

5.01 Emerging Principles for Encampment Resolution & Their Effectiveness



#NAEH2022

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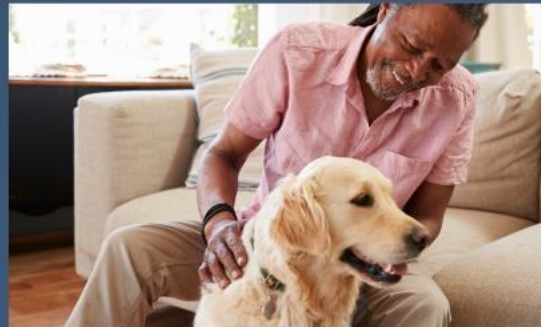
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Welcome & Session Introduction

Amanda Richer, Displacement Consultant - BEING



U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

2022 NAEH National Conference on Ending Homelessness Emerging Principles for Encampment Resolution and Their Effectiveness

Tuesday, July 26, 2022





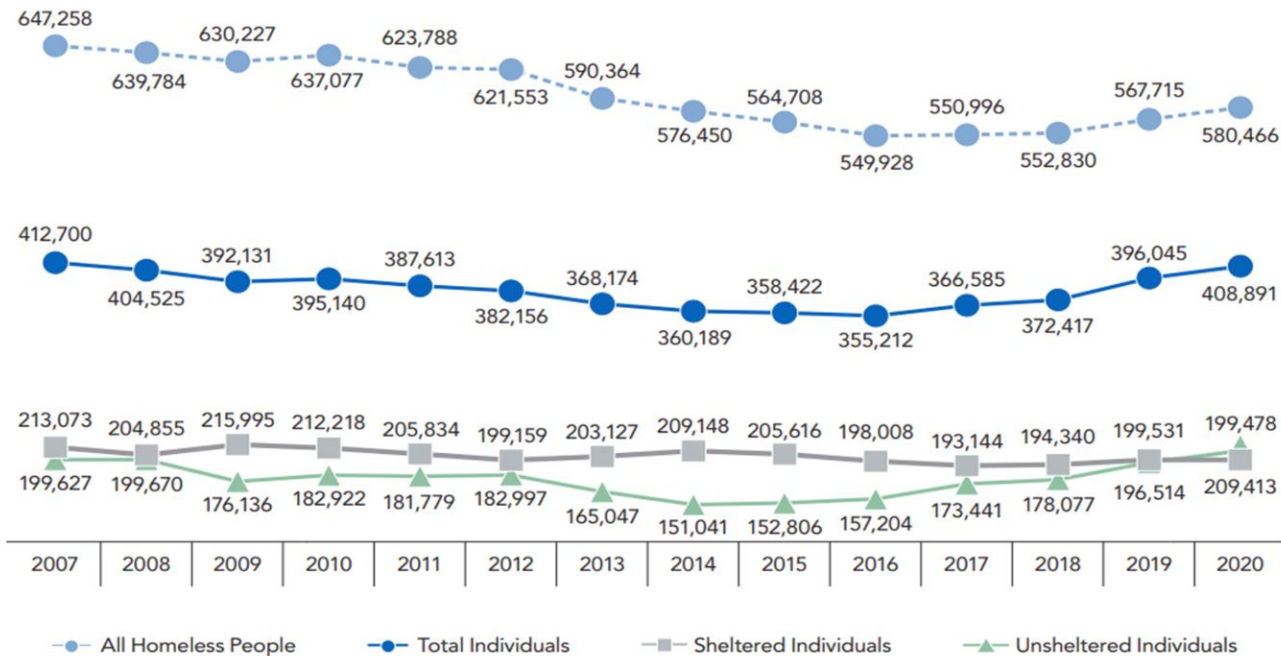
Overview

- Share federal updates on efforts to address unsheltered homelessness and encampments
- Highlight the new “7 Key Principles for Addressing Encampments”



State of Unsheltered Homelessness

EXHIBIT 2.1: PIT Estimates of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness
By Sheltered Status, 2007–2020



For the first time, in 2020, unsheltered homelessness exceeded sheltered homelessness among individuals.

HUD Definition of Homelessness
Individuals or families who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, including someone who is unsheltered.

Definition of Unsheltered
Having a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation.



USICH and Federal Response

USICH and its member agencies recognize the urgent need for supporting communities in addressing encampments and formed a workgroup to identify short-term and longer-term actions.

The USICH Federal and National Partner **Workgroup on Encampment** workgroup consist of federal and national partners that inform USICH's efforts and provide a place for members to share information and coordinate activities to address encampments.



USICH and Federal Response

Publications

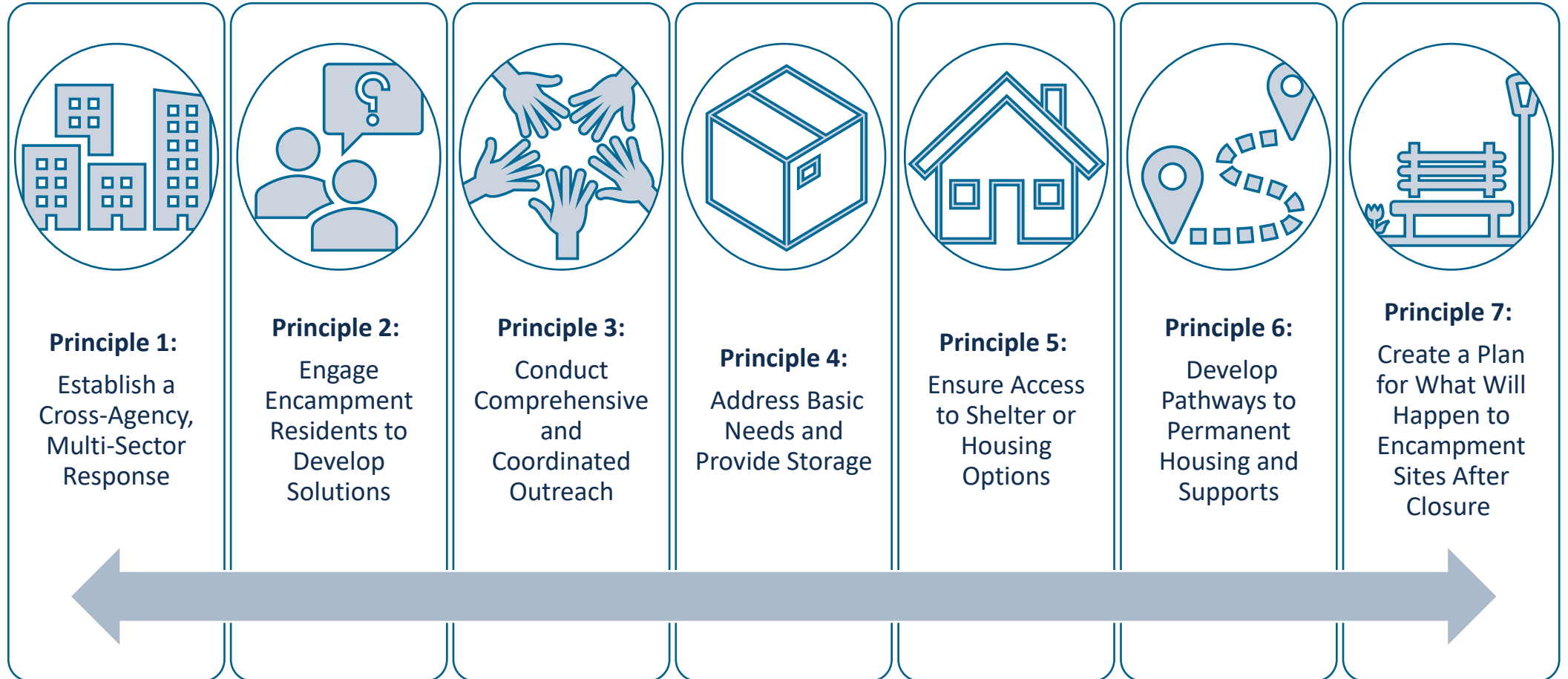
- [Responding to the Growing Crisis of Unsheltered Homelessness and Encampments](#)
- [What Other Cities Can Learn From Boston's Public Health Approach to Encampments](#)
- [7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#)
- *Coming Soon: Community Spotlights*
- *Coming Soon: Resource Round-Up*

Guidance and Resources

- USICH Federal and National Partner Workgroup on Encampments
- USICH Senior Regional Advisors
- Upcoming USICH Federal Strategic Plan
- HUD [Unsheltered and Rural Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)



Principles for Addressing Encampments





Principle 1: Establish a Cross-Agency, Multi-Sector Response

- Command centers approach using daily coordination for all involved with encampment planning and response.
- Law enforcement may need to play a role in but should not drive the process.



