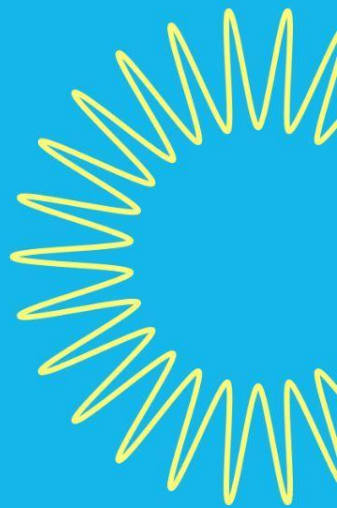


From City Hall to the Statehouse: Making Government Your Partner

BUILT FOR ZERO LEARNING SESSION

Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026 · 10:20-11:45 a.m.



Built For Zero.



**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**



Built For Zero.

What you'll leave with

Know who holds the levers

How roles, responsibilities, and constituents shape public positions, resources, and policy.

Frame solutions that land

Tie homelessness to economic, public safety, and infrastructure priorities, with the data that moves leaders.

Unlock public resources

See how policy and public dollars are being leveraged to scale housing and shelter.



Today's flow

- **Welcome and poll the room** · 5 min
- **Introductions** · 5 min
- **Background and examples** · 20 min
- **Moderated discussion** · 25 min
- **Audience Q&A** · 25 min
- **Takeaways and next steps** · 5 min



House People Every Day



Who's in the room?

Raise your hand if you...



- Work in an urban, suburban, or rural community
- Come from government, a nonprofit or CoC, business, or philanthropy
- Have a strong working partnership with your city or county
- Have a strong working partnership with your state



PRESENTERS



Christine Haley

Chief Homelessness
Officer, State of Illinois



Jill Shudak

Mayor, City of Council
Bluffs, Iowa



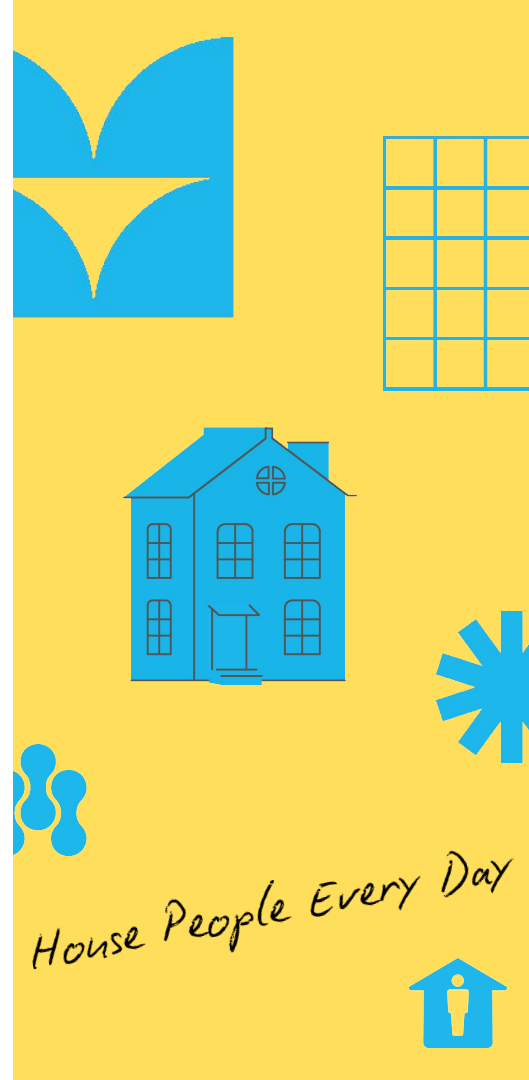
Dawn Gilman

CEO, Changing
Homelessness ·
Moderator



The view from public office

- Public pressure meets fiscal responsibility and tight budgets
- Crises don't stop at district boundaries
- Getting homelessness on the agenda takes the right framing
- Your organization can become an indispensable civic partner

