Homelessness: A Housing Supply Problem

NCSL Legislative Summit | August 15, 2023 | Indianapolis
Today’s Plan

• Interactive Poll
• Presentations
• Q&A
• Closing Thoughts
Raise your hand if you...

• Live in states where people are experiencing homelessness.

• You have enough affordable housing stock to meet the housing needs in your state.

• You think these issues are related.

• You are ready to hear more about strategies to reduce homelessness.
Speakers

Beverley Ebersold
United States Interagency Council on Homelessness

Rosanne Haggerty
Community Solutions
Presenters

Beverley Ebersold
Director of National Initiatives
U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness
About USICH

• Only federal agency solely dedicated to ending homelessness

• Coordinates federal response across **19 federal agencies** to help create and catalyze implementation of a federal plan

• Works with **all levels of government** and partners in the private sector and philanthropy to advance most efficient and effective strategies
USICH Council

Council leaders:
Chair – VA Secretary Denis McDonough
Vice Chair – HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra

Council members represent 19 federal agencies:
How We Got Here...

• 80+ listening sessions
• 1,500 public comments, including 500 from people with lived experiences of homelessness
• Input from **expert key informants** who reviewed with a lens for: racial equity, lived experience, tribal, and LGBTQI+
• Nearly 2,000 comments from our 19 member agencies
# What We Heard: Biggest Challenges

| Lack of Housing Supply | • Severe shortage of safe, affordable, and accessible housing  
| | • NIMBY movement  
| | • Impact of climate change  
| Rising Rent Amid Slow Income Growth | • Slow wage growth for lowest-paid workers  
| | • 70% of lowest-wage households spend more than ½ income on rent  
| | • Disproportionate impact of housing unaffordability  
| | • Non-employment income cannot keep up with rental costs  
| Inadequate Access to Supports | • Limited availability of culturally appropriate, accessible supportive services  
| | • Fragmented systems  
| | • Disproportionate outcomes for people of color and other historically marginalized groups  
| Unsheltered Homelessness Rising | • Limited alternatives to unsheltered homelessness  
| | • Shelters at capacity, or high-barrier and not culturally appropriate  
| Criminalization of Homelessness | • Harmful public narratives  
| | • “Out of sight, out of mind” policies ineffective & create more trauma  
| Fatigue and Trauma Among Providers | • Strained capacity  
| | • High-turnover |
# What We Heard: Greatest Opportunities

| **Unprecedented Investments** | • American Rescue Plan  
• CARES Act  
• FY2023 President’s Budget Request |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| **Demonstrated Commitment**   | • Housing Supply Action Plan  
• National Mental Health Strategy  
• National Drug Control Strategy  
• Executive Orders |
| **Lessons Learned**           | • Non-Congregate Shelter  
• Emergency Rental Assistance  
• Eviction Moratoriums  
• Direct Cash Transfers |
| **Focus on Racial Equity**    | • Biden-Harris Administration Equity-Focused Executive Orders  
• Opportunity for greater accountability & more equitable outcomes |
| **Unwavering Dedication**     | • Passionate and compassionate providers  
• Continued perseverance |
Point-in-Time Counts, 2010-2022

Overall 33%   Chronic 4%   Family 36%   Veteran 55%


2010 is the year *Opening Doors* was released, the first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness

*Base year for measuring youth homelessness is 2017*
Point-in-Time Counts, 2020–2022

Overall: 0.3%
Unsheltered: 3%
Family: 6%
Veteran: 11%
Youth: 12%

Source: The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress
This plan is built upon our vision of a nation in which no one experiences the tragedy and indignity of homelessness, and everyone has a safe, stable, accessible, and affordable home.

**GOAL:** Reduce homelessness 25% by 2025
Key Populations and Geographic Areas

This plan recognizes that the needs of people experiencing homelessness vary based on factors like age, location, disability, race and ethnicity; and it acknowledges that tailored guidance will be needed for key populations and geographic areas. This plan includes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Racial/Ethnic Groups</th>
<th>Marginalized Groups</th>
<th>Subpopulations</th>
<th>Geographic Areas</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indians and Alaska Natives</td>
<td>Child welfare-involved families and youth</td>
<td>Children (younger than 12)</td>
<td>Remote</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian/Asian Americans</td>
<td>Immigrants, refugees, and asylees</td>
<td>Youth (age 12-17)</td>
<td>Rural</td>
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<tr>
<td>Black/African Americans</td>
<td>LGBTQI+ people</td>
<td>Young adults (age 18-25)</td>
<td>Suburban</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hispanics/Latinos</td>
<td>People with chronic health conditions and cooccurring disorders</td>
<td>Families with minor children</td>
<td>Territory</td>
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<tr>
<td>Multiracial people</td>
<td>People with current or past criminal justice system involvement</td>
<td>Older adults (age 55 and older)</td>
<td>Tribal land/Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders</td>
<td>People with disabilities</td>
<td>Single adults (age 25 to 55)</td>
<td>Urban</td>
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<tr>
<td>People with HIV</td>
<td></td>
<td>Veterans</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>People with mental health conditions</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>People with substance use disorders</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Pregnant and parenting youth</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Survivors of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, and human trafficking</td>
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GOAL: END HOMELESSNESS