Principle 2: Engage Encampment Residents to Develop Solutions

- Elevate the lived expertise of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
- Adequate time for outreach teams to engage residents in finding alternative shelter, housing, and service options.



Principle 3: Conduct Comprehensive and Coordinated Outreach

- Connect people directly to shelter and housing, mental health and treatment services, and health care.
- Sharing data and information and using a coordinated map to identify coverage and or gaps in outreach.



Principle 4: Address Basic Needs and Provide Storage

- Continue to provide public restrooms, parks, and other community spaces.
- Offer public services such as garbage collection, sharps containers, maintenance, and regular cleaning.
- Access to storage and special care to avoid destroying personal belongings .



Principle 5: Ensure Access to Shelter or Housing Options

- Encampments should not be closed unless there is access to low-barrier shelter or housing.
- Provide interim solutions until more permanent affordable housing options are available.
- Ensure voluntary, sanitary, and safe shelter with few programmatic requirements.



Principle 6: Develop Pathways to Permanent Housing and Supports

- Link people with permanent housing opportunities with the right level of services.
- Coordinate effort to mobilize available resources to move people as quickly as possible from homelessness into housing.



Principle 7: Create a Plan for What Will Happen to Encampment Sites After Closure

- Plans for former encampment sites should emphasize safety, accessibility, and inclusivity.
- Facilitate coordination among public works, service providers, and volunteer organizations to serve people after the encampment is gone.



Resources

- [Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments: Advancing the Dialogue | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#)
- [Responses to Homelessness | Bureau of Justice Assistance \(ojp.gov\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Engaging Individuals with Lived Expertise - HUD Exchange](#)
- [Core-Components-of-Outreach-2019.pdf \(usich.gov\)](#)
- [Interim Guidance on People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness | COVID-19 | CDC](#)
- [Protecting Health and Well-being of People in Encampments During an Infectious Disease Outbreak \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
- [Infectious Disease Toolkit for CoCs: Preventing and Managing the Spread of Infectious Disease within Encampments \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
- [Caution Sanctioned Encampments Safe Zones 052318.pdf \(usich.gov\)](#)
- [Model Transitions Document FINAL \(hud.gov\)](#)
- [Homelessness Among People Living in Encampments | HUD USER](#)
- [Case Studies: Ending Homelessness for People Living in Encampments | United States Interagency Council on Homelessness \(USICH\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Planning a Housing Surge to Accelerate Rehousing Efforts in Response to COVID-19 \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
- [COVID-19 Homeless System Response: Housing Surges: Special Considerations for Targeting People Experiencing Unsheltered Homelessness \(hudexchange.info\)](#)
- [Microsoft PowerPoint - Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Final Presentation \(hud.gov\)](#)
- [The Curb-Cut Effect \(ssir.org\)](#)
- [spur_gehl_coexistence_in_public_space.pdf](#)
- HUD [Unsheltered and Rural Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)



Other Recent USICH Guidance

- Federal **Health and Social Service Programs** That Support People Experiencing Homelessness
- **Expiring** Federal Provisions That May Impact Homelessness
- **COVID-19:** What Homeless Service Providers Need to Know
- 10 Strategies to Reduce Homelessness With the **American Rescue Plan**
- **Election** Guide for Homeless Service Providers



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24 KEY LEARNINGS FROM 24 YEARS RESPONDING TO ENCAMPMENTS (IN 15 MINUTES)

*#NAEH22: 5.01 Emerging Principles for Encampment
Resolution & Their Effectiveness*



KEY LEARNING #1:

**DEFINE WHAT AN
“ENCAMPMENT” IS IN
YOUR COMMUNITY**



IS AN ENCAMPMENT THE SAME AS ALL TYPES OF UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS?

relation or from a
point of view.
Definition [, def
signification of a
essential to the
explanation

We lack a common definition of what constitutes an encampment.



KEY LEARNING #2:

**PROTESTS ARE DIFFERENT
FROM ENCAMPMENTS**



WHAT IS THE AGENDA OF THE PEOPLE STAYING IN THE ENCAMPMENT?



There is a difference between an encampment and a protest.



KEY LEARNING #3:

**IMPROVEMENTS TO THE
SHELTER SYSTEM CAN
HELP ADDRESS
ENCAMPMENTS**



SOME COMMUNITIES HAVE ENCAMPMENTS EVEN WITH UNUSED SHELTER SPACE



There is always a relationship between encampments and the shelter system.



KEY LEARNING #4:

**KNOW THE LEADERSHIP
STRUCTURE OF THE
ENCAMPMENT**



THE LEADERSHIP STRUCTURE OF THE ENCAMPMENT INFORMS GOVERNANCE



Encampments have different leadership structures. Fail to understand the leadership structure and you will fail in the response.

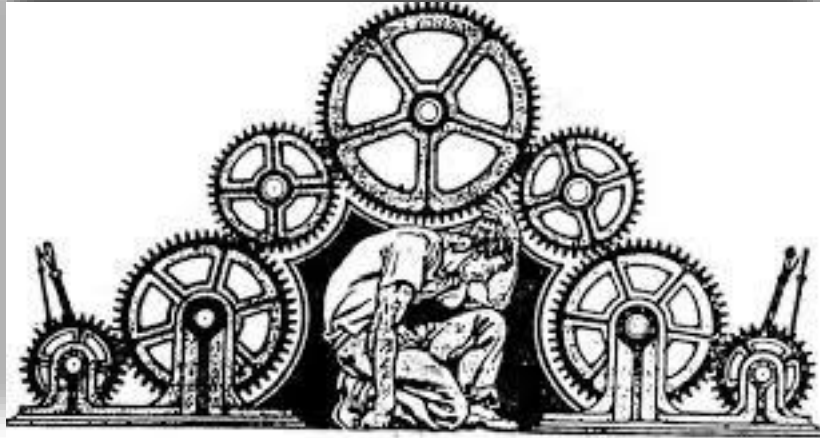


KEY LEARNING #5:

**AVOID LABELS WHEN IT
COMES TO PEOPLE
LIVING IN
ENCAMPMENTS**



THERE WILL BE EFFORTS TO “OTHERIZE” PEOPLE LIVING IN ENCAMPMENTS



Encampments
represents failures of
systems, not failures of
people.



KEY LEARNING #6:

**EXHAUST SERVICES AND
ALTERNATIVES TO LIVING
IN AN ENCAMPMENT
PRIOR TO ANY
ENFORCEMENT**

ENFORCEMENT WITHOUT SOLUTIONS DOES NOT WORK FOR ANYONE



Moving people along without offering solutions to homelessness is costly and traumatizing.



KEY LEARNING #7:

**HAVE COMMUNITY-WIDE
AND SHARED PRINCIPLES
FOR THE RESPONSE**



DEVELOP CORE PRINCIPLES FOR YOUR COMMUNITY'S RESPONSE TO ENCAMPMENTS



All encampment responses require a set of **community-wide** and **shared** principles for the response. Developing them with a broad-range of interests and including people living in encampments is preferred.



KEY LEARNING #8:

**ADHERE TO 8 CORE
SERVICE ORIENTATION
ELEMENTS**



THE CORE SERVICE ORIENTATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER



Trauma-informed



Culturally appropriate & safe, with an emphasis on equity



Harm reducing



Non-judgmental & compassionate



THE CORE SERVICE ORIENTATION IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN EVER



Progressively engaging using a person-centered and strengths-based approach that empowers choice



Engaging with a broad range of cognitive abilities



Service in the natural setting of the person being served



Motivational

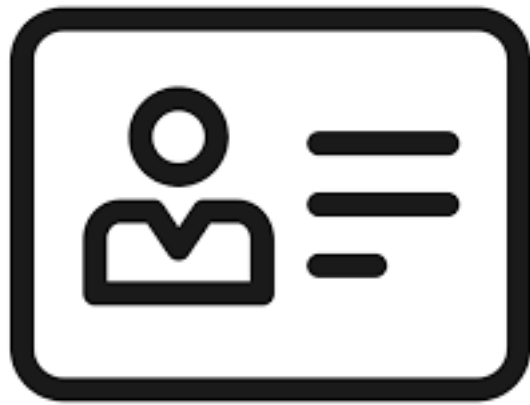


KEY LEARNING #9:

**HAVE A COORDINATED
RESPONSE WITH A
DEFINED LEADER**



ALL STAKEHOLDERS HAVE A VOICE; ONE ENTITY HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER



Agree to a leadership and governance structure where it is clear how decisions are made both *with* the encampment residents and when necessary *about* the encampment as a whole. A multi-party protocol seems to work best.



