

OVERVIEW Inflow Solutions Initiative

A data-driven approach to reducing homelessness inflow

What is the Inflow Solutions Initiative?

The Inflow Solutions Initiative (ISI) is the culmination of the Housing Stabilization Learning Cohort (HSLC) that provides communities with applied and practical guidance to prevent inflow into homelessness. The HSLC was an innovation Learning Lab of five communities that co-created local approaches to coordinating and targeting prevention resources to reduce homelessness and housing insecurity. This work included 1-on-1 community coaching, quarterly cohort check-ins, and regular peer-led workshops open to Built for Zero (BfZ) and non-BfZ communities.

The Vision

A community-wide approach that utilizes common risk screening criteria to identify individuals who are housing insecure, including those at the greatest risk of literal homelessness, and then offers immediate, coordinated access to housing problem-solving and prevention-related resources, including prioritized assistance for those with more urgent prevention needs. The practice of aligning resources also enables greater collaboration between organizations and increased visibility for learning and expanding effective homelessness prevention practices.

What did we learn?

The participating communities emphasized that there are essential ingredients for aligning a community's homelessness prevention resources, and that data-driven targeting practices are crucial to ensuring that homelessness prevention is effectively allocated and results in reduced inflow. These essential ingredients are referred to as Foundational Priorities. These Foundational Priorities may overlap, but it became clear that these Foundational Priorities are most impactful when implemented as:

1. Develop a Backbone Team
2. Conduct an Initial Inflow Analysis
3. Establish Community Core Team
4. Examine Prevention Resources
5. Pilot Core Elements of Coordinated Inflow Reduction
6. Scale & Implement expanded Core Elements

PREVENTION BUSINESS AS USUAL	INFLOW SOLUTIONS INITIATIVE
Often first come, first served	Prioritized based upon risk of literal homelessness
Accessed and Administered according to Organizational criteria (population, geography, household type)	Accessed and Administered according to Community-driven criteria (priority populations most likely to experience homelessness)
Data collected and reported according to Organizational policy	Data collected and reported according to Community-driven policy
Effectiveness difficult to determine	Effectiveness easier to determine by examining subsequent Coordinated Entry / BNL activity
Efficiency difficult to determine	Efficiency easier to determine based on risk typology and system-wide visibility
People with Lived Experience of Homelessness, when consulted, are often in an ad hoc and/or informal advisory capacity	People with Lived Experience of Homelessness are meaningfully and formally engaged with decision-making authority from Backbone Team formation, to Inflow Analysis, Community Core Team development, Resource Mapping, and ongoing implementation and evaluation)

Our Theory of Change

By implementing a coordinated inflow reduction strategy and targeting resources to the people most likely to experience homelessness, communities can strengthen housing stability, reduce inflow into homelessness, increase effective and efficient use of existing prevention resources, and advance fair access.

Learning in Action

To learn more about how the HSLC framework was implemented in communities and this next phase of the Inflow Solutions Initiative, check out:

- [ISI Online Hub](#)