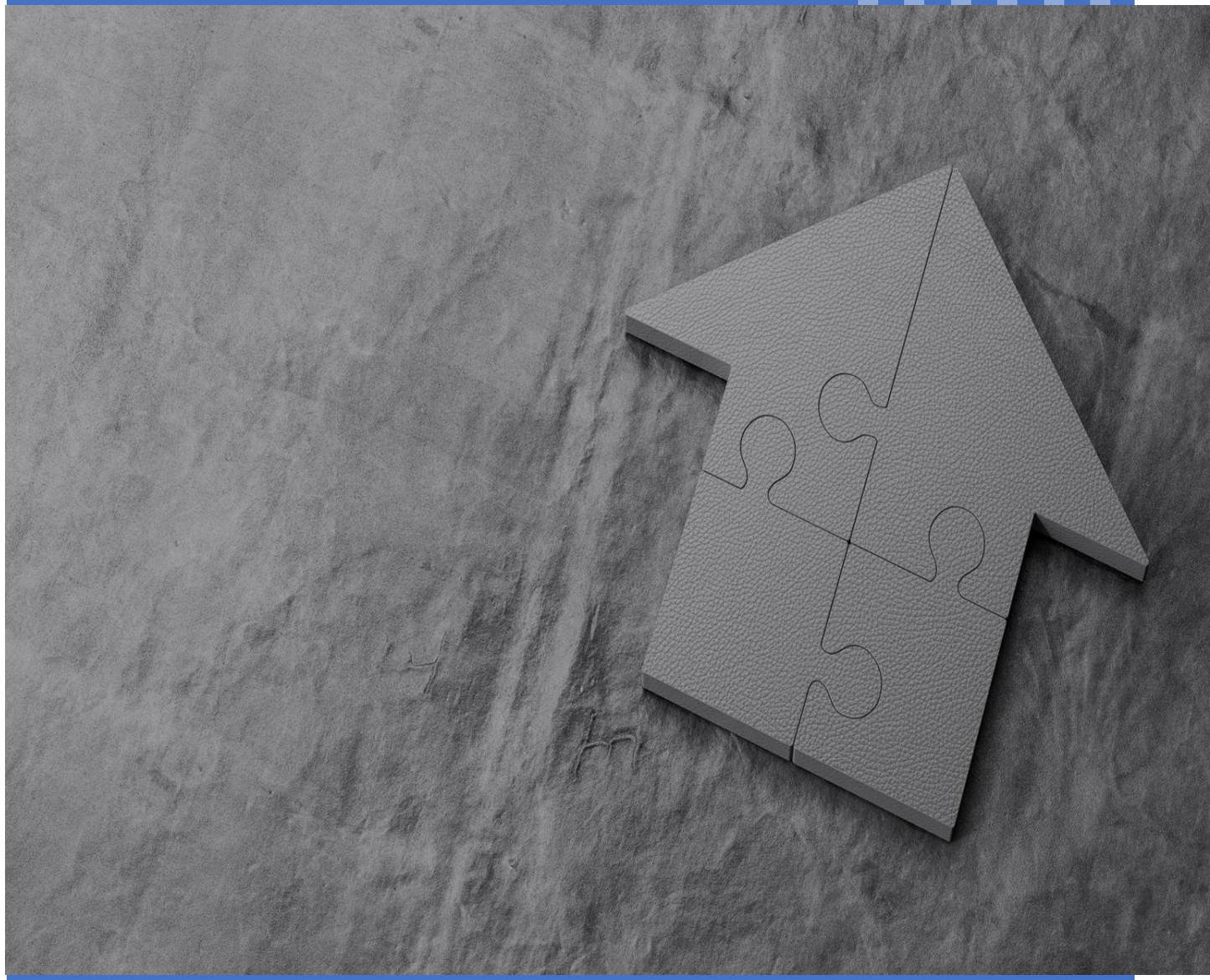
Homelessness: A Housing Supply Problem

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

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

All In: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

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

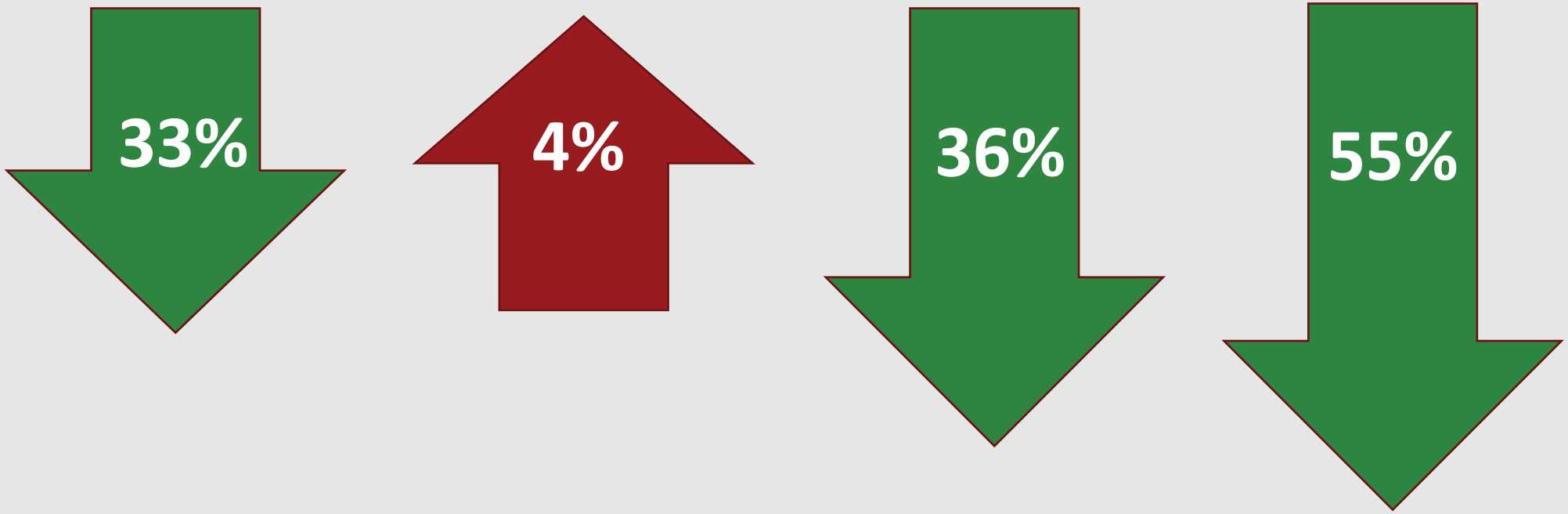
Lack of Housing Supply	• Severe shortage of safe, affordable, and accessible housing • NIMBY movement • Impact of climate change
Rising Rent Amid Slow Income Growth	• Slow wage growth for lowest-paid workers • 70% of lowest-wage households spend more than ½ income on rent • Disproportionate impact of 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	Chronic	Family	Veteran	Youth* (N/A)
33%	4%	36%	55%	