KEY LEARNING #10:

**ADDRESS WELL-
INTENTIONED VOLUNTEERS
AND ADVOCATES THAT
CAN INTERFERE WITH THE
RESPONSE**



EDUCATE THE MASSES



Well-intentioned people can make the response to the encampment much worse.



KEY LEARNING #11:

**HAVE DEDICATED,
PROPERLY TRAINED
STREET OUTREACH
RESOURCES**

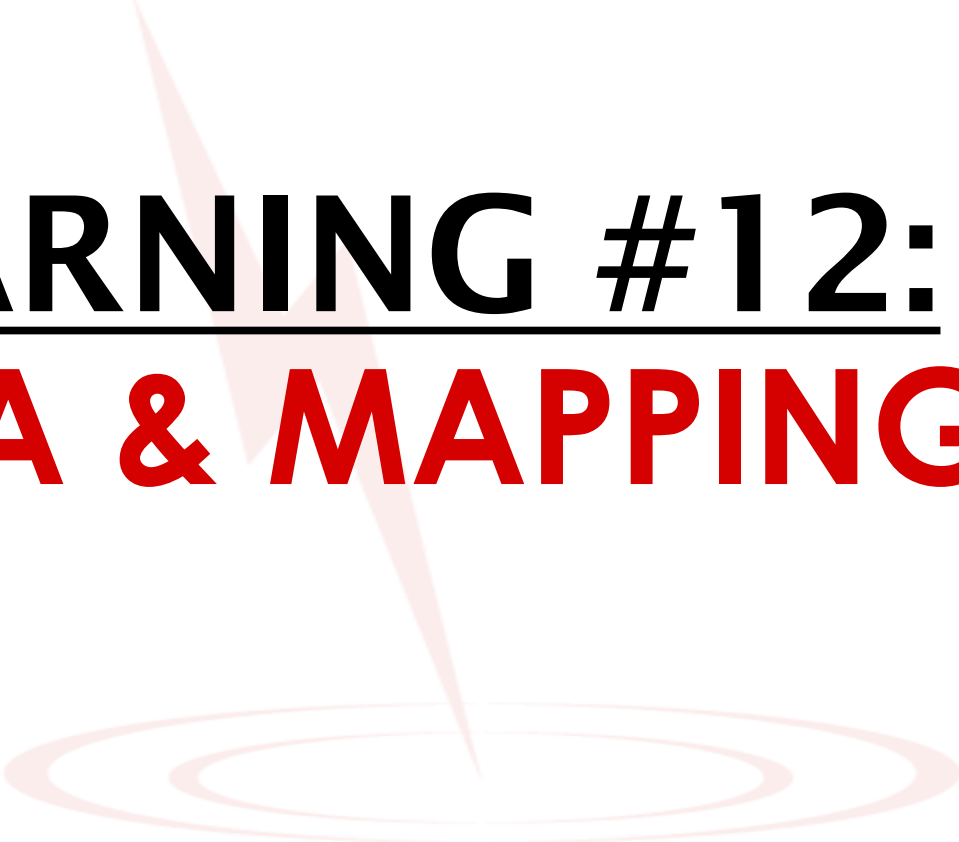


TAKE SERVICES TO THE PEOPLE, NOT PEOPLE TO THE SERVICES



Encampment responses need a combination of contact-focused outreach and solution-focused outreach.





KEY LEARNING #12:
USE DATA & MAPPING

ACCOUNTABILITY



Demographic, service needs, referrals, and temporary and permanent solutions must be tracked. Locations of encampments should be known and updated regularly.



KEY LEARNING #13:

**UNDERSTAND THE
ENCAMPMENT AS A WHOLE
AND UNDERSTAND THE
NEEDS OF EACH PERSON,
COUPLE OR FAMILY**

		Y	N
ENCAMPMENT-WIDE ASSESSMENT			
Degree of Organization	Permanent or semi-permanent structures		
	Prepared for most weather eventualities		
	Trash managed		
	Absence of hoarding/extreme collecting		
People & Pets	Minors on the site		
	<i>If YES to minors on site, are they with a legal guardian or parent</i>		
	Pets on site		
	<i>If YES to pets on site, are they in good condition</i>		
	<i>If YES to pets on site, are their food and water needs attended to</i>		
	One or more people on site are pregnant		
Ability to Meet Daily Needs	Access to potable water on or near the site		
	Access to a toilet on or near the site		
	Access to a shower on or near the site		
	Access to food on or near the site		
	Safe storage of food		
	Safe preparation of food		
	Access to new/clean clothing near the site		
	Access to laundry facilities near the site		



Presence of Hazards and Risks

Sharps/needles on the ground or otherwise not stored properly		
Broken glass on the ground		
Propane tanks on site		
Meth production on or near the site		
Drug dealing on site		
Exploitive sex work on site		
Domestic violence on site		
Sexual violence on site		
Other types of violence on site		
Human trafficking on site		
Stolen property on site		
Abetting others on site		
Interfering with the public right of way		



Conflicts on Site or Related to the Site	A known conflict with another encampment that is threatening the survival of the encampment		
	A known conflict with business or neighbors in the area that is threatening the survival of the encampment or the safety of neighbors		
	A known plan by by-law, abatement, and/or law enforcement to close the encampment		



ASSESSMENT OF EACH INDIVIDUAL IN THE ENCAMPMENT

Reasons for Disengagement from Shelter	Has used shelter one or more nights in the past year		
	Barred/service restricted from shelter		
	Claims a negative shelter experience		
	Claims to be unable to meet shelter rules		
	Has daily routines that make it impossible to enter shelter		
	Not using shelter to avoid conflict with staff or other guests		
Income & History of Housing	Has a monthly income of \$1,000 or more from all sources (formal and informal sources of income)		
	Has been housed previously in the community 6 or more months within the last three years		
	If NO to being housed in the community the encampment is located within, has been housed in a different community 6 or more months within the last three years		
Services Needed	(NOTES)		



KEY LEARNING #14:

**CONNECT THE
ENCAMPMENT
RESPONSE INTO
COORDINATED ENTRY**



HOW IS UNSHELTERED HOMELESSNESS PRIORITIZED IN COORDINATED ENTRY?









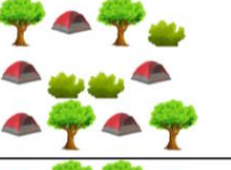









A dynamic coordinated entry process can consider unsheltered homelessness as one of the priorities to be served through available resources. This must be fair and transparent.



KEY LEARNING #15:

**BREAK LARGER
ENCAMPMENTS DOWN
INTO SMALLER SERVICE
PLANNING AND
RESPONSE AREAS**

“SUBDIVIDING” LARGE ENCAMPMENTS TO TRACK SERVICE, OUTPUTS AND OUTCOMES

	1	2	3	4
A				
B				
C				
D				



KEY LEARNING #16:

**COMPARE EVERY
TEMPORARY IDEA TO THE
COST OF PROVIDING
PERMANENT SOLUTIONS**



EXAMINE WHETHER ENDING HOMELESSNESS IS CHEAPER THAN MANAGING HOMELESSNESS



Things like flexible funding, rental assistance, and master leasing may be less expensive than temporary fixes.



KEY LEARNING #17:

**TRACK AND SHARE
PROGRESS**



SAMPLE ENCAMPMENT DASHBOARD

Location of encampment (street address, park name, GPS coordinates, Ward/neighborhood)	
Date encampment was first detected	
Number of unique individuals on site this week:	
Number of unique individuals on site last week:	
% change week over week	
Number of structures on site this week:	
Number of structures on site last week:	
% change week over week	
Number of people housed from the encampment this week:	
Number of people housed from the encampment last week:	
Number of people housed from the encampment to date:	
KEY NOTES (incidents, assessments, proposed closure date, etc.)	



