakers and legislators informed of the needs of people experiencing homelessness and the programs serving them.
- Leads advocacy efforts on a grassroots level.

Capacity Building

- Supports efforts to end homelessness by offering training and technical assistance tailored to communities' unique needs.
- Helps design and implement crisis systems, improve systems' performance, and utilize data to end homelessness, particularly with an equity lens.
- Provides online courses, trainings, and webinars to inform the field of best practices to end homelessness.

Homeless Research Institute

- Analyzes data to identify homelessness trends on national, local, and Continuum of Care levels.
- Publishes research that ensures policymakers, practitioners, the media, and the public have the best information about trends and emerging solutions to the problem.
- Uses an equity lens to identify disparities in homelessness data.

Lived Experience Innovation + Strategic Communications

Why a Housing Focused Street Outreach Framework?

Need for Universal Guidance

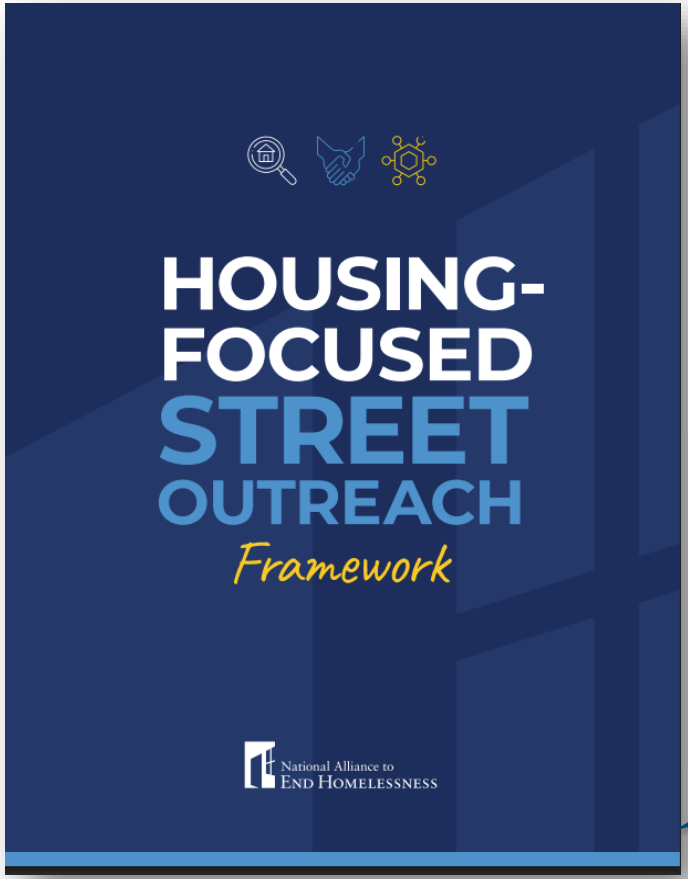
Current Reality Must Change

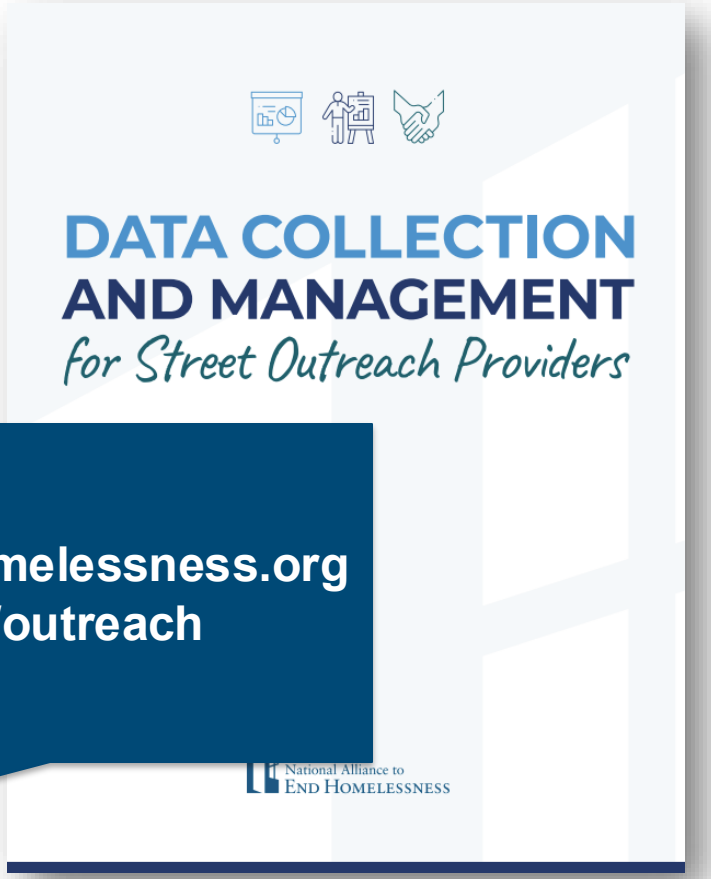
Addressing Adverse Effects

Scarce Shelter & Housing Resources

Outreach Serves the Most Vulnerable

Coordinated Approach Amplifies Impact





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What is Housing Focused Street Outreach

