Unified Solutions: Homelessness Prevention through Coordination

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

Who We Are

Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort Team

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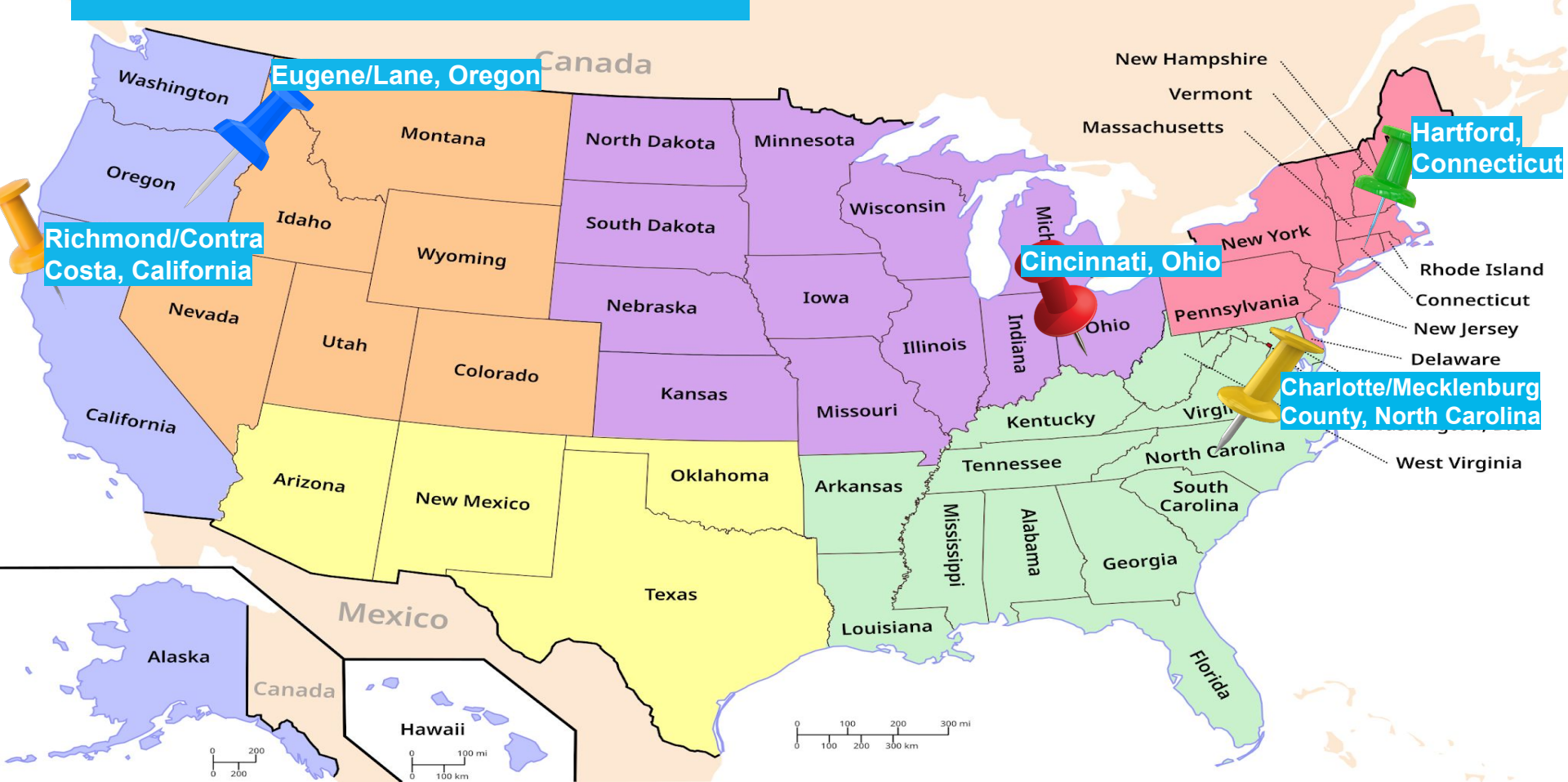Advisor
Learning & Evaluation

Tom
Consultant
Tom Albanese
Consulting

Community Solutions
Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort (HSLC)

- An innovation cohort of 5 Built for Zero (BFZ) communities
- Focused on co-creating local models that coordinate and target prevention
- Goal to reduce inflow into literal homelessness and advance racial equity

Building Systems that
Prevent Homelessness

Preventing literal homelessness rather than crisis response to homelessness

Can we move from this...