SAMPLE SYSTEM DASHBOARD ON ENCAMPMENTS

Total number of encampments in the municipality this week:	
Total number of encampments in the municipality last week:	
% change week over week	
Total number of people in encampments this week:	
Total number of people in encampments last week:	
% change week over week	
Number of encampments voluntarily ending this week:	
Number of encampments forced to close this week:	
Number of people housed from encampments this week:	
Number of people housed from encampments last week:	
Number of people housed from encampments year to date:	
KEY NOTES	



KEY LEARNING #18:

**EDUCATE LOCAL
ELECTED OFFICIALS**



PRESENT VIABLE ALTERNATIVES TO ENFORCEMENT AND WHY IT MATTERS



If you do not educate decision-makers on effective encampment responses, they will make decisions based upon opinion and anecdote rather than fact.



KEY LEARNING #19:

**MEET IMMEDIATE NEEDS
WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY
ENGAGING IN
PERMANENT &
TEMPORARY SOLUTIONS**

SURVIVAL SUPPLIES SHOULD BE MARRIED TO OFFERS OF PERMANENT SOLUTIONS




Keep people alive. Keep people as healthy as possible. And, ensure there are at least equal efforts to present, activate and support permanent solutions.



KEY LEARNING #20:

**RESOLVING AN
ENCAMPMENT WITHOUT
ENFORCEMENT TAKES
TIME, BUT IS POSSIBLE**



HOUSING (WITH SUPPORTS AS NECESSARY) IS THE ONLY KNOWN CURE TO HOMELESSNESS



Voluntary closure through housing people in the encampment - or shorter term viable temporary solutions - takes time. However, it is in the best interest of all stakeholders. Maintaining the efforts is difficult.



KEY LEARNING #21:

**AGREE AS A COMMUNITY
THE LIMITED NUMBER OF
REASONS WHY
ENFORCEMENT MAY BE USED
AND THE ENCAMPMENT
MAY BE CLOSED**

POSSIBLE REASONS FOR DISMANTLING ENCAMPMENTS

- Health (including Public Health)
- Illegal Activities (especially gangs, human trafficking, extensive drug production or dealing)
- Public Right of Way made unsafe (especially if vehicular accidents are increased or pedestrians must walk into traffic)
- Considerable environmental degradation or unsafe environmental situation (for example, on a flood plain)
- On Private Property and the property owner does not consent to people being on the land



KEY LEARNING #22:

**NOT EVERY PERSON,
COUPLE OR FAMILY IN AN
ENCAMPMENT WILL WANT
ASSISTANCE, DESPITE
REPEATED EFFORTS**

AVOID LABELS LIKE “HARD TO SERVE”



If people reject services, brainstorm and try different approaches (times of day; diverse outreach workers considering things like race, age and gender). Remember, all services are voluntary.



KEY LEARNING #23:

SANCTIONED

ENCAMPMENTS ARE NOT

A QUICK FIX, EASY OR

COST-EFFECTIVE

SOLUTION

SANCTIONED ENCAMPMENTS CAN BE EXPENSIVE AND REALLY HARD TO WIND DOWN



If you enter into starting a sanctioned encampment, ensure housing-focused services are intense, and ensure there is an exit plan.



KEY LEARNING #24:

**DEBRIEF AND LEARN
FROM EVERY
ENCAMPMENT**



CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT IN ENCAMPMENT RESPONSES MATTERS



Complete a structured debrief after every encampment. Document what you learn. Continuously improve.



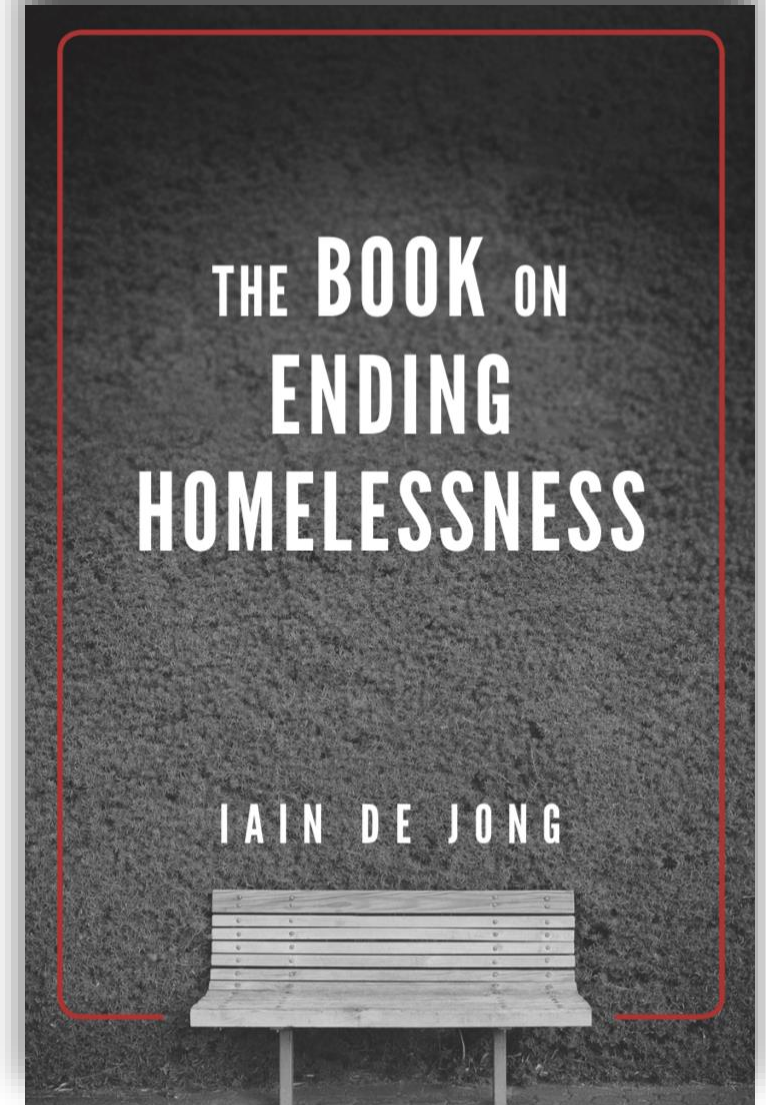
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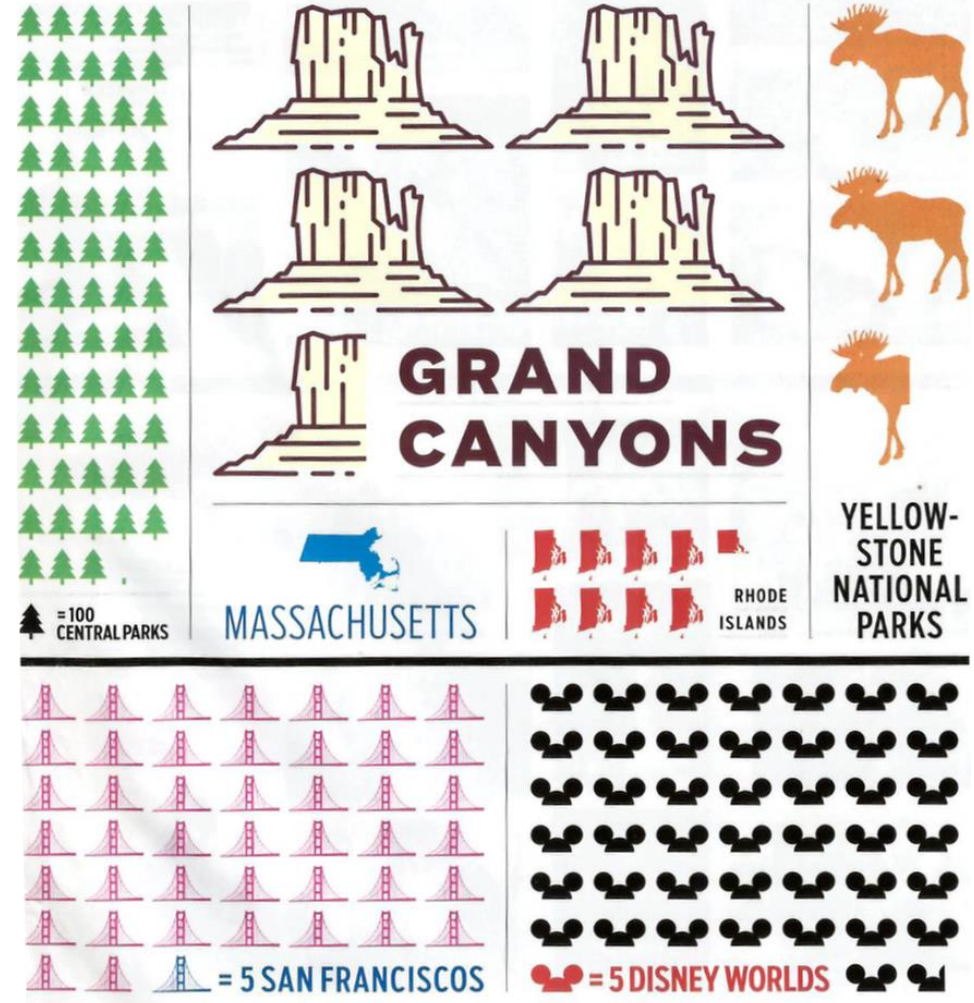
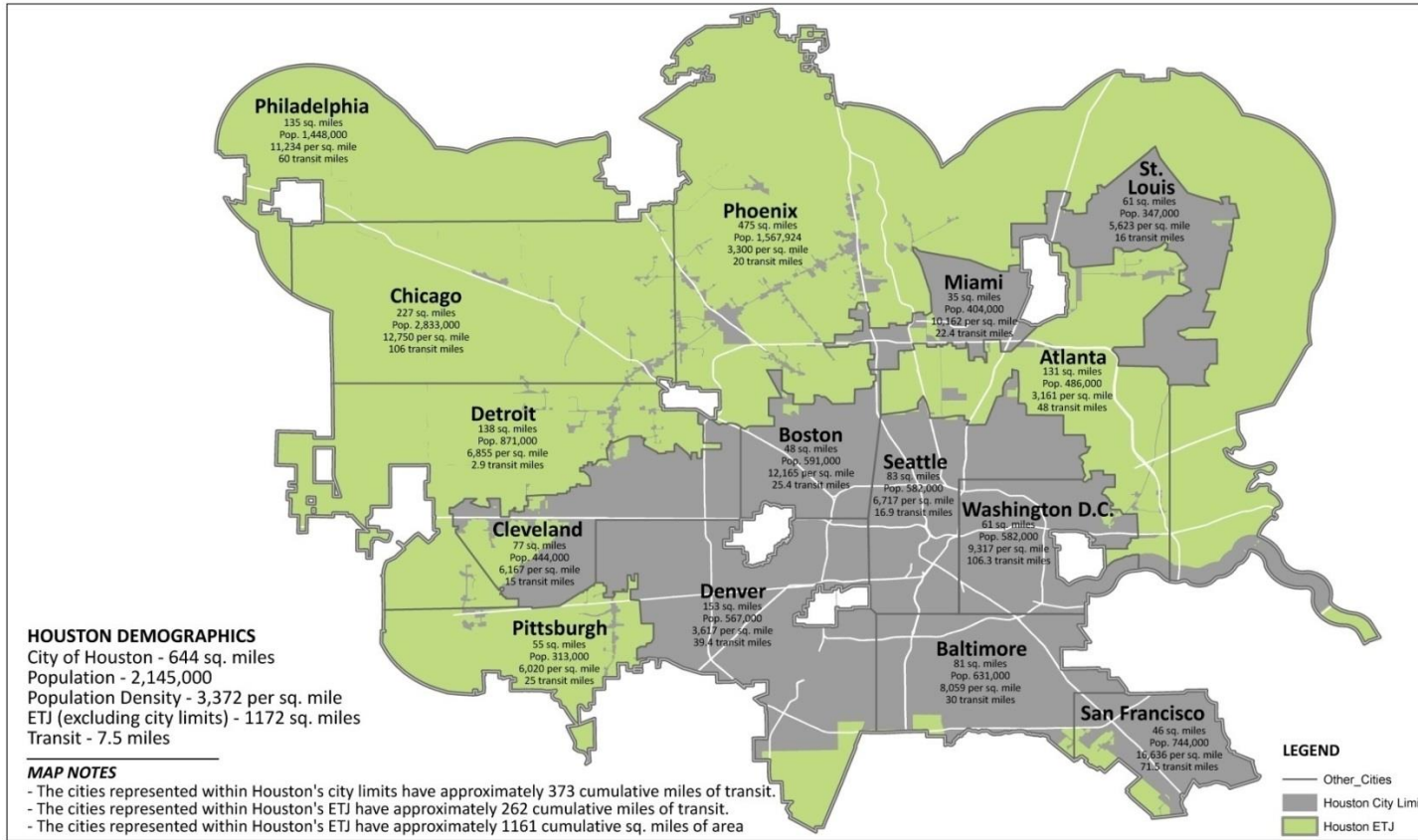


