



Leveraging Faith-based Organizations and Volunteer Groups in Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

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Introduction: Homebase



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Leveraging Faith-Based Organizations and Volunteer Groups in Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness

- *Welcome and Introductions*
- *Intersection of Unsheltered Homelessness and Faith Based / Volunteer Groups*
- *Unsheltered Action Lab*
- *Community Example*
- *Wrap Up @ 3:30*

Responding to Unsheltered Homelessness

- HUD's [2020 Annual Homeless Assessment Report \(AHAR\)](#) marked the first time since data collection began that *more* individuals experiencing homelessness were unsheltered than were sheltered.
- In 2020, Texas reported **13,212** people living unsheltered.
 - This was the **second highest number of unsheltered people by state** in the country (after California).

Why focus on leveraging faith-based and volunteer groups?

Common Benefits

Common Challenges

- **SOLO:** Faith-based or volunteer groups are the community's only response to unsheltered homelessness
- **SILOES:** Faith-based groups/volunteer groups and all other entities responding to homelessness are not communicating
- **SCORN:** Other entities responding to homelessness are openly antagonistic towards faith-based or volunteer groups

Areas of Intersection

Categories of Interventions Often Found to Assist the Unsheltered Homeless Population

Outreach, Health, and Safety Strategies

Strategies that improve people's lives when they are unsheltered and may help link people to shelter and crisis housing interventions, but do not actually shelter or house people directly.

- Street outreach and engagement strategies
- In-reach into institutional settings
- Encampment resolution policies
- Law enforcement measures
- Public health interventions
- Safe Parking
- Hygiene stations
- Sanctioned encampments

Emergency Shelter and Other Crisis Housing Interventions

Interventions that move people from being unsheltered to being sheltered and are temporary in nature.

- Emergency shelter
- Transportation assistance
- Navigation centers
- Transitional housing
- Hotel/motel vouchers
- Family reunification (temporary)
- Host homes (temporary)
- Shared housing (temporary)

Rapid Re-housing, Short Term, and One-time Housing Assistance

Interventions that support people moving into their own homes with time-limited financial assistance and/or other services.

- Rapid re-housing
- Shallow subsidies & Time-limited assistance (not TH)
- Non-rent financial assistance
- Move-in assistance
- Family reunification (permanent)
- Host homes (permanent)
- Shared housing (permanent)

Non-Time-Limited Housing Assistance & Other Affordable Housing Opportunities

Interventions that provide permanent housing solutions—this topic will not be covered at this convening, as the evidence base on permanent housing as a strategy to address unsheltered homelessness is established.

- PSH
- Mainstream federal housing assistance (HCV/PH)
- Local affordable housing (tax credit, inclusionary zoning)
- SROs, ADUs, & other zoning changes

Innovative Models for Serving Individuals Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness

Please note, each of the following models is subject to local variation.

Model	Definition
Host Homes	Temporary accommodation with a community host
Mobile Showers	Self-contained shower units that can be moved; can offer co-located services
Safe Spaces or Day Centers	Designated locations where individuals experiencing homelessness can spend the day; can offer co-located services
Safe Parking or Tent Parking Lot	Designated parking lot for sleeping (in a tent or vehicle) with standards for operations and services
Sanctioned Encampments or Safe Ground	Government-approved campground with standards for operations and services, can be self-governed or operated by a government entity or non-profit
Street Outreach or Encampment Outreach	Volunteers/staff in the field or a set location, working with homeless individuals to meet their basic needs and facilitate connections to shelter or housing
Tiny Homes	Quick construction buildings used as <i>permanent</i> housing; typically includes in-unit electricity, water, bathroom, and kitchen
Tuff Sheds or Pallet Shelters or Structured Tents	Quick construction buildings used as <i>temporary</i> shelter; bathroom and kitchen are separate from the sleeping quarters and shared with other on-site residents
Winter Shelter or Rotating Shelter	Short-term shelters in buildings typically used for another purpose (e.g., church basements, schools, libraries)

Unsheltered Action Lab

Goals of the Action Lab

- Learn from **organizations doing this work**
- Build **administrative capacity** (e.g., funding, staff structures)
- Partner with **local government & the community** (identifying funding sources, working with the CoC, overcoming community resistance)

Structure of the Action Lab

20 Bay Area organizations

6 monthly meetings, 2 hours/each

~0.1 FTE staff support (Homebase)

GREATER RICHMOND INTERFAITH PROGRAM

At GRIP, We Care!



Reach for Home

Housing for People. Skills for Life.