Prevention → EMERGENCY RESPONSE → Accommodation & Supports

...to this!

PREVENTION → Emergency Response → ACCOMMODATION & SUPPORTS

Source: https://homelesshub.ca/solutions/prevention

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What is Homelessness Prevention?

Homelessness prevention refers to policies, practices, and interventions that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness. It also means providing those who have been homeless with the necessary resources and supports to stabilize their housing, enhance integration and social inclusion, and ultimately reduce the risk of the recurrence of homelessness.
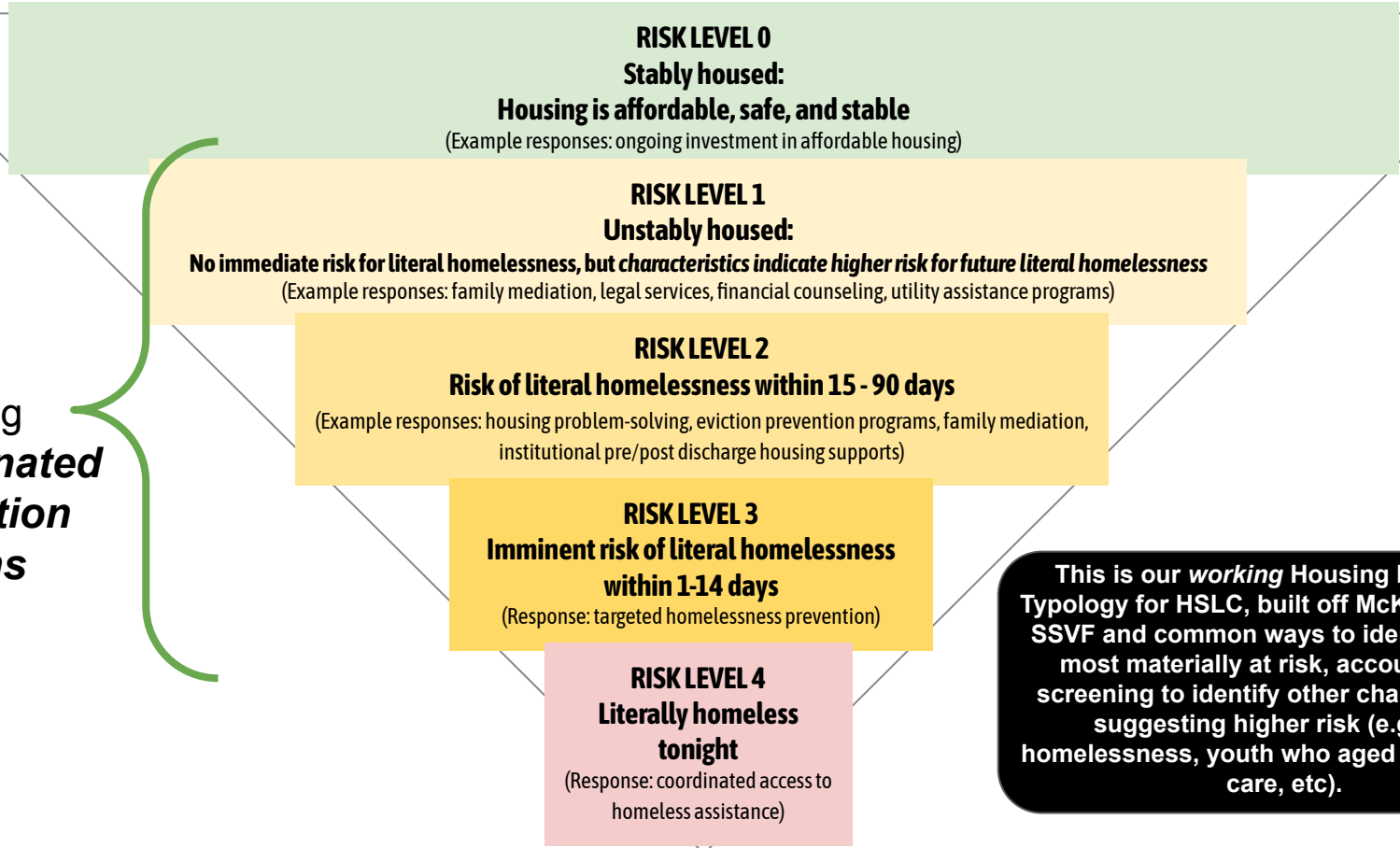
Types of Homelessness Prevention (HP):
- ***Primary***
- ***Secondary*** (***"Targeted Homelessness Prevention"***)
- ***Tertiary***