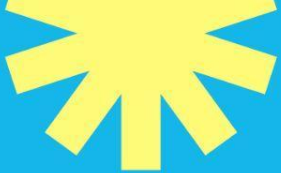
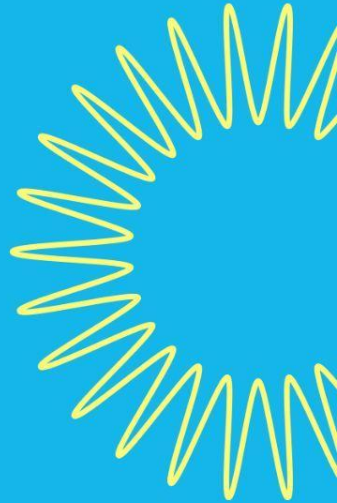


House People Every Day

Panelist spotlights

BACKGROUND AND EXAMPLES · 20 MINUTES





Christine Haley

STATE OF ILLINOIS

Chief Homelessness Officer, Office to Prevent and End Homelessness



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**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**



Preventing and Ending Homelessness in Illinois: A Statewide Perspective

“From City Hall to the Statehouse: Making Government Your Partner”
Community Solutions Built for Zero Conference

October 2026



Today's Discussion

- State Infrastructure to End Homelessness
- Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Home Illinois Plan
- Illinois Homelessness Response Collaborative



Chief Christine Haley, MSSA

- Chief Homelessness Officer, Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness
- Chair, Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
- Co-Chair, Illinois Community Advisory Council on Homelessness



Homelessness in Illinois



BY THE NUMBERS



On a single night in January 2026, **13,772** people experienced **literal homelessness** – defined as those staying in emergency shelters, transitional housing programs, and places not meant for human habitation, such as streets, parks, or vehicles.

13,772

**LITERAL
HOMELESSNESS**



In 2024, researchers estimate that **99,902** people experienced doubled-up homelessness. **Doubled-up** refers to people that live temporarily and unstably with family or friends due to economic hardship.

99,902

**DOUBLED-UP
HOMELESSNESS**



In school year 2024–2025, **63,873 K-12 students** experienced homelessness of various kinds, from living in shelters to living doubled-up.

63,873

**K-12
STUDENTS**

Homelessness in Illinois



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**DOUBLED-UP
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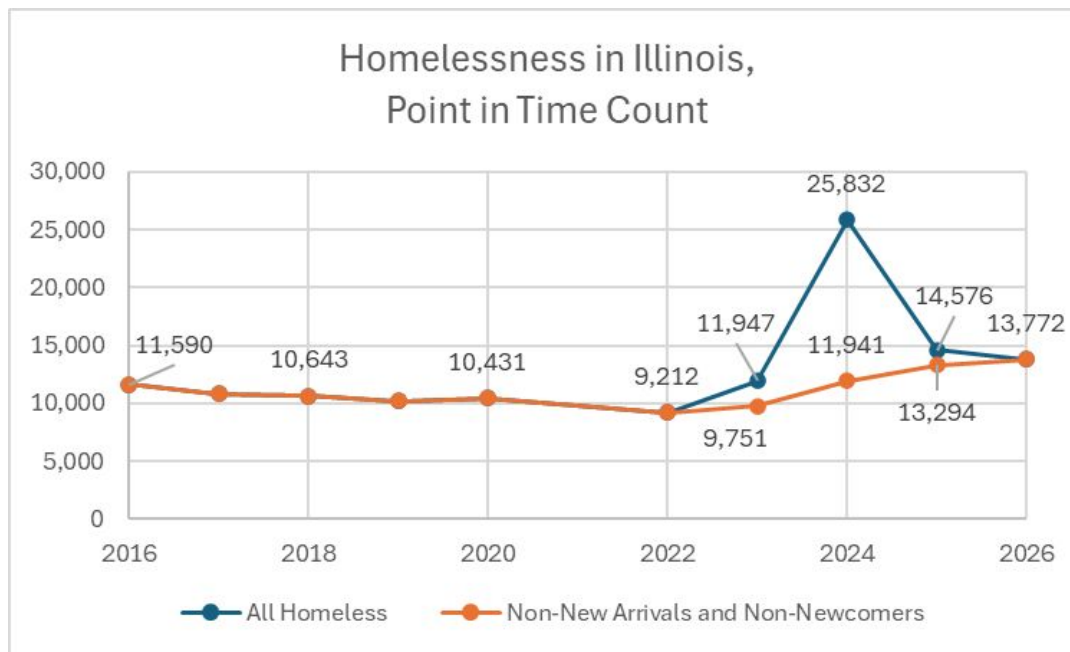