*The Way Home
Continuum of Care
Encampment Response Strategy*



My, how big you are!!

TX-700 CoC = 3,739 sq miles



LAND AREA COMPARISON : HOUSTON AND OTHER U.S. TRANSIT CITIES

Source: City of Houston, U.S. Census Bureau (2006 Population Estimates and 2000 Land Areas), Wikipedia



November 10, 2010

www.knudsonlp.com



The Way Home

Non-Profit Organization



Lead agency for the TX-700 Continuum of Care



Coordinate the community response to homelessness

AKA: TX-700 Continuum of Care



100+ partners working together to end homelessness



Permanent housing is the solution

Reality in 2011

- ✓ We had the 6th largest homeless population in the country
- ✓ Homeless service providers were spending millions but still leaving federal funds unused
- ✓ Homeless service providers were operating in silos, with no collaboration
- ✓ Recidivism was high
- ✓ Homelessness is expensive

The Shift

- Two important events in 2012
 - Technical Assistance
 - ✓ Houston was identified as a priority community by HUD
 - Community Charette
 - ✓ Brought everyone together
 - ✓ Identified common goals for the homeless response system



End Result



A diverse collection of independent providers employing lots of methods & seeing various results



An integrated network of providers coordinating efforts to achieve maximum impact

spotlight on...

HOUSTON MAYOR: WE HAVE EFFECTIVELY ENDED VETERAN HOMELESSNESS



Congressman Al Green, Mayor Annise Parker, U.S. Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert F. McDonald, U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary Julián Castro, U.S. Department of Labor Secretary Thomas E. Perez, Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Executive Director Matthew Doherty. Photo courtesy of the US Department of Housing and Urban Development

Houston Effectively Ends Veteran Homelessness

Becomes Largest City in the Nation to Create System to House any Homeless Veteran