Housing-Focused Street Outreach (HFSO) is an engagement strategy that prioritizes connecting people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to lifesaving, person-centered, culturally responsive services and resources while actively working towards securing stable and permanent housing solutions. This approach is characterized by five distinct core elements:

HOUSING-FOCUSED STREET OUTREACH *Framework*

Helping **street outreach providers** ensure that their work is grounded in a **housing-focused approach**.

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Why?

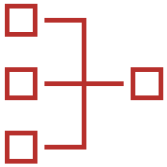
Limited resources and funding

Duplication of services leads to waste of resources and gaps in care

Multiple service provider touch points leads to service fatigue for people living unsheltered

Lack of holistic and culturally response resource and connection for folx experiencing unsheltered homeless

Who?



Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry Systems

Outreach providers

Key Community Partners

Continuum of Care and Coordinated Entry Systems

01

Integrating Street Outreach in

- governance structures
- committees/work groups
- case conferencing/ By Name Lists
- data and performance management

02

Housing & System Navigation

- **Clear understanding and relationship with:**
  - crisis and permanent housing programs
  - housing navigators and landlord engagement
  - housing problem solving tools and resources

03

HMIS Training and Access

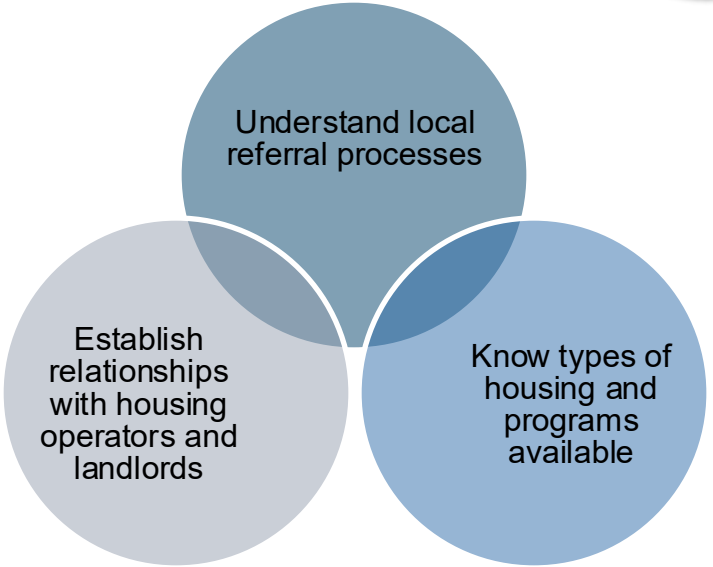
- have initial and ongoing training to support real time access to HMIS
- conduct relevant assessments, input case notes, proactively track referral statuses, and view participant information to enhance service collaboration