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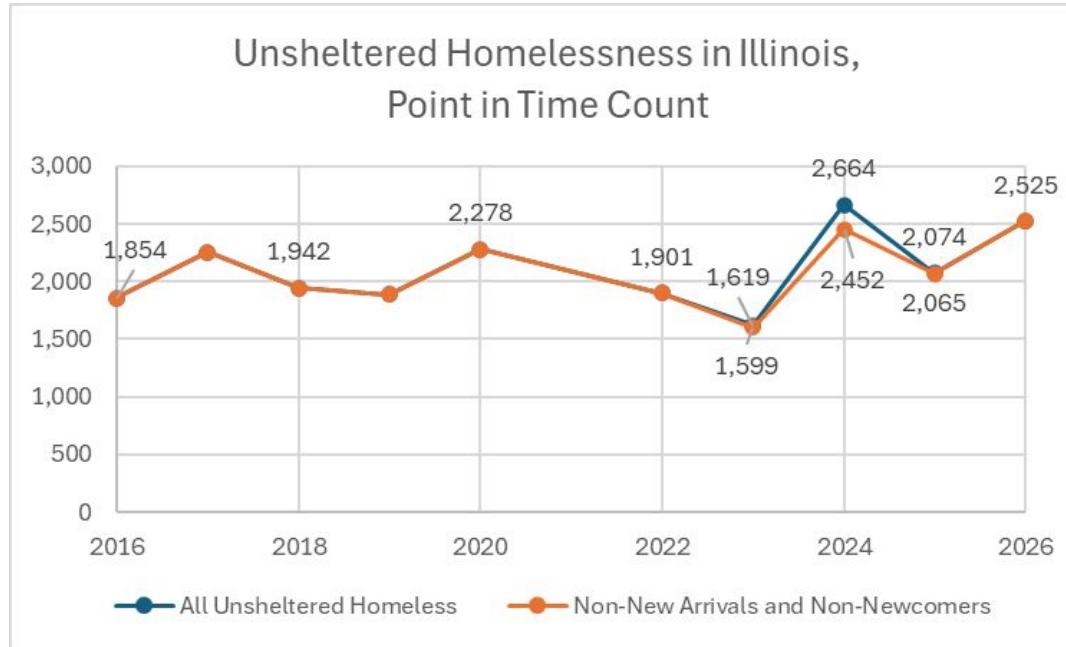
**K-12
STUDENTS**

Homelessness Trends in Illinois



- From 2025 to 2026, overall homelessness in Illinois **decreased by 6%**.

Unsheltered Homelessness Trends in Illinois

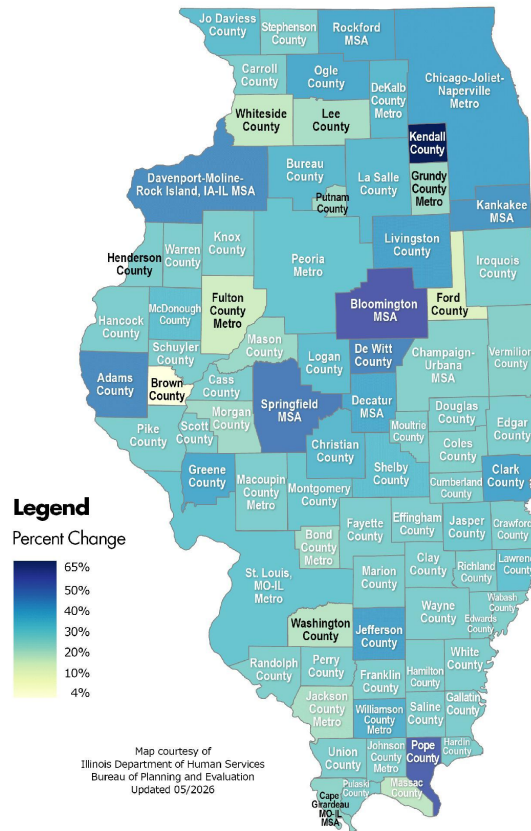


- However, **unsheltered** homelessness rose by 22% between 2025 and 2026.

