

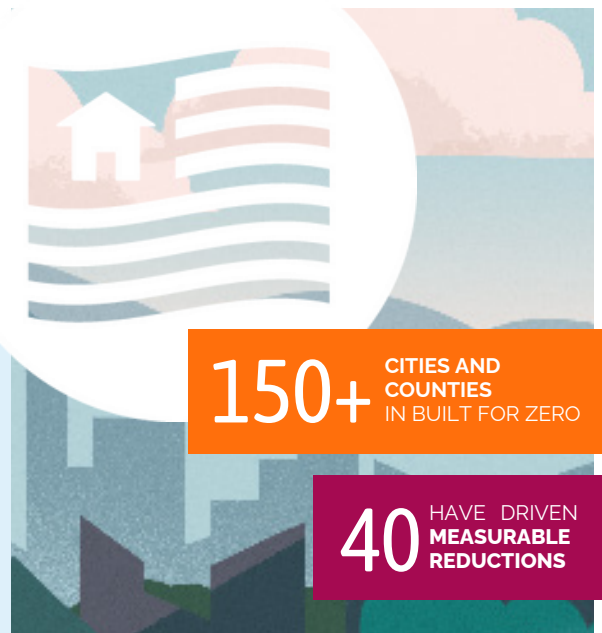
Built For Zero.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

MAKING HOMELESSNESS RARE AND BRIEF

Community Solutions leads Built for Zero, a national initiative of more than 150 cities and counties committed to measurably and visibly reducing homelessness.

Homelessness is solvable. This isn't a statement of aspiration — communities across the country are proving it.



Since 2015, Built for Zero has shown that communities can achieve sustainable, population-level reductions when they align their efforts behind a single, shared community-wide goal: fewer people experiencing homelessness each month. The Built for Zero framework guides communities in establishing four foundational practices — and creating the key enabling conditions for success.

FOUR FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES EVERY COMMUNITY NEEDS

BACKBONE ORGANIZATION

A central "backbone" entity (e.g., CoC, local government, community-based organization) that aligns efforts, mobilizes resources, and builds will for shared community goals.

SHARED GOAL

Community-wide, measurable targets embraced by partners, embedded in resource allocation, policy, and strategy, and communicated publicly.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS

Cross-sector collaboration uniting housing, health, philanthropy, business, government, and lived expertise in an accountable effort.

COMPREHENSIVE DATA

Real-time, person-level data on inflow, outflow, returns, and time-to-housing, built on shared definitions and quality practices to drive effective triage.

Explore Built for Zero Framework



FIVE ENABLING CONDITIONS THAT ACCELERATE PROGRESS

SUPPORTIVE POLICY



Local policies that remove barriers, center people, and enable coordinated, data-driven, timely responses.

SHARED PUBLIC NARRATIVE



A consistent message, reinforced by leaders and media, framing homelessness as solvable with local accountability.

FUNDING AND RESOURCES



Diversified, flexible funding — public, private, and philanthropic — to support emergency response and system infrastructure.

HOUSING SUPPLY



Adequate and appropriate housing units available that meet basic needs and range of household budgets.

POLITICAL WILL



Strong political leadership to prioritize homelessness solutions, overcome barriers, fund responses, and drive collaboration.

WAYS OF WORKING

To **turn this framework into measurable results**, communities integrate four core practices:

- **Person-Specific:** Use shared, disaggregated data to monitor, disparities, close gaps, and track progress.
- **Collaborative:** Within the backbone structure, co-develop strategies, align resources, and include lived experience.
- **Continuous Improvement:** Test, adapt, and scale solutions quickly, guided by shared data and evaluation.
- **Proactive:** Anticipate challenges, prioritize prevention, and act upstream using data and community input.