SOLUTIONS

HOUSING AND SERVICES
CRISIS RESPONSE
PREVENTION

FOUNDATIONS

EQUITY
DATA AND EVIDENCE
COLLABORATION
## Foundation Pillars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Lead With Equity</th>
<th>Use Data and Evidence</th>
<th>Collaborate at All Levels</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pursue equitable outcomes</td>
<td>Increase federal government capacity</td>
<td>Promote collaborative leadership</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Promote inclusive decision-making</td>
<td>Increase local and state capacity</td>
<td>Improve information sharing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Authentic collaboration</td>
<td>Create opportunity for innovation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase access to American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
<td>Build research and evidence base</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Change policies and practices</td>
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</table>
## Solutions Pillars

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Scale Up Housing and Supports</th>
<th>Improved Homelessness Response</th>
<th>Prevent Homelessness</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maximize federal housing assistance</td>
<td>Government wide effort on unsheltered homelessness</td>
<td>Increase access to employment, education, mainstream opportunity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase supply of affordable housing</td>
<td>Improve coordinated entry</td>
<td>Reduce housing instability for those existing institutions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase supply of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</td>
<td>Increase availability of low-barrier shelter</td>
<td>Reduce housing instability for older adults and people with disabilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Improve effectiveness of Rapid Re-Housing (RRH)</td>
<td>Improve coordination with public health and disaster management</td>
<td>Reduce housing instability for transitioning service members</td>
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<tr>
<td>Support enforcement of Fair Housing</td>
<td>Expand use of housing problem-solving</td>
<td>Reduce housing instability for American Indian/Alaskan Native</td>
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<tr>
<td>Better serve needs of people with disabilities</td>
<td>Remove/reduce programmatic barriers</td>
<td>Reduce housing instability for youth and young adults</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expand availability of voluntary and trauma-informed supports</td>
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<td>Reduce housing instability for survivors</td>
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How USICH Will Implement *All In*

- Develop **implementation plans** with specific actions, milestones, and metrics
- **Partner with and solicit feedback** from people who have experienced homelessness and other stakeholders
- Publish **annual performance management plan**
- **Update plan annually** to reflect evolving metrics, input, and lessons
How USICH Will Measure Progress

- Overall size of homeless population
- People (including subpopulations) experiencing *sheltered and unsheltered* homelessness
- **Racial disparities** in homelessness
- **Children and youth** experiencing homelessness during school year
- **Length of time** of homeless
- **Returns to homelessness** within 6 to 12 months and within 2 years
- People who become *homeless for the first time*
- Placement in and retention of *housing from street outreach*
How *All In* Can Be Used Locally

- Develop **local and systems-level plans**
- Set **state and local goals** to reduce homelessness by 2025
- **Educate** partners on the causes of homelessness, challenges, and opportunities
- Hold the federal government **accountable**
- **Learn** about federal programs, existing federal actions, and new federal strategies
Key Considerations for Local & State Implementation: State Interagency Councils

• Every state and territory has been encouraged by USICH to establish, by Governor's Executive Order or legislative authority, a State Interagency Council on Homelessness with representation at the cabinet level from the mainstream income support, health care, behavioral health, human services, veterans, housing, corrections, transportation, education, and labor departments and agencies.

• Develop structures to support the operations of the council, such as sub-groups focused on strengthening policies or interagency working groups that dive into specific populations or tasks.

• Ensure that all meetings provide for decision points that allow members to discuss and vote to adopt actions and strategies.
Key Considerations for Local & State Implementation: State Interagency Councils

• Use data to drive action. If data indicates that something isn’t working, pivot quickly and make needed adjustments.

• Create shared, concrete targets, performance measures, and milestones to monitor the progress of goals and activities. For example:
  • Reduce the number of families experiencing homelessness by x% in the next year;
  • Create a target number of new units of supportive housing;
  • Use Medicaid waivers as an opportunity to innovate;
  • Coordinate funding processes; and/or
  • Track how new money is spent and the desired outcomes.
Key Considerations for Local & State Implementation

• Set **state and local goals** to reduce homelessness by 2025
• Develop **local and systems-level plans**
• Develop or strengthen **state interagency council on homelessness**
• Examine **state fair housing laws to prevent discrimination** against persons with vouchers/rental subsidies
• Establish **homeless priority in state Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP)** used for Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) administered by state housing finance agencies
Key Considerations for Local & State Implementation

- Mandate or encourage state health agencies to pursue Medicaid waiver flexibilities to address housing and supports for persons experiencing homelessness
- Extend age limit for youth in foster care and/or all re-entry for services
- Allocate funds to state housing trust funds which can increase supply of affordable housing for low- and extremely low-income households.
- Educate and learn from partners on the causes of homelessness, challenges and opportunities
- Learn about federal programs, existing federal actions and new federal strategies
Examples