Fair Market Rent Rising Faster Than Inflation



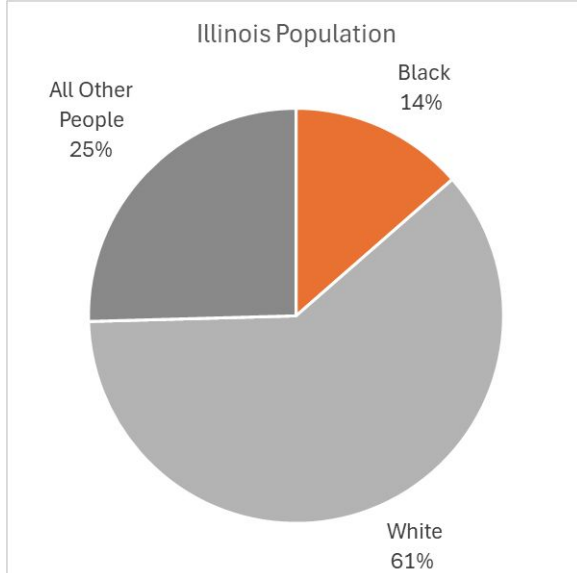
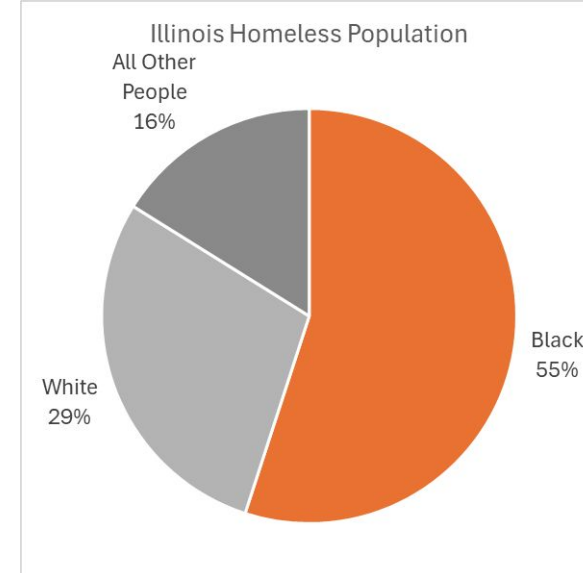
- Between 2020 and 2026, the national **inflation rate was 26%**, while **fair-market rent in Illinois increased 34%** over the same period.
- The cost of housing rose faster than the rate of inflation in **90% of Illinois counties** between 2020 and 2026.
- Significant increases in housing costs occurred in **geographically diverse** areas across the state, from Kendall County in the Chicagoland area to Bloomington in Central Illinois to Pope County in Southern Illinois.
- In Illinois, in 2025, average FMR was \$1,550. Nationally, in 2025, average FMR was \$1,749.



Black Homelessness in Illinois



- Black homelessness in Illinois compared to white and all other race & ethnicity homelessness.
- People who are Black consistently comprise over half of people who are homeless in Illinois, as well as 29% of those in poverty, despite comprising 14% of people in Illinois.