June 2015



Hurricane Harvey – August 2017





**Tidwell St
Before**

**Tidwell St
After**

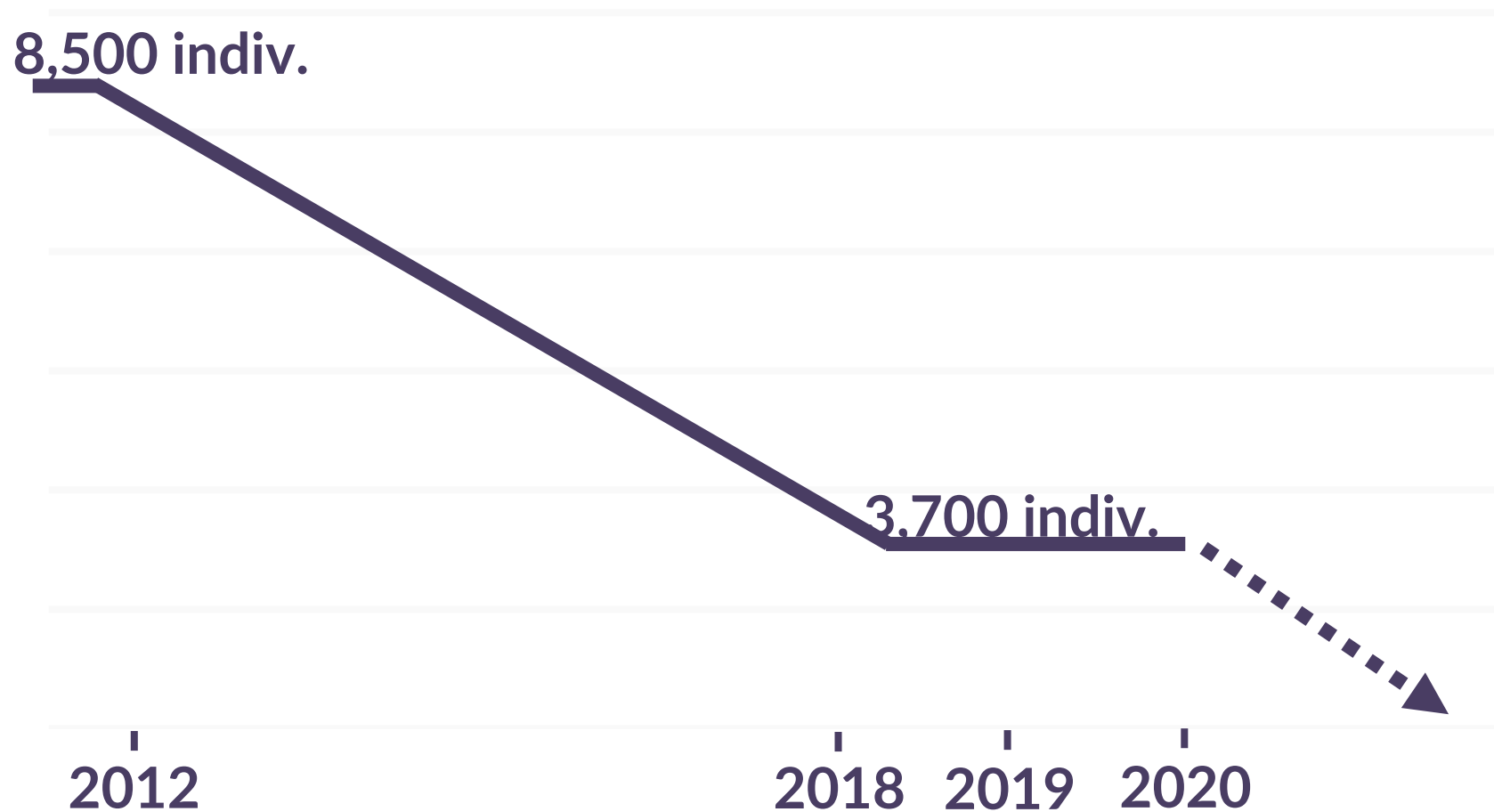




Source: Houston Chronicle

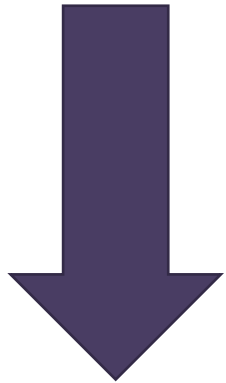
Homeless Population – Houston / Harris County

- Since 2012, more than 21,000+ individuals experiencing homelessness had been permanently housed.
- Nearly 90% remained housed two-years after placement.
- After reducing homelessness by 54%, we saw an 18% increase after Harvey.
- Much attention & resources were diverted to respond to the disaster.
- Our region's homeless population became stagnant, due to a lack of financial resources and tools.
- Continued support needed to "get over the hump"

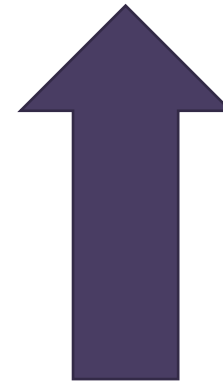


The Rise in “Street Issues”

54%
Homeless Population



Visibility



Let's close an encampment!

- Wheeler Encampment (Caroline & Alameda)
 - March 2018
 - 73 individuals
 - ✓ 73% housed
 - ✓ 5% refused
 - ✓ 22% left

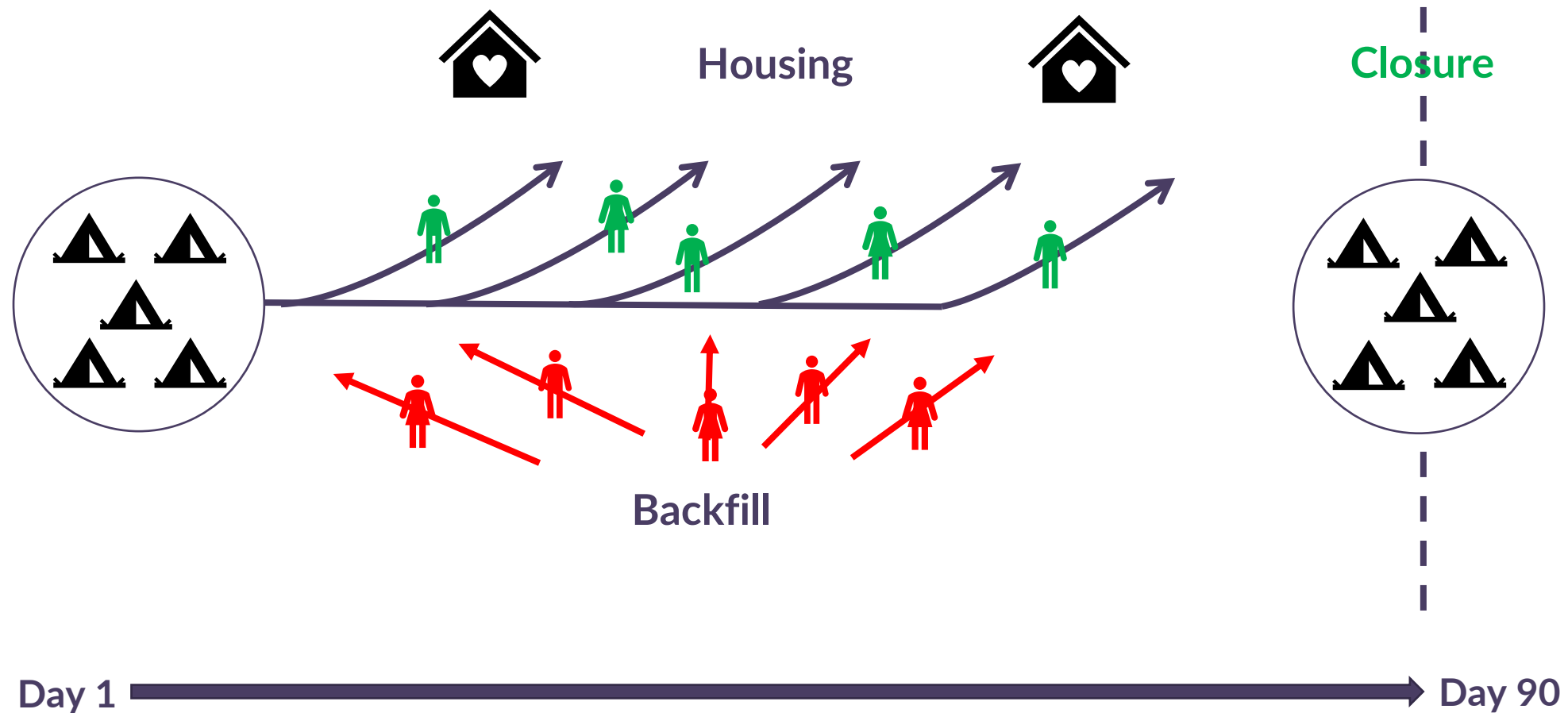


Housing Harvey's Homeless – H3

- September 2019
- Chartres Encampment (near Minute Maid)
- Several areas in downtown
- \$2,500,000
 - Qatar Harvey Fund via Mayor Turner's Complete Communities Improvement Fund
- \$500,000
 - Downtown Management District
- 286 individuals
 - 70% housed
 - 8% refused
 - 22% left