Crisis and Permanent Housing

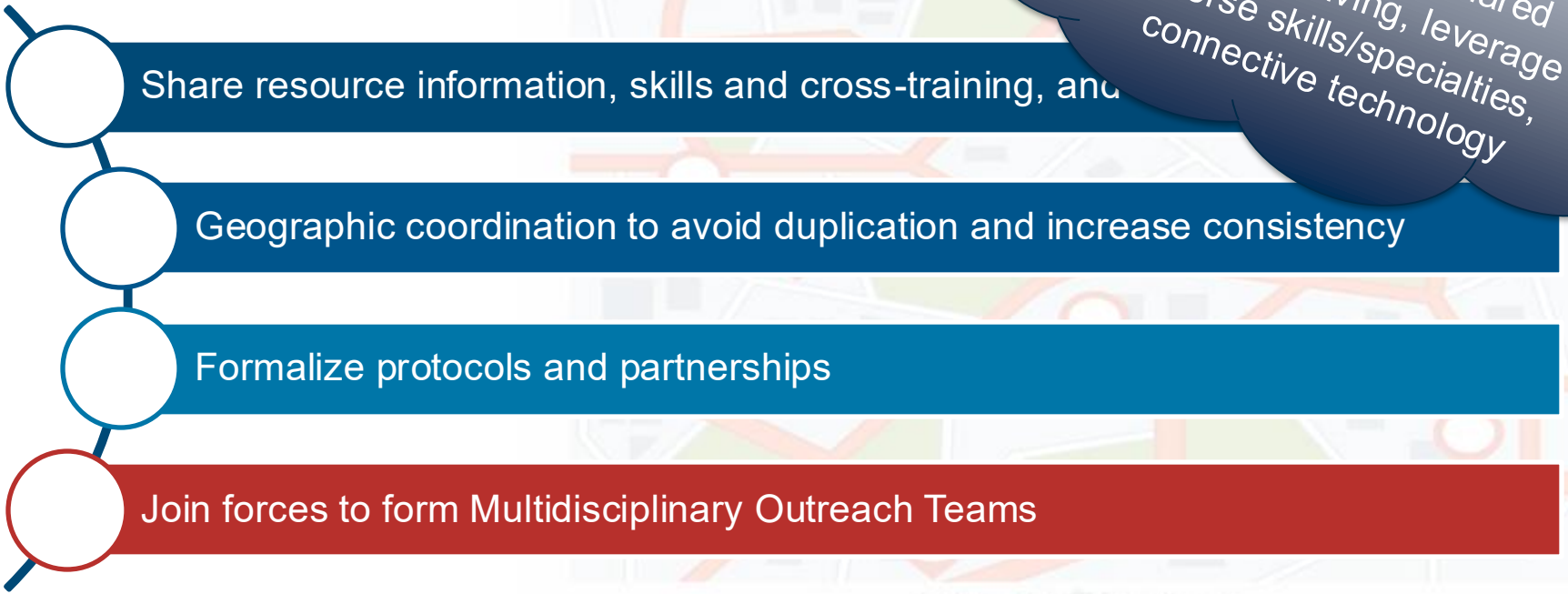
Never attempt to force or coerce program or service participation

Crisis Housing

Permanent Housing



Outreach Coordination



Case conferencing, strong relationships, mutual understanding, shared problem solving, leverage diverse skills/specialties, connective technology

The How

Continual And Strategic Communication

Resource Sharing

Data Sharing And Integration

Engagement Coordination

Key Community Partners

- Community-Based Health Providers
- Municipal Departments
- First Responders
- Law Enforcement
- Business Community
- Culturally Specific Organizations
- Faith Communities and Organizations

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Warm Handoffs:

Familiarity eases comfort and builds trust.

When participants know what to expect, it's easier for them to trust a new provider

Clarity about boundaries and expectations can establish and restore a sense of empowerment.

Participants may worry about providers sharing their information

Relationships are key!

A warm handoff is more effective when street outreach staff have a personal connection with the provider

THANK YOU!

Acknowledgments

Thank You

The work is hard!