State Infrastructure to End Homelessness



Interagency
Task Force On
Homelessness

ITFH

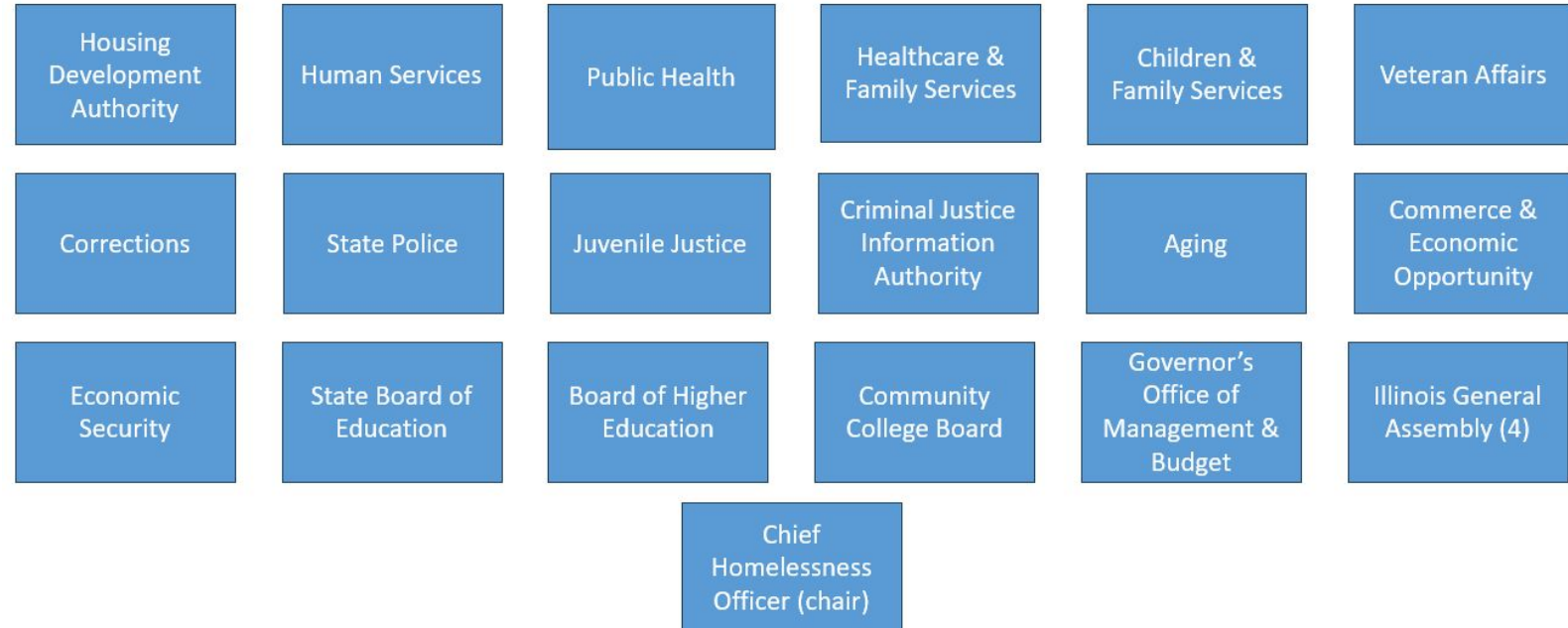
Community
Advisory
Council On
Homelessness

CACH

Illinois Office
to Prevent
and End
Homelessness

OPEH

Interagency Task Force on Homelessness



Community Advisory Council on Homelessness



Lived Experience of
Homelessness (3)

Living with a
disability

Philanthropy (2)

Statewide
Behavioral Health
Advocacy
Organization

Statewide Housing
Advocacy
Organization

CoCs (3)

Local Units of
Government (3)

Domestic Violence

At-large (2)

Service Providers
(4)

Chief
Homelessness
Officer (Co-Chair)

OPEH Roles



Drive state investments in scaling solutions to end homelessness

Build state agency and community capacity

Identify policy solutions to homelessness

Incubate program innovations

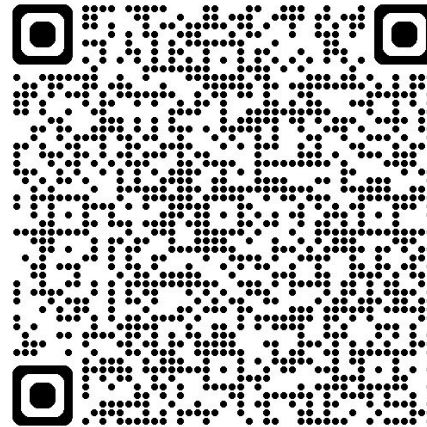
Advance research and data capacity

Engage community, government and elected officials in partnerships

Staff three legislatively mandated committees

Produce Ending Homelessness Plan and Annual Reporting

Home IL Plan: FY27-29



Scan to view the Home
Illinois FY27-29 Plan

Or go to:
endhomelessness.illinois.gov

Plan Goals



GOALS

1



Solve for the money in the wrong place

\$3.2 billion is spent annually on health care—investing in housing would ensure people are housed, improve health outcomes, and reduce health care costs.

2



Ensure everyone has access to eligible benefits

Closing the public benefits gap will help ensure people have the supports they qualify for and need to remain housed.