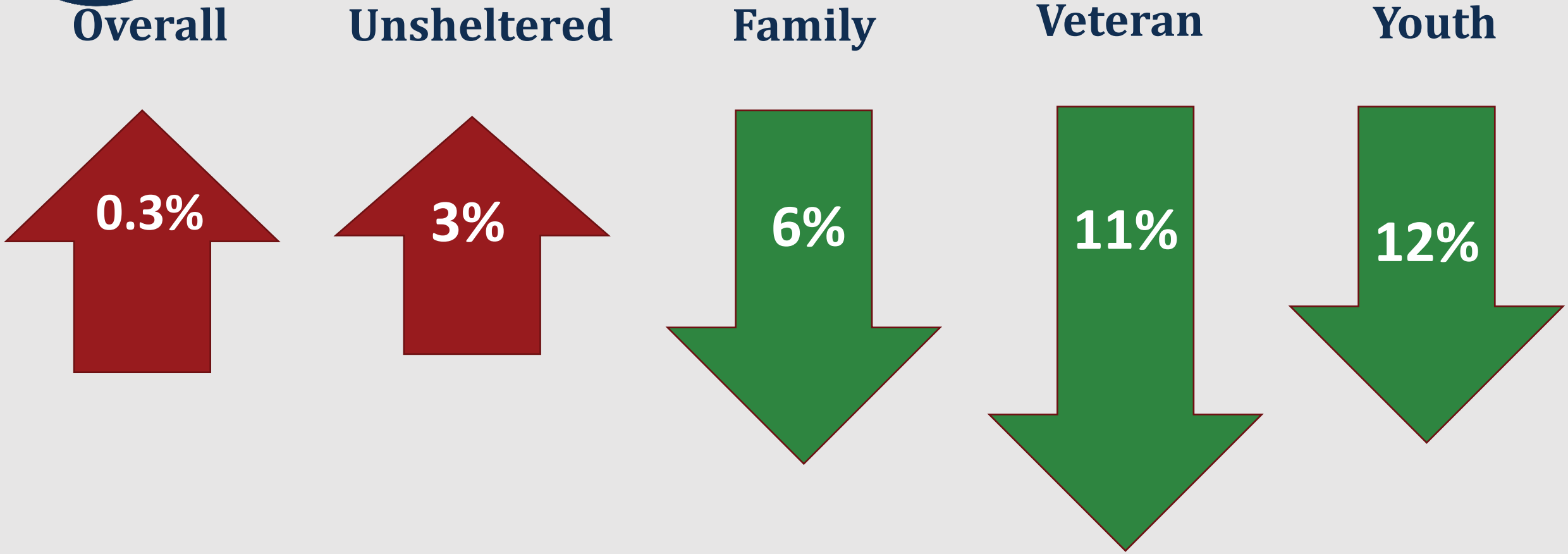


Source: The 2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/2020-AHAR-Part-1.pdf

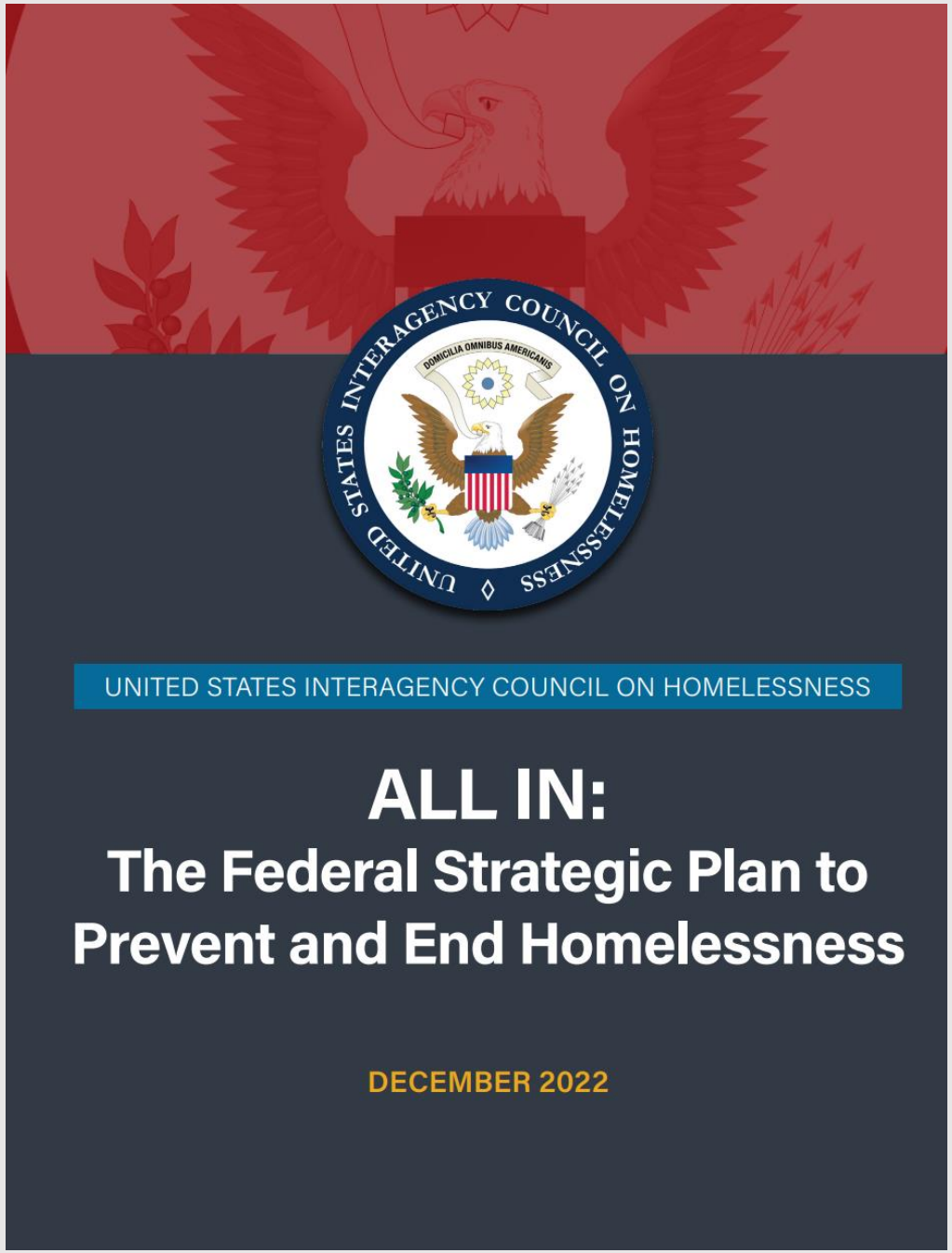
2010 is the year *Opening Doors* was released, the first federal strategic plan to prevent and end homelessness