Reach out:

- Colleen - Colleen@lesardevelopment.com
- Jenna - jgurren@welcomehouseky.org
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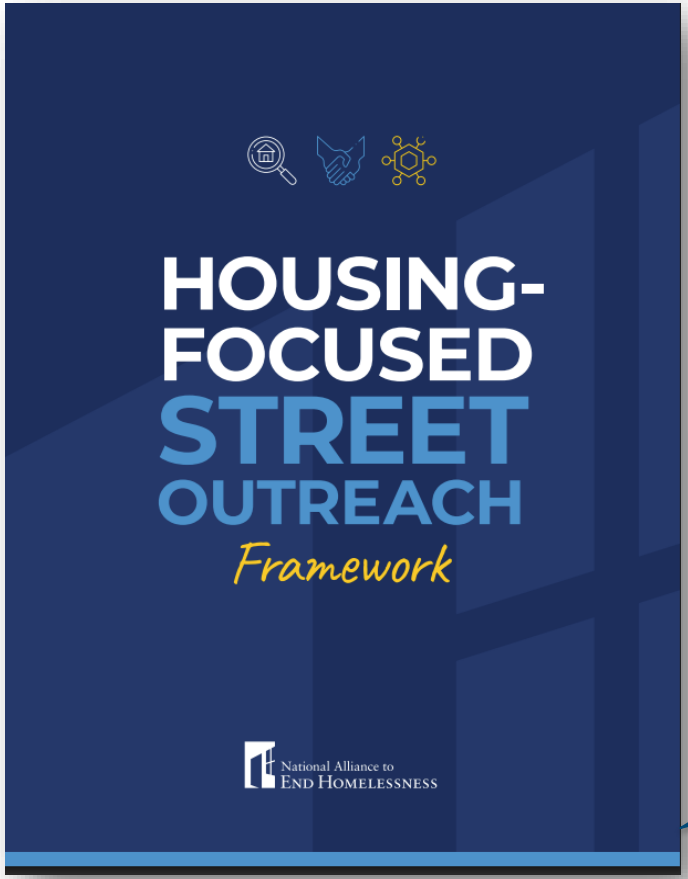

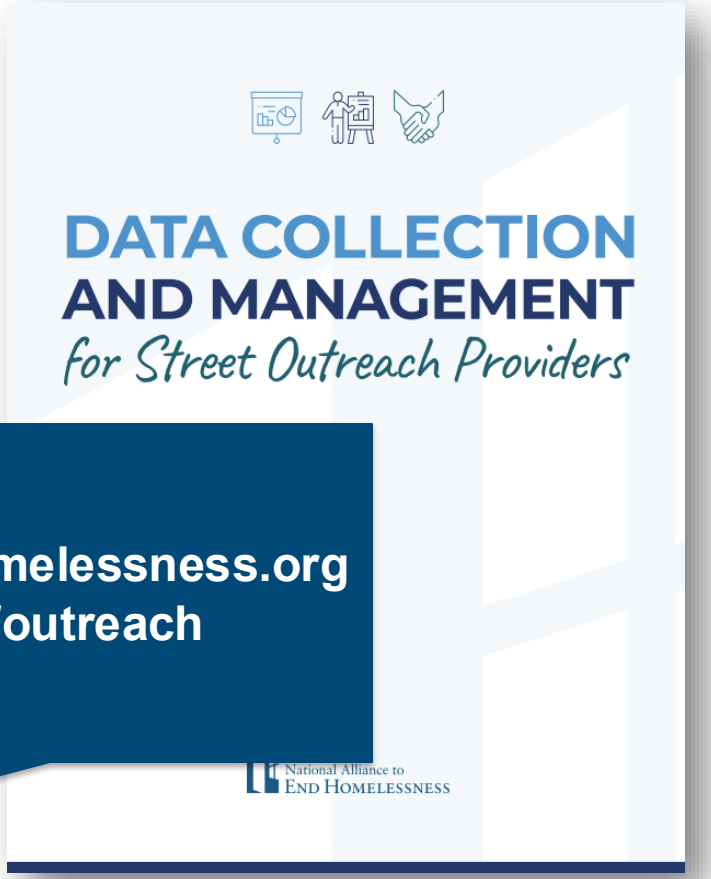

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May 21, 2025 @ 3:00 P.M. ET

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