3



End unsheltered homelessness

Unsheltered homelessness is at a crisis point. Every strategy and resource must be deployed to provide safe and stable housing to end it now.

4



Build out the prevention system

A comprehensive and coordinated prevention system across the State is the best way to end homelessness.

The Home Illinois Plan Goals together represent the broad aims of the plan over the next three years.

Plan Strategies



Illinois Homelessness Response Collaborative



- In June 2025, OPEH launched the IHRC to bring together Illinois' 19 CoCs with state leadership and technical assistance partners Community Solutions, CSH, and ReInstitute.
- Direct response to 2025 CoC NOFO and the potential loss of permanent housing across the state
- IHRC has the following goals:
 - Building resilient community response systems
 - Enhancing data quality and use
 - Stabilize and secure resources
- The State has invested \$2 million in direct support to CoCs to improve data quality and systems coordination.

Stay Connected

Endhomelessness.Illinois.gov



homeless.office@illinois.gov



Scan to subscribe to
the *OPEH Newsletter*
[OPEH Listserv](#)





Jill Shudak

CITY OF COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA

Mayor

Built For Zero.



**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**

One Metro. Two States. Shared Responsibility.

What local government needs from partners to make progress on homelessness

Our reality: one metro, two states

- People cross the Missouri River; funding systems and eligibility rules do not.
- Iowa and Nebraska have different agencies, funding streams and policies.
- No single city can solve a regional housing and homelessness challenge.
- We need shared information, coordinated referrals and regional accountability.

The budget and political challenge

- Competing demands: public safety, infrastructure, housing and core services.
- Our proposed Homeless Outreach Coordinator position did not receive Council approval.
- A proposal needs a clear role, measurable outcomes and a sustainable funding plan.
- Even without agreement on a new position, the community still needs action.

Public safety and housing are connected

- Residents expect safe parks, streets and public spaces.
- People experiencing homelessness need pathways to care and stable housing.
- Our Police Homeless Outreach Program connects enforcement with outreach.
- Lasting progress requires more than moving a problem from one location to another.

New Visions: a community leader

- Operates in both Council Bluffs and Omaha—across the state line.
- Provides emergency shelter, street outreach, food, housing and prevention services.
- Its Council Bluffs shelter serves more than 800 men in a typical year.
- Outreach teams meet unsheltered neighbors where they are and connect them to resources.

New Visions: tangible local impact

- MOHM's Place provides about 150,000 meals a year—three meals daily, year-round.
- Timothy House provides permanent supportive housing to roughly 26–29 people annually.
- New Visions reports 90% of Timothy House residents remain in permanent housing.
- Support includes case management, transportation, employment and health connections.

Innovation that meets multiple priorities

- 2026 Clean Start Crew: participants gain paid work experience and stipends.
- Crews remove litter and debris from public spaces and abandoned encampments.
- This connects dignity, workforce opportunity and neighborhood concerns.
- New Visions also won a 2026 Iowa homelessness innovation competition.

A candid reality: partners need resources

- New Visions leads with services and volunteer support—but capacity is not unlimited.
- Its website currently reports prevention assistance funding is exhausted.
- Community partners cannot substitute indefinitely for a coordinated public response.
- We need to connect promising programs to dependable, measurable support.

What is working in Council Bluffs

- New Visions brings shelter, meals, outreach, housing and job pathways.
- Our police HOP team and Community Health Coach connect with service providers.
- All Care and other local organizations contribute health and support services.
- Built for Zero offers an opportunity for stronger regional coordination.

What gets an elected official's attention?

- Show the local problem with clear, credible data—not just anecdotes.
- Bring a specific proposal: who leads, what it costs and who pays.
- Connect housing outcomes to public safety, workforce and fiscal priorities.
- Report progress, acknowledge setbacks and build a broad coalition.

The message I want you to leave with

- A river or state line should not determine whether someone gets help.
- A council vote against one proposal is not the end of the conversation.
- New Visions shows what local leadership and innovation can accomplish.
- Our next step is turning strong partnerships into a stronger regional system.