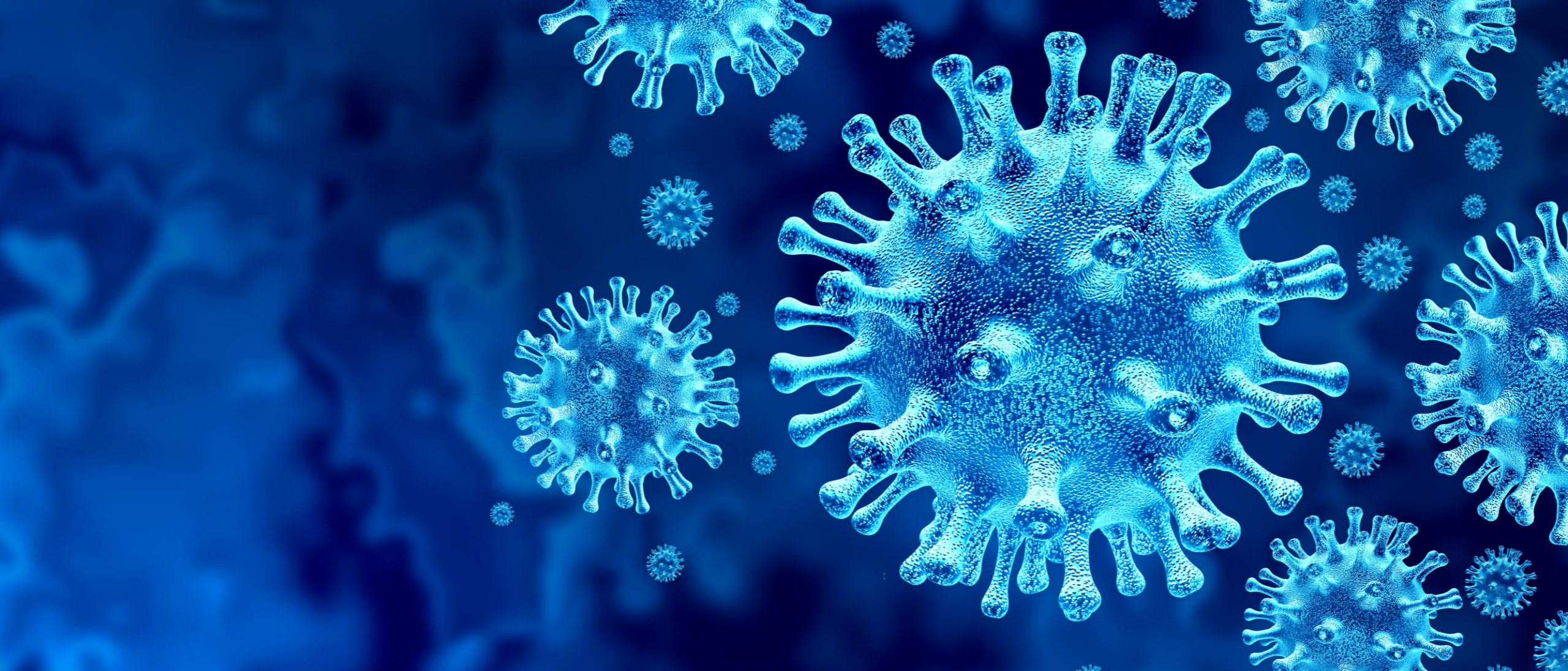
Initial Lessons Learned






2019 New Strategic Plan -Landscape Need


Program Types	Current System (Units)	Demand	Difference
RRH for Singles	459	2,075	-1616
RHH for Families	553	948	-395
PSH for Singles	5,078	7,377	-2,299
PSH for Families	117	86	+31



COVID-19



Coronavirus Aid, Relief, & Economic Security Act (CARES)



- ❖ Individuals experiencing homelessness are more likely to contract the virus & more likely to require critical care if infected
- ❖ Can't socially distance if you're living on the streets
- ❖ City & County needed help in putting funds to best use
- ❖ Opportunity for large-scale impact
- ❖ Intended to be used as a public health tool to house the homeless




CCHP

- On July 1, Harris County, Houston, & the Coalition announced \$65M plan to serve 5,000 people by October 2022

Housing is healthcare

Encampment Response Strategy

- The CCHP allowed for the roll-out of an Encampment Decommissioning program that has demonstrated proven results in placing individuals living on the streets into housing.
 - Official [Encampment Response Strategy](#) available.
 - Currently being used by as a national best practice.
 - Houston Chronicle [cover story](#) featured our efforts.
- 

New Approach

“Surge” Strategy Plan

- Based on availability of housing
- Move encampment residents out in one week to prevent backfill
- Monitor location over time

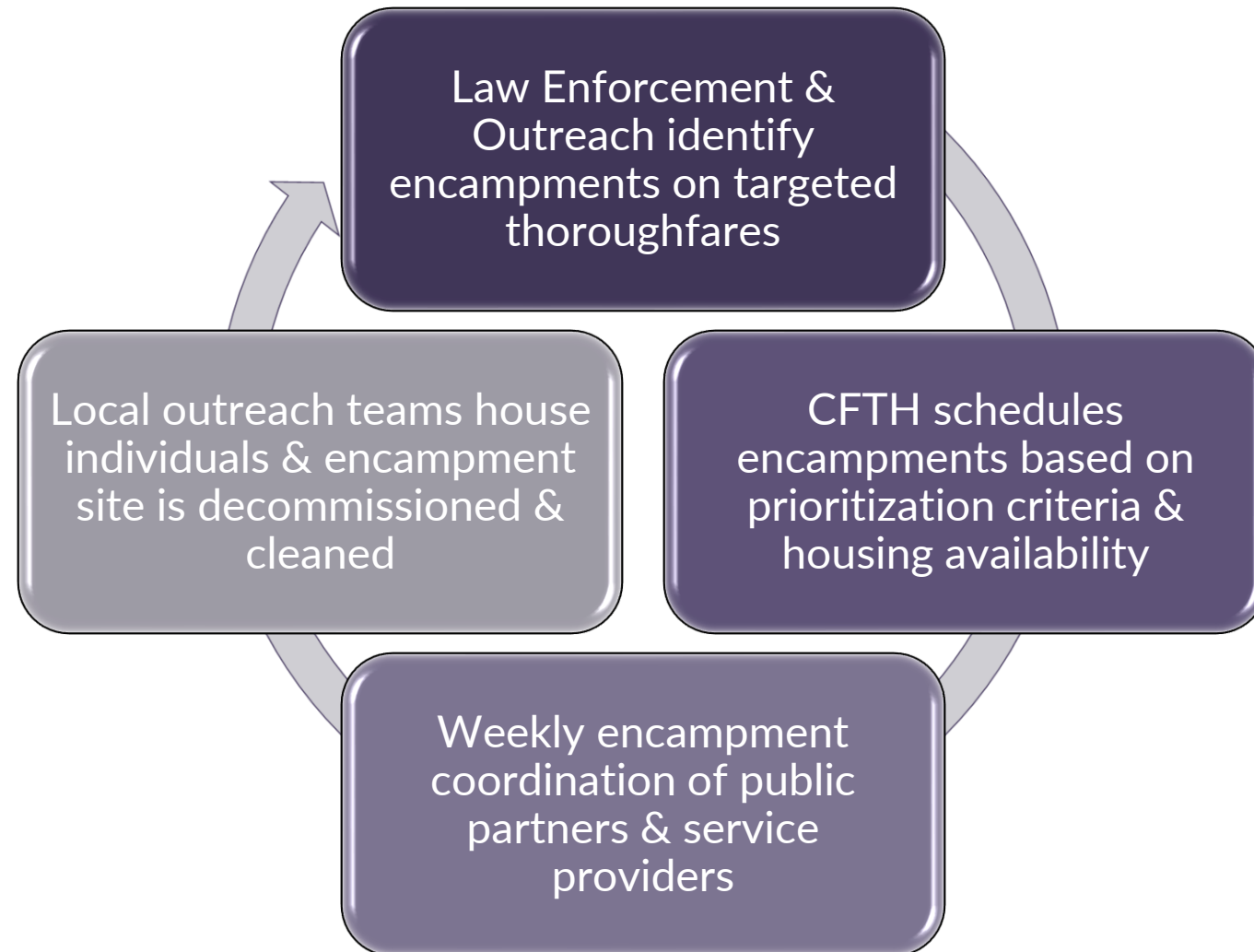
Dedicated Outreach Teams

- Large Encampment Teams
- Medium/Small Encampment Teams
- Hot Spots handled by pre-existing outreach

Dedicated Housing & Landlord Engagement Teams

- Ensure individuals have a housing referral
- Identify units, pay landlord incentives, get pre-approvals
- Align providers

Coordinated Encampment Response



Guiding Principles

- Houston/Harris County does not endorse sanctioned encampments as a response to unsheltered homelessness. Forcibly relocating individuals to designated camps is not an effective strategy.
- All people can be housed, with the right housing model and service supports.
- To the greatest extent practicable, individual choices about where and how to live should be honored.
- Addressing encampments requires collaboration from multiple sectors and systems; no single entity can or should have exclusive responsibility.
- Non-punitive, engagement-focused approaches are more preferable than enforcement, clearance, and criminalization. Enforcement approaches should be strategically combined with housing offers to address broader community health and safety interests.
- Intensive and persistent outreach and engagement is the key to building trust among persons living in encampments.
- Persons in encampments do best with clear, low-barrier pathways to permanent housing.
- Permanent housing placements must be followed by support services to ensure individuals are successful in maintaining their housing.