Stephen Gaetz & Erin Dej. (2017). A New Direction: A Framework for Homelessness Prevention. Toronto: Canadian Observatory on Homelessness Press.

What is COORDINATED Homelessness Prevention?

A *community-wide approach* that uses common risk screening criteria to identify people who are housing insecure, including those who are at greatest risk for literal homelessness, and then offers immediate, coordinated access to housing problem-solving and prevention-related resources, including prioritized access to assistance for people with more urgent prevention needs.

HSLC Housing Insecurity Typology

RISK LEVEL 0
Stably housed:
Housing is affordable, safe, and stable
(Example responses: ongoing investment in affordable housing)

RISK LEVEL 1
Unstably housed:
No immediate risk for literal homelessness, but *characteristics indicate higher risk for future literal homelessness*
(Example responses: family mediation, legal services, financial counseling, utility assistance programs)

RISK LEVEL 2
Risk of literal homelessness within 15 - 90 days
(Example responses: housing problem-solving, eviction prevention programs, family mediation, institutional pre/post discharge housing supports)

RISK LEVEL 3
Imminent risk of literal homelessness within 1-14 days
(Response: targeted homelessness prevention)

RISK LEVEL 4
Literally homeless tonight
(Response: coordinated access to homeless assistance)

Emerging
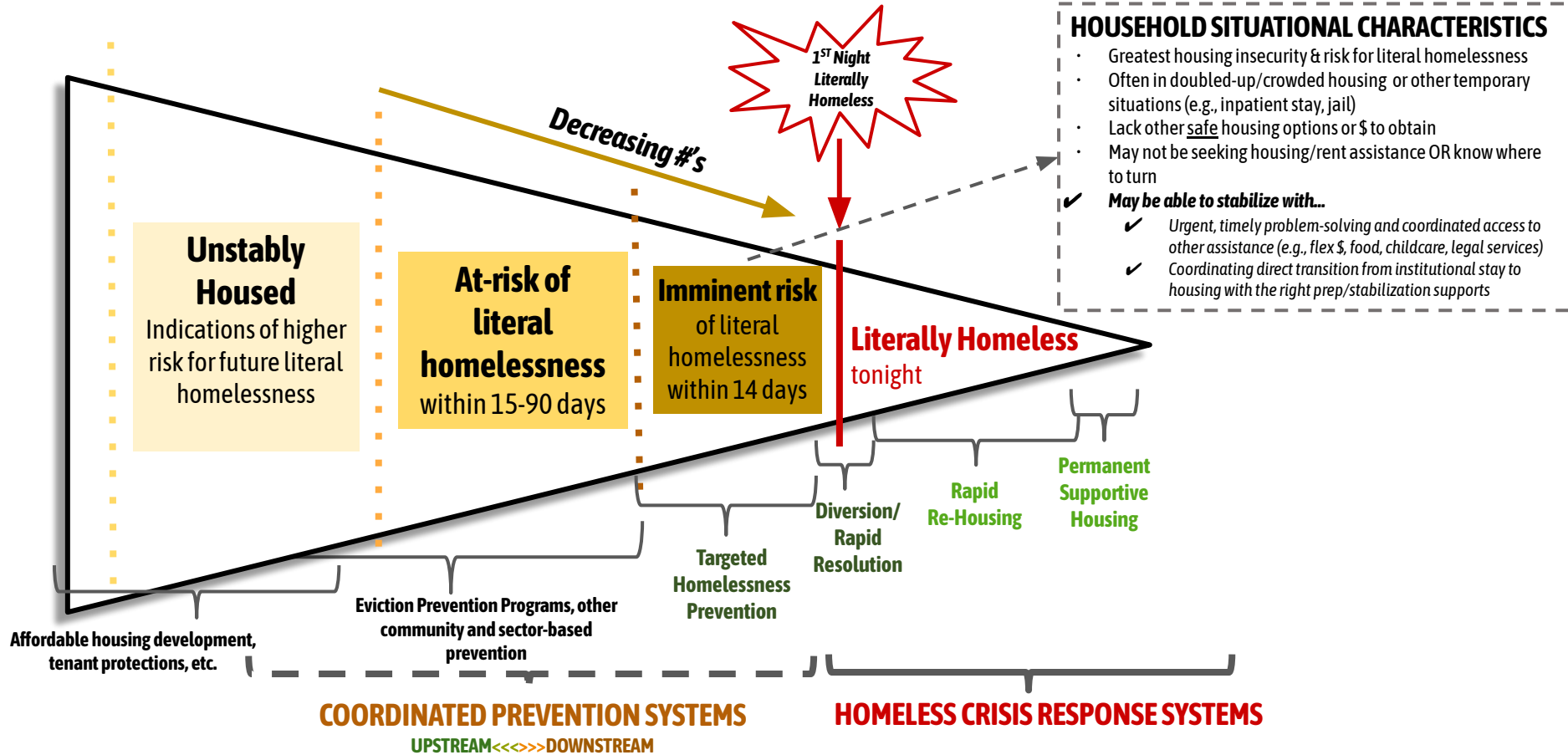*Coordinated Prevention Systems*

This is our *working* Housing Insecurity Typology for HSLC, built off McKinney-Vento, SSVF and common ways to identify people most materially at risk, accounting for screening to identify other characteristics suggesting higher risk (e.g prior homelessness, youth who aged out of foster care, etc).

HSLC Housing Insecurity Typology: Definitions & Indicators

	Risk Level	Living Situation	Housing Options & Resources
0	**Stably Housed**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Current housing is stable for the foreseeable future (e.g., sufficient income to pay rent and utilities, able to stay with host family/friend indefinitely)	<u>Has</u> housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