Agape Silicon Valley



Sonoma Applied Village Services



Social Solutions



S.H.A.R.E. COMMUNITY

Sharing Hope, Abundance, Resources, & Encouragement



24 Hour Oakland Parent
Teacher Children Center



SOS! Richmond | Safe, Organized Spaces



San Jose Catholic Worker

Gospel-based direct service for San Jose's poor
and marginalized



INTERFAITH COUNCIL OF ALAMEDA COUNTY

Selecting Participant Organizations

- Hosted an information session with CoC, county, and city governments
 - Asked them for recommendations
 - “Snowball” recommendations
- Publicized through email outreach, word-of-mouth

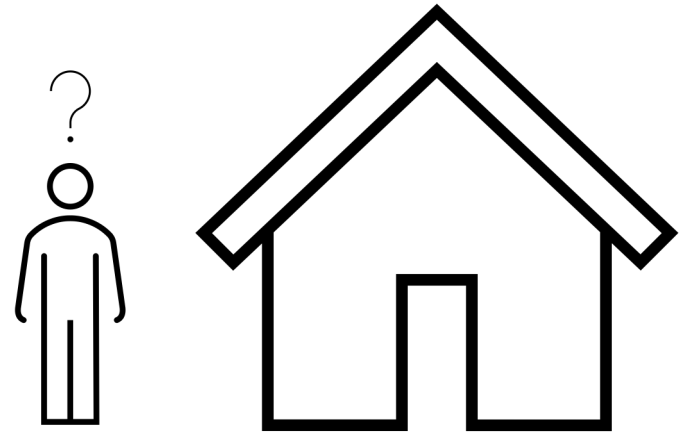
	Topics
Month 1	Goal Setting for Participation in the Unsheltered Action Lab
	Innovative Models for Addressing Unsheltered Homelessness
Month 2	Getting Clients Connected to Shelter and Housing: State, CoC, and other Federal Resources
	Safe Parking, Tent Parking Lots, and Storage Solutions
Month 3	Effectively Working with Local Government
	Street Outreach & Workforce Development
Month 4	Becoming a 501(c)(3) and Managing Finances
	Supporting Encampments & Mobile Hygiene
Month 5	Grant Writing & Collecting Data about Impact
	Tiny Homes, Pallet Shelters, Tuff Sheds (as temporary shelter)
Month 6	Harm Reduction Principles
	Hearing from Individuals with Lived Experience

Sample Agenda

- Welcome & Introductions
- Homebase/Topic Expert Presentation: Capacity Building Topic
- Provider Presentation: Innovative Model
- Discussion & Resource Sharing

Example: Why should we try to connect clients to housing or shelter?

- Make the **option** available to anyone who wants it.
- These opportunities can be **difficult to access** without assistance.
- **Homelessness ends with housing.**



***Chat Question:** Has your organization successfully helped connect someone to housing or shelter before?*

Homelessness System of Care

Continuum of Care

County Government

City Government

Non-Profit Providers

Public Housing
Authority

Veterans Affairs

Workforce
Development

State Agencies

Child Welfare

Education Systems

Healthcare Systems

Adult Welfare

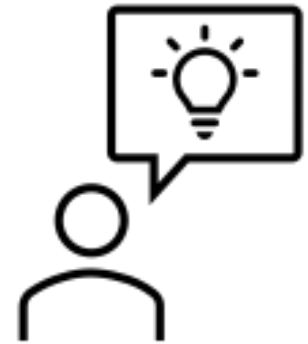
Navigation Tools



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Continuum
of Care



Local
Experts

Chat Question: *Which local experts have you worked with before?*

Overview of Models

See Meeting Packet

Key Takeaways - Action Lab

- Many groups are trying to **connect clients to housing** through relationships with the Continuum of Care (CoC) and housing providers, but there are on-going issues with availability of resources.
- Many of the **innovative models are well suited for small groups** who can be nimble and add system-wide value by exploring how to make the models more effective.
- There is a **significant amount of local knowledge** about the innovative models to addressing unsheltered homelessness.

Key Takeaways - Action Lab

- Intentionally **collect both quantitative and qualitative data** to show your impact.
- **Don't neglect the administrative aspects** of your organization; find board members or volunteers who can help you build a strong organization
- **Networking** is critical for being effective in this space.

Hearing from You!

Peer Learning: Tips

- Keep the agenda light and open.
- Find your local experts.
- Identify a regular time and space to meet
- Encourage everyone to share – even if they haven't 100% figured it out yet.

Thank You!

