



Meaningful Engagement of People With Lived Experience

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**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**

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Meaningful Engagement of People with Lived Experience of Homelessness

What does it mean to meaningfully engage people with lived experience of homelessness?

Communities that have meaningfully engaged people with lived experience of homelessness create an environment where people with lived experience of homelessness are able to share their truth about what is working and what is not working in the system, without fear of retaliation.

In these communities the homeless response system leaders and governing bodies have included those disproportionately represented within the system and historically underserved and excluded, particularly Black, Brown, and Indigenous people and those who have lived experience of homelessness.

People with lived experience are paid for their time and expertise and lead on decisions affecting the community. Through this meaningful engagement of people with lived experience of homelessness a community develops and sustains interventions to end homelessness.

**Co-developed with BFZ Housing Equity Strategists, TSTJ LLC and based off guidance from USICH and HUD*

**Meaningful
Engagement of
People with Lived
Experience of
Homelessness
Critical Standards
Categories:**



Internal Practices



Relationship Framework



Infrastructure Principles

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**Meaningful
Engagement of
People with Lived
Experience of
Homelessness
Core Elements
Internal Practices:**



Be Vulnerable



Be Authentic



Be Consistent



Be Accessible



Be Inclusive

**Meaningful
Engagement of
People with Lived
Experience of
Homelessness
Core Elements
Relationship
Framework:**

- ✓ **Create Belonging**
- ✓ **Re-evaluate Perception of
“Professionalism”**
- ✓ **Treat with dignity and respect**
- ✓ **Implement Trauma & Healing
Informed Practices**
- ✓ **Value the contribution**
- ✓ **Build partnership & power share**

**Meaningful
Engagement of
People with Lived
Experience of
Homelessness
Core Elements
Infrastructure
Principles:**

- ✓ **Reflect the population being served**
- ✓ **Address & solve for barriers**
- ✓ **Continuous learning & improvement**

**What does Meaningful Engagement
look like?**

**Bad & Good Examples from Housing
Equity Strategists**