1	**Unstably Housed**	· Current housing is safe; AND · No material risk of imminent risk of literal homelessness (i.e., not Risk Level 2-4); AND · Is currently experiencing general housing insecurity due to housing cost burden, housing conditions, frequent unplanned moves, and/or other characteristics and barriers indicative of higher risk for future literal homelessness. May be at-risk of housing loss in 3-6 months.	<u>Has</u> housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay for *foreseeable* future.
2	**At-Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 15-90 Days)**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Must leave current housing within <u>15-90 days</u> (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, landlord-issued eviction, foreclosure, safety or health risk, host family/friend limitation, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within <u>15-90 days</u>;	<u>Does not have other</u> housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay *after* the <u>next 15-90 days.</u>
3	**Imminent Risk of Literal Homelessness (within 1-14 Days)**	· Current housing is safe; AND · Must leave current housing within <u>14 days</u> (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, imminent safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, family conflict, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) within <u>14 days</u>;	<u>Does not have</u> other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay after the <u>next 14 days</u>.
4	**Literally Homeless Tonight**	· Is currently literally homeless and continues to have no other safe housing option tonight outside of available emergency shelter, Safe Haven, or transitional housing options; OR · Must leave current housing <u>today</u> (e.g., due to court-ordered eviction, foreclosure, immediate safety or health risk, host family/friend request to leave, etc.); OR · Must leave an institution (e.g., hospital, jail, treatment facility) <u>today</u>.	<u>Does not have</u> other housing options, financial resources, and/or support networks to maintain or obtain a safe place to stay <u>tonight</u>

