



PROMOTION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

Community Examples

1.

WEST VIRGINIA COALITION TO END HOMELESSNESS

The West Virginia Coalition to End Homelessness' Street Outreach Team covers a diverse geographic region in Appalachia.

The team strives to meet the immediate health and safety needs of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness across the state through diversion and resource brokering.

The Approach

Guided by a trauma-informed approach, the Coalition's teams build trust through consistent engagement, recognizing that each individual's experience is shaped by complex histories of trauma, institutional involvement, and systemic barriers.

The Street Outreach Team prioritizes housing as a core component of stability and well-being, while also addressing

urgent physical and behavioral health concerns in real time—offering basic supplies, conducting wellness checks, facilitating access to medical care, and supporting harm reduction when appropriate.

Partnerships

The outreach team maintains active partnerships with the Coordinated Entry and Shelter system in West Virginia, which has 36 Public Housing Authorities and countless other project-based housing opportunities.

Appropriate networking and knowledge of the nuances of these systems can be challenging, but the Coalition strives to foster and maintain relationships with housing partners to better assist those they serve.

The outreach team holds community case

conferencing meetings and also networks with local medical and mental health providers, ensuring that individuals they encounter can connect to appropriate treatment and care in a timely and respectful manner.

The team is also working to build better relationships with law enforcement, reentry councils, day report centers, public defenders' offices, and other criminal legal system stakeholders to support people transitioning out of incarceration or legal involvement. This is often a critical juncture where people are at increased risk for homelessness and poor health outcomes.

These partnerships help the Coalition to coordinate services, reduce barriers, and keep a strong focus on long-term housing outcomes while also improving health, safety, and dignity on the street.

2.

SAN DIEGO

The City of San Diego utilizes a systematic approach in implementing street outreach services throughout the city. Two teams provide outreach services throughout the City: a rapid response team and a mobile homelessness resolution team.

- ▶ The rapid response team quickly responds to calls from individuals seeking help throughout San Diego. This team provides support for basic needs and refers individuals experiencing unsheltered homelessness to shelter, ongoing case management, and other services.
- ▶ The mobile homelessness resolution team offers ongoing, street-based case management. This team is embedded in communities throughout the City, with assignments and staffing levels adapting based on the level of need seen in data and reporting.

The City of San Diego also supports several other programs with unique staffing structures and resources to

serve the most vulnerable San Diegans experiencing unsheltered homelessness. These individuals are identified as the highest utilizers of the emergency medical, healthcare, criminal justice, and homelessness services systems.

These programs include:

- ▶ the PATH Multidisciplinary Outreach Program, which employs clinical level outreach services and a team of medical and behavioral health clinicians who provide services in the field; and
- ▶ the LIFT program, which coordinates with multiple City agencies, contracted physicians, and outreach services to reconnect individuals with appropriate services and address their complex needs.

Through a systematic approach, the City of San Diego strives to meet the needs of every person experiencing unsheltered homelessness with the appropriate intervention tailored to their unique circumstances.