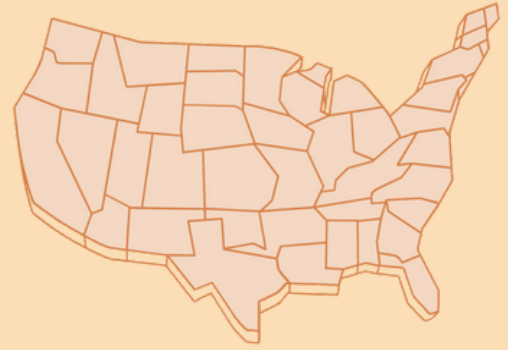


# State Policy Framework

To make homelessness rare and brief, states must establish a central coordinating entity with the authority, data, performance systems and housing resources to drive measurable reductions across all populations.



## THE CHALLENGE

State efforts to address homelessness often involve a patchwork of disconnected agencies, programs and funding streams. Without coordination, states struggle to demonstrate measurable progress or scale proven solutions. A central coordinating entity, grounded in data and outcomes, is essential for aligning efforts and achieving results.

## CORE RECOMMENDATIONS



### Establish a central coordinating entity (backbone organization).

States must designate or create a backbone entity responsible for leading homelessness strategy statewide. This body should have decision-making authority to set and enforce policy across agencies, control over resource alignment and performance funding, capacity to convene and manage diverse stakeholders, and institutional and political backing to drive durable change. The entity must partner with local backbone organizations to vertically align strategies and goals.



### Build population specific, real-time data infrastructure.

Standardizing data collection and analysis will provide actionable insights to guide policy and programs, including decisions on ways to leverage and allocate resources. Statewide alignment will create an actionable data set for state leaders that is comprehensive and close to real-time.



### Establish clear key performance indicators for population-specific reduction outcomes.

Setting and tracking state-level performance goals and metrics will inform key decisions on strategy, programs, policies, and funding. The coordination of housing and support services will be enhanced through targeted efforts and enhanced collaboration. Incent performance by driving resources to proven reduction of homelessness models.



### Broader affordable housing supply and access.

Elected officials should champion targeted deregulation and innovative land-use policies in the broader housing sector — removing unnecessary barriers, expanding housing options at all income levels, and fostering new models. Policymakers should explore both near and long-term strategies. By strengthening the housing system upstream, communities can keep more people stably housed and prevent homelessness before it begins.

## KEY CONSIDERATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

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1

Any state coordinating body must **work in partnership with CoCs** in its jurisdiction; otherwise, there are risks of friction, redundancy, and an inefficient allocation of resources. The state coordinating body must have a clearly defined mission, explicit decision-making authority, dedicated resources, and support from key political allies.

2

Real-time data collection for homelessness is nonexistent or inconsistent across state jurisdictions and programs, with varying levels of capabilities and sophistication. Providing **standards and protocols/procedures**, along with technical support and funding, can facilitate the greater use and adoption of analytics to measure targeted outcomes.

3

The most impactful **housing supply and land-use policies** will be specific to the local and regional context. Policymakers should consider all leverage points available and ensure there are strategies to specifically bolster housing opportunities for extremely low-income households.

## THE OPPORTUNITY

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Currently, state efforts to address homelessness often involve a plethora of agencies, programs, and service-providers working without a coordinated framework, clearly defined goals, or ways to evaluate their effectiveness.

By creating a framework and establishing (or enhancing) a coordinating entity, coupled with shared data collection/analysis standards and performance indicators, states can leverage their influence and resources to accelerate local and statewide reductions in homelessness.