Community-Wide *Housing Stabilization* Approach

1ST Night Literally Homeless

HOUSEHOLD SITUATIONAL CHARACTERISTICS
- Greatest housing insecurity & risk for literal homelessness
- Often in doubled-up/crowded housing or other temporary situations (e.g., inpatient stay, jail)
- Lack other <u>safe</u> housing options or $ to obtain
- May not be seeking housing/rent assistance OR know where to turn
- ✔ *May be able to stabilize with...*
    - ✔ *Urgent, timely problem-solving and coordinated access to other assistance (e.g., flex $, food, childcare, legal services)*
    - ✔ *Coordinating direct transition from institutional stay to housing with the right prep/stabilization supports*

Decreasing #'s

Unstably Housed
Indications of higher risk for future literal homelessness

At-risk of literal homelessness
within 15-90 days

Imminent risk of literal homelessness within 14 days

Literally Homeless tonight

Diversion/ Rapid Resolution

Rapid Re-Housing

Permanent Supportive Housing

Targeted Homelessness Prevention

Affordable housing development, tenant protections, etc.

Eviction Prevention Programs, other community and sector-based prevention

COORDINATED PREVENTION SYSTEMS

HOMELESS CRISIS RESPONSE SYSTEMS

UPSTREAM<<<>>>DOWNSTREAM

Foundational Priorities for HSLC: Starting Points

Our Theory of Change

By coordinating a common prevention approach and targeting resources, communities can improve housing stability overall while reducing inflow into literal homelessness and advancing racial equity.

Foundational Priorities for Communities for Development & Implementation

1. Establish Core Team, Staff Roles, & Roadmap
2. Examine Current Prevention *Needs*
3. Examine Current Prevention *Responses*
4. *Pilot* Core Elements of Coordinated Prevention
5. *Scale & Implement* Core Elements of Coordinated Prevention

COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SYSTEMS:

Foundational Priorities

1. **Establish Core Team, Staff Roles, & Roadmap**
   a. Dedicated lead organization and staff
   b. Diverse, representative Core Team with PLEH leaders
   c. Shared understanding of Coordinated Prevention
   d. Coordinated Prevention Roadmap
2. **Examine Housing Insecurity & Emergency *Needs***
   a. Initial inflow investigation (data useability review, annual inflow analysis)
   b. Community interviews
   c. Housing insecurity heat mapping
3. **Examine Housing Insecurity & Emergency *Responses***
   a. Environmental scan
   b. Community interviews
   c. Identification of new or current resources
4. ***Pilot* Core Elements of Coordinated Prevention**
   a. Pilot implementation plan
   b. Early implementation and testing
   c. Pilot review, learning, adjustment
5. ***Scale & Implement* Core Elements of Coordinated Prevention**
   a. Updated pilot implementation and scaling plan
   b. Updated prevention roadmap

COORDINATED HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION SYSTEMS:

Core Elements

1. Coordinated Prevention *Partners*: community partners formally engaged as Access Points & Service Providers across a wide variety of community-based and cross-sector settings.

2. Coordinated Prevention *Access & Services*: Housing Problem-Solving, flexible financial assistance, and prioritized access to other existing community resources that reduce imminent risk homelessness and help to stabilize housing.

3. Coordinated Prevention *Manual, Tools, and Guidance*: for Access Points and Service Providers to consistently and equitably identify and assist higher priority households.

4. Coordinated Prevention *Training*: regular training for Access Point and Service Provider partner staff on key skills, community resources, and all things housing.