• California Interagency Council on Homelessness
• District of Columbia Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Illinois’s Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
• Louisiana’s Governor’s Council on Homelessness
• Maryland Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Maine: https://www.mainehomelessplanning.org/statewide-homeless-council/
• Michigan’s Campaign to End Homelessness is governed by two key bodies: Michigan Interagency Council on Homelessness (MICH) is comprised of the Governor’s appointees. The Michigan Homeless Policy Council (MHPC) reports to the MICH and is comprised of state agencies and the public.
• Minnesota Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Nevada Interagency Advisory Council on Homelessness to Housing
• Ohio Interagency Council on Homelessness and Affordable Housing
• Oklahoma Governor’s Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Oregon: Oregon Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Rhode Island: https://ohcd.ri.gov/homelessness/interagency-council-homelessness
• Tennessee Interagency Council on Homelessness
• Texas Interagency Council for the Homeless
• Virginia Governor’s Coordinating Council on Homelessness
• Washington Interagency Council on Homelessness and State Advisory Council on Homelessness
• Wisconsin: https://doa.wi.gov/Pages/AboutDOA/ICH.aspx
• West Virginia Interagency Council on Homelessness
USICH National Initiatives Team

**Beverley Ebersold**  
Based in Detroit, MI  
(202) 754-1585  
beverley.ebersold@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, WI

**Nichele Carver**  
Based in Richmond, VA  
(202) 641-4851  
nichele.carver@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** CT, MA, ME, NH, NJ, NY, VT, RI

**Katy Miller**  
Based in Seattle, WA  
(202) 834-4203  
katy.miller@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** AK, CO, HI, ID, MT, ND, NV, OR, SD, UT, WA, WY

**Joe Savage**  
Based in Philadelphia, PA  
(202) 494-1219  
joe.savage@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** AL, DE, DC, FL, GA, KY, MD, MS, NC, PA, SC, TN, VA, WV

**Helene Schneider**  
Based in Santa Barbara, CA  
(202) 754-1581  
helene.schneider@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** CA

**Tamara Wright**  
Based in Phoenix, AZ  
(202) 754-1584  
tamara.wright@usich.gov  
**Coverage:** AR, AZ, IA, KS, LA, MO, NE, NM, OK, TX
Visit usich.gov/all-in
Raise your hand if you...

- Have a state interagency council on homelessness? Or, are now thinking about it?

- Are looking into housing supply as one strategy to reduce and prevent homelessness.

- If you heard a new strategy that may contribute to the reduction and prevention of homelessness.
NCSL 2023 Legislative Summit
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HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE

Communities in the Built for Zero movement are proving it.

105 communities are participating in Built for Zero

161,000+ individuals housed by Built for Zero communities since 2015

14 communities have functionally ended homelessness for a population

64 communities have achieved quality real-time data

44 communities have achieved a measurable reduction
Built for Zero Communities

- 22 Large Cities
- 34 Midsize Cities
- 11 Rural
- 17 Small Cities
- 20 Suburban
- 2 Other
The Fundamental Question

Are all our programs + investments adding up to thing we really want: equitable reductions in homelessness over time?

And if not, how quickly would we know, and how quickly could we pivot?
Five Things Every Community Needs

- Nimble, integrated team
- Real-time, by-name feedback loop
- Flexible arsenal of resources
- Testable menu of technical strategies

Continuous improvement approach
Data for Problem Solving

INFLOW:
- NEWLY IDENTIFIED
- RETURNED FROM HOUSING
- RETURNED FROM INACTIVE

ACTIVELY HOMELESS

OUTFLOW:
- HOUSING PLACEMENTS
- MOVED TO INACTIVE
State Policy Framework

- Convene statewide stakeholders around shared aim and built collective will
- Achieve statewide quality data
- State agencies clear the path for local communities
- Develop backbone infrastructure to scale and sustain solutions statewide
- Center racial equity and lived expertise as key elements in policy
Thank You

For more information, contact:
Melanie Lewis Dickerson
mlewisdickerson@community.solutions
Raise your hand if...

- Believe homelessness is a solvable problem.

- Want to learn more and/or do more to address homelessness in your state.

- Have questions for our presenters.
Audience Q&A
NCSL Resources

- Housing and Homelessness Database
- Youth Homelessness Overview
- Middle Housing Policy Snapshot
- Family Friendly Courts: Evictions
- How Manufactured Homes Can Build Housing Stability
- Economic Mobility Database
- PLACEHOLDER for Econ Mobility Snapshot
NCSL Staff Contacts

Heather Hanna
Associate Director
heather.hanna@ncsl.org

Heather Wilson
Senior Policy Specialist
heather.wilson@ncsl.org

Cameron Rifkin
Policy Associate
cameron.rikfin@ncsl.org

Walker Stevens
Policy Associate
walker.stevens@ncsl.org
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