*Base year for measuring youth homelessness is 2017

Point-in-Time Counts, 2020–2022



Source: The 2022 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress


UNITED STATES INTERAGENCY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS
ALL IN:
The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
DECEMBER 2022

All In: Vision For the Future

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:

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

GOAL:
END
HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS
HOUSING AND SERVICES
CRISIS RESPONSE
PREVENTION
EQUITY
DATA AND EVIDENCE
COLLABORATION
FOUNDATIONS

Foundation Pillars

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

Solutions Pillars

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

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

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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

August 2023

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

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**

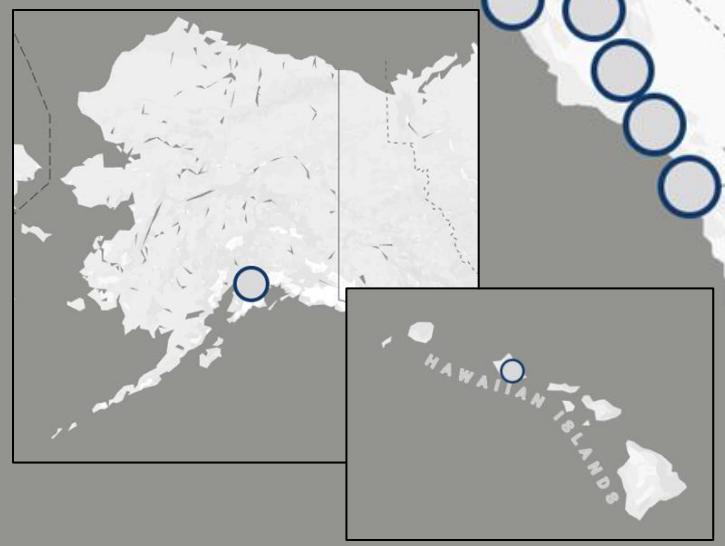
64

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

Shared, Measurable Aim

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

INFLOW: RETURNED FROM HOUSING

INFLOW: RETURNED FROM INACTIVE

OUTFLOW: HOUSING PLACEMENTS

OUTFLOW: 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:
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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

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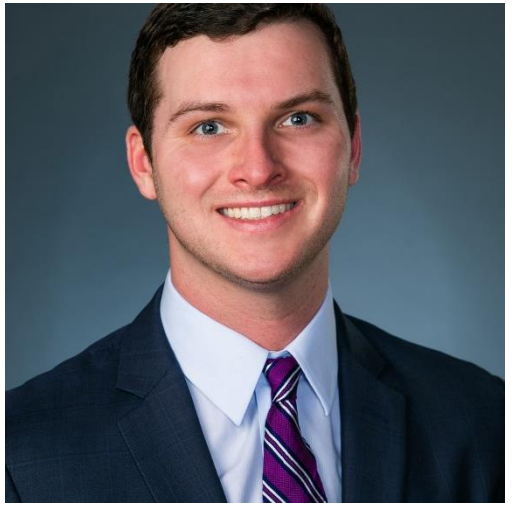

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NCSL Base Camp 2023

NCSL BASE CAMP
MAP YOUR COURSE

Nov. 8-9, 2023

NCSL Forecast ’24 - Austin

NCSLFORECAST’24

PREPARING FOR LEGISLATIVE SESSIONS

Dec. 4-6, 2023