5. Coordinated Prevention *Management and Support*: ongoing backbone entity to lead and support partner recruitment, training, coordination, reporting, analysis, and ongoing system improvement and development.

Learnings and Bright Spots

Eugene/Lane County, OR

- Expanded partnerships with upstream providers and culturally relevant agencies, including Street Outreach Teams, to address SDoH disparities.
- Built a coordinated interagency referral network, prioritizing global majority populations.
- Established a coordinated prevention system with a housing prioritization screener, standardized procedures, and workflows for specialized populations.
- Created a community queue list for housing risks and provided county-wide problem-solving training for landlords and housing providers.
- Maintains a live dashboard for inflow analysis, tracking outcomes, and housing stability.
- Used CFI funding to strengthen partnerships with Catholic Support Services, compensating staff with lived experience on the HSLC core team.

Hartford, Connecticut

- Adopted CT's Homeless Prevention Program risk assessment and prioritized local assistance.
- Created a list to identify at-risk individuals and high-inflow zip codes.
- Prioritized services for Black men exiting incarceration.
- Coordinated $2.2 million for homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing.
- Provided aftercare support for clients exiting permanent housing and encampments.
- Engaged landlords and implemented risk mitigation strategies.
- Assigned a diversion specialist for re-entry populations.
- Built key relationships with legal service providers and the Department of Corrections.

Learnings and Bright Spots

Contra Costa

- Presented pilot outcomes to stakeholders, emphasizing key interventions driving success.
- Completed outcome mapping with the CS CFI team.
- Finalized HSLC pilot plan, securing part-time staff funding for prevention through United Way 211.
- Integrated prioritization screener and community queue for housing risks into HMIS.
- Developed a culturally relevant care workflow with input from experts and those with lived experience.
- Facilitated housing problem-solving training and provided ongoing program management support.
- Adapted prioritization screener from HSLC peer network in Mecklenburg County, NC.
- Collected community feedback on screener usability, with final stakeholder approval set for October.
- Held provider meetings to refine the screener ahead of launch.

Mecklenburg County (Charlotte, North Carolina)

- Reviewed pilot outcomes with the Core Team and key partners, emphasizing intervention effectiveness, efficiency, and equity.
- Assessed pilot performance in stabilizing households from global majority populations.
- Completed CFI interview; second funding installment pending.
- Met with prevention and upstream providers to explore Sequential Intercept Mapping (SIM) benefits for homelessness response.
- Planning to incorporate SIM feedback to expand Theory of Change (ToC) and interventions.

Learnings and Bright Spots

Hamilton County (Cincinnati, Ohio)

- Expanded pilot implementation plan, using key learnings to broaden interventions.
- Recruited 15+ newly funded prevention partners to the HSLC Core Team.
- Conducted inflow analysis, identifying high-risk neighborhoods and racial disparities, and shared insights with partners to pinpoint intervention needs.
- Organizing community interviews, led by Housing Equity Strategist Jianna Hopkins Isreal, with support from HSLC advisors.
- Utilizing predictive analytics to craft targeted, effective interventions.
- Established a standardized definition of coordinated prevention, informed by CS HSLC and STEH frameworks.

HSLC Participating Community Tiers

Learning Lab Communities

Developing replicable models that work with other sectors, systems and networks to drive equitable reductions in homelessness at population levels.

- Hartford, CT
- Cincinnati, OH
- Eugene/Lane County, OR
- Richmond/
  Contra Costa County, CA
- Charlotte/
  Mecklenburg County, NC

Learning Circles*

Learning Lab**

Learning Circles virtual webinar sessions with communities that are engaged or that would like to be engaged in prevention work

*Communities invited to participate in virtual learning and peer sharing webinars but will not get 1:1 coaching
**Communities who have received CFI dollars and will be receiving 1:1 coaching via HSLC coaching regarding prevention work

Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort (HSLC)

Built For Zero.
COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

MY COMMUNITY | RESOURCES | HUBS ⌃ | CONTACT US

Overview | Resources | Toolbank | Workshops | Learning Circles

Building coordinated approaches to prevent homelessness and housing insecurity

Built for Zero is powered by Community Solutions →

COORDINATED PREVENTION TOOLBANK

This toolbank is designed to enhance the collective impact of organizations working on housing stability by providing them with the necessary resources, support, and collaborative opportunities. This toolbank grants you access to templates, checklists, and guides for housing stabilization efforts.