Defining Encampments

Large Encampments

- Concentration of 10 or more people,
- Use of structures for sustained habitation (cardboard boxes, tents, non-permanent structures),
- Evidence of sustained presence - trash piles, cooking fires, shopping carts.

Small Encampments

- Concentration of 3 – 9 people in a definable location,
- Use of structures for sustained habitation (cardboard boxes, tents, non-permanent structures),
- Evidence of sustained presence, although degree/visibility may be less than large encampments.

Hot Spots

- 1 - 3 people in a definable location,
- Evidence of bedding down but not sustained presence in the same location for sustained periods of time greater than one week.

Selecting Encampments for Remediation

Location Characteristics

Number of people

Location

Community complaints

Visibility

Criminal activity in vicinity

Vulnerability of Population

Elderly (65+)

Children (<17)

Physical/behavioral health concerns

Prostitution or human trafficking on site

Frequent 911 calls

Drugs/violence

Neglected animals

Environmental

Presence of vermin

Presence of hazardous materials

Biowaste

Food waste

Loose, sharp objects

Loud noises from traffic

Community Safety

Camping in public parks

Camping on sidewalks

Open fires

Site close to highway, heavy traffic, flash flood areas, homes/apts.

Abandoned building

Near schools/daycares

Solid Waste

Excessive garbage & trash

Bagged garbage

Large, abandoned items

Decommissioning Timeline

Site Identification & Reconnaissance

- Visual Inventory of site
- Identify community groups

4-6 wks

Comprehensive Engagement

- By-name list created
- First briefing w/partners

4 wks

3 wks

2 wks

Encampment Response 2

- Office "closure" notice posted
- Confirm structures to be removed
- Confirm transportation & storage needs
- Units available, location, inspection, pre-approvals

1 wk

Aftercare

- Daily home visits w/housed clients
- Monitor site to maintain clearance
- Site monitored by law enforcement

Site Assessment

- Document location
- Vulnerability of population

Encampment Response 1

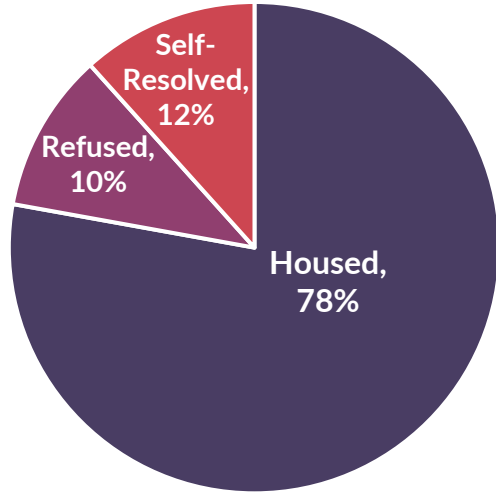
- CE Assessments
- Confirm housing & needs
- Landlord engagement

Housing Surge Week

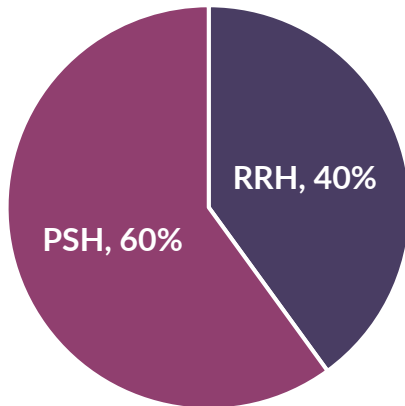
- Housing partners on-site HMIS enrollments
- Transport clients to units
- Law enforcement & solid waste

Encampments Decommissioned - 57

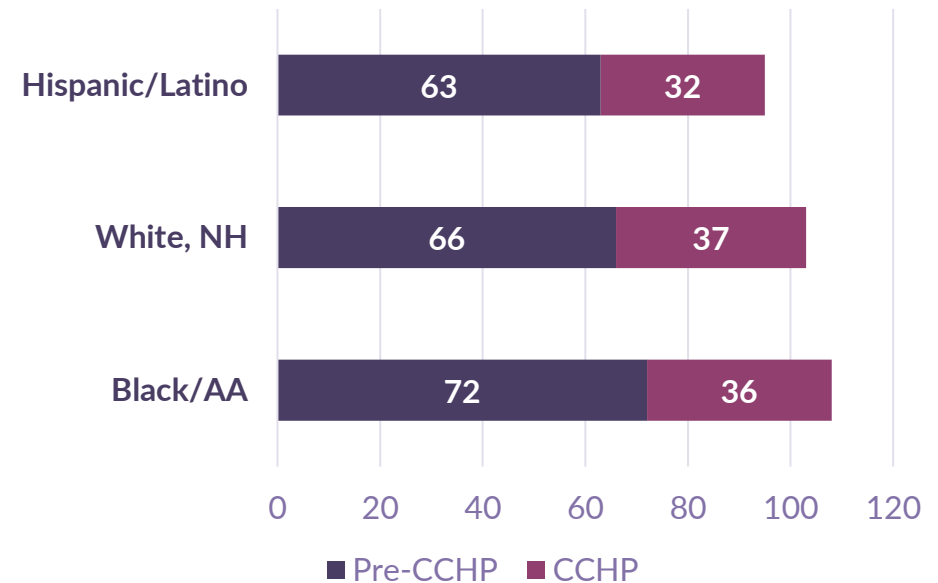
Individuals Engaged, n=343



Permanent Housing



Average Days from Referral to Lease-Up		
	Before CCHP	After CCHP
PSH	60	32
RRH	80	34



Lessons Learned

No Two Encampments are the Same

Start small

Integrated Care Teams

Referral Timing

Restoring Community Support in Housing First

COVID Waivers

Supportive Services are not optional



Remaining Challenges

01

Housing Availability

- Between October 1, 2020 – July 12, 2022, we have placed 5,315 people in permanent housing
- 73% of these are single adults or couples using 1-bedroom units

02

Funding Sustainability

- Federal pandemic related funding provided a unique, once-in-a-generation opportunity of increased funding that enabled Houston to substantially increase PH & decommission encampment
- Local stakeholders must figure out a way to continue funding efforts to maintain momentum once pandemic funding is exhausted

HOUSTON CHRONICLE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 27, 2022 • HOUSTONCHRONICLE.COM • VOL. 121, NO. 106 • \$2.00 ★★

City, Harris County invest \$100M in plan to cut homelessness in half

By R.A. Schuetz
STAFF WRITER

Houston and Harris County announced Wednesday afternoon a \$100 million increase in funds they are funneling into efforts to reduce homelessness in the area. They had previously committed \$65 million in federal COVID-related funding to the initiative.

"In Houston, we either go big or we go home," said Mayor Syl-

vester Turner in a press conference announcing the funds. "And today, we are going big so ... Houstonians can go home." He said he hoped the funds would help cut the region's homeless population in half by helping people secure housing.

"Housing is a human right," said Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo. "And in Harris County, housing is something we fight for together."

The announcement came

hours after city council voted, 13 to 4, to fund the transformation of a city-owned building in Fifth Ward into a place where people moved out of an encampment can live, along with pets and loved ones, while they await their permanent housing. The facility, known as a navigation center, is key to a plan by the city, Harris County, and their partners to reduce the number of people living in the streets.

Homeless continues on A8



Jon Shapley / Staff file photo

Police officers hand out blankets last year. A new program is moving people from encampments to permanent housing.

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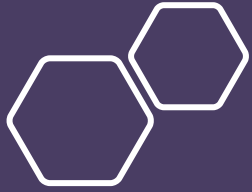
"In Houston, we either go big or we go home. And today, we are going big so...Houstonians can go home!" -Houston Mayor, Sylvester Turner

Houston and Harris County announce increased investment in efforts to reduce homelessness by \$100 million.



Encampment Closure – May 2022

Spur @ Milam & Alabama



- Monday



- Tuesday



- Wednesday



- Thursday





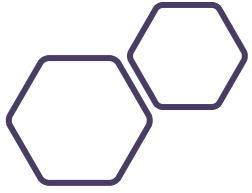
Today

Before



After





Before



After





25,500+ Housed Since 2011

- BBVA Stadium
- Capacity: 22,039

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Q&A