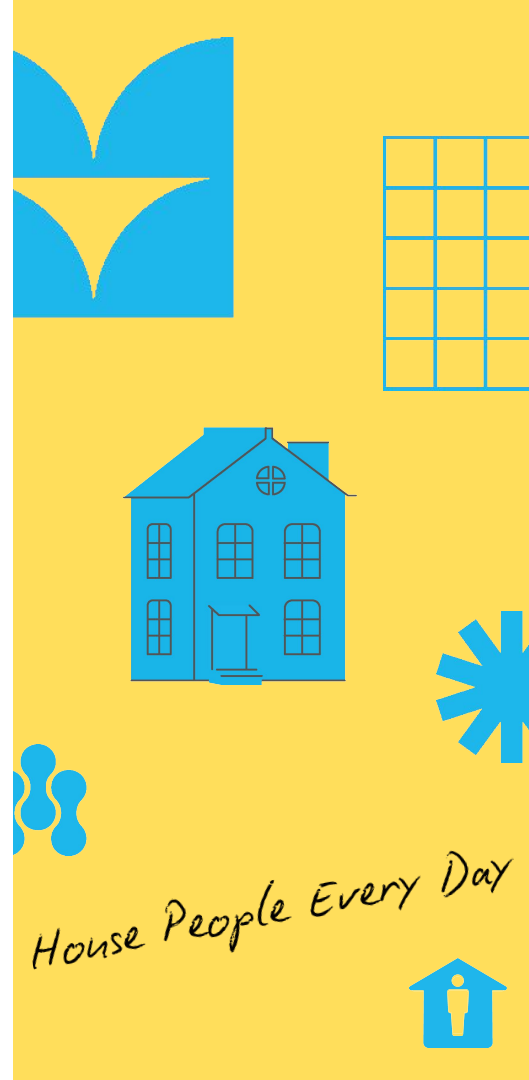
Moderated discussion

FIRESIDE CHAT · 25 MINUTES



What we'll dig into

- Shared responsibility across government, nonprofits, business, and residents
- Governing across regions and competing constituencies
- The budget balancing act at city and state levels
- Coordinating departments and planning for forces outside your control
- Making it an easy "yes"



House People Every Day

Your questions

AUDIENCE Q&A · 25 MINUTES



- How could this work in your community?
- Which official is missing from your table?
- Where do your government partnerships get stuck?





One action to take tomorrow

ROUND ROBIN

Built For Zero.

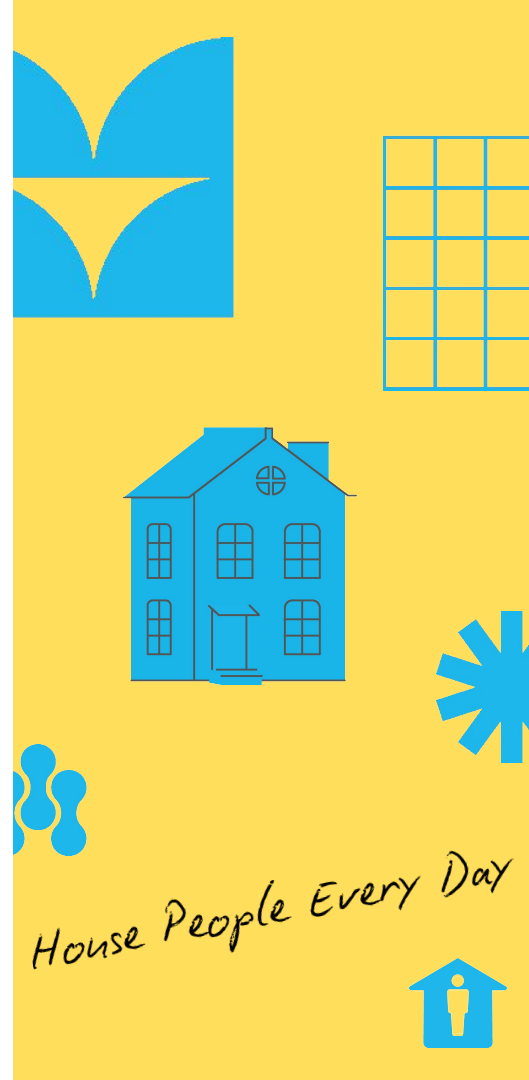


Session Feedback

Please scan the QR code to complete the feedback survey.



<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/9042138/2026-BFZ-Learning-Session-Workshop-Session-Feedback>



House People Every Day

Thank you