Core Team Development & Engagement Guidance

READ GUIDANCE

- *Suggested Audience: Backbone entity(ies), Core Teams*
- *Topics covered:*
  - Roles & Responsibilities Of The Coordinated Homelessness Prevention Core Team & Local Leads/Coordinators
  - Key Indicators Of An Effective Core Team
  - Identifying & Recruiting Core Team Members
  - Initial Steps For Successful Core Team Formation + Implementation
- *Related Tools/Guidance:*
  - Framework for Coordinated Homelessness Prevention
  - Coordinated Prevention Roadmap

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The **HSLC Online Hub** is a centralized digital platform providing access to **community resources**, the **HSLC Toolbank** (a collection of tools and materials to support coordinated homelessness prevention initiatives), **workshop recordings** from past events, and the ability to **sign up for Learning Circle sessions**, which are collaborative learning and discussion forums for community members and organizations. This hub serves as a valuable resource for education, training, and engagement in housing and service-related initiatives.

THE HSLC HUB
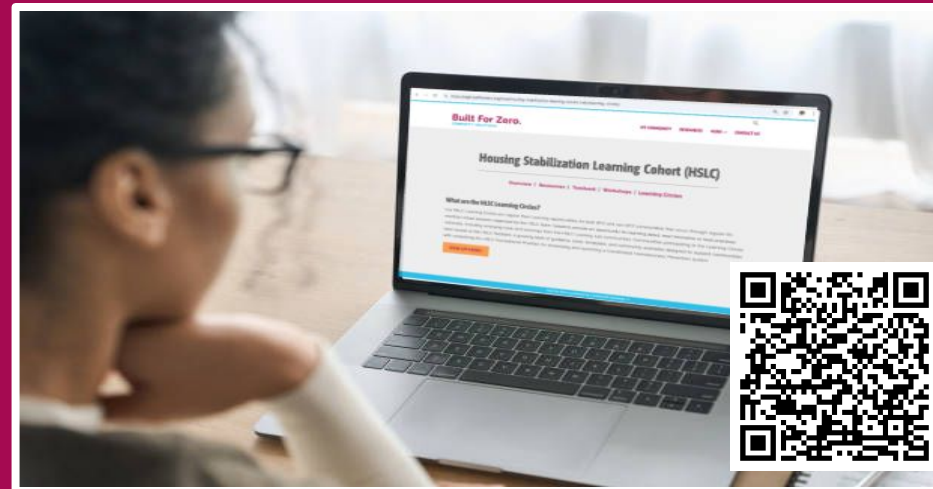
Starting Where You Are

Low Capacity Community:
No dedicated system staff or funding

- Elevate with CoC and community partners - **_prevention is possible_**.
- Set a Core Team with 'volunteer' to lead
- Strengthen current diversion & prevention efforts
- Focus on Veterans and existing funding & learning

Moderate Capacity Community:
Some dedicated system staff and/or funding

- Dedicate staff to support for Core Team
- Conduct inflow analysis, heat mapping, interviews
- Pilot standardized screening tool using national templates
- Pilot & grow Housing Problem-Solving (HPS) training, certification

High Capacity Community:
Full-time system staff and funding

- Scale HPS training - training program
- Operationalize Flex Funds for urgent/unmet needs
- Expand and develop Access Points, Service Providers, and cross-sector partners
- Establish prioritization protocols tied to data

More Information

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community.solutions

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HSLC HUB

QUESTIONS?

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THANK YOU!

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