

Emerging Priorities for Immediate Next Steps: “What’s Now”

Category	Strategy	Explanation/Examples
Diversion/ Prevention	Coordinate and Expand Regional Homelessness Prevention Efforts	Prevention programs help people who are at risk of losing housing to avoid the loss of their home. Support can include rental and utility assistance, eviction prevention, eviction defense, assistance with security deposits, and other resources.
	Coordinate and Expand Regional Homelessness Diversion Efforts	Diversion programs support families and individuals who have just lost their housing to find immediate, safe alternative housing. Successful diversion programs utilize rapid resolution and problem-solving approaches to help clients avoid entering shelter or experiencing unsheltered homelessness.
Housing	Increase Affordable Housing for Extremely Low Income (ELI) households	Develop partnerships and advocacy efforts to accelerate and increase development of affordable housing for Extremely Low Income (ELI) individuals, including to create more housing opportunities for people exiting homelessness.
	Develop a COVID-19 Coordinated Rehousing Investment Plan	Develop a regionally coordinated plan to use expanded COVID-19 state and federal funding opportunities to significantly increase the number of people experiencing homelessness who can rapidly move to permanent housing.
	Coordinate and Expand Landlord Engagement across the Region	Landlord engagement increases the housing available for people exiting homelessness who might otherwise have difficulty finding rental units. A regional approach would help expand existing efforts by undertaking a coordinated outreach campaign and/or helping to recruit and incentivize additional landlords as partners in helping to house homeless residents.
	Expand and Coordinate Housing Flexible Funding Pool Initiatives	Housing Flexible Funding Pools help vulnerable individuals and families overcome the financial barriers that prevent them from exiting homelessness and secure quality permanent housing. Support can include housing subsidies, move-in and utility assistance, grocery store gift cards, help with initial purchases of household goods such as linens, cookware, and small appliances, or funds to cover tenant damages to incentivize landlords to rent to participants.

<p>Coordination</p>	<p>Include People with Lived Experience of Homelessness, Especially People of Color, in Decision-making Roles Throughout the Homeless System of Care</p>	<p>Active participation in system and program development by people with lived experience of homelessness is crucial to ensuring the effectiveness of the system of care. Establishing sustainable systems and opportunities for people with lived expertise to participate in decision-making will deepen impact in addressing regional homelessness.</p>
	<p>Continue to Examine Data from Homelessness and Other Systems to Understand and Address Racial Disparities</p>	<p>A more robust and detailed analysis of the data about how the current homeless system of care functions and offers services for people experiencing homelessness can provide insight and help prioritize changes necessary to address systemic inequities.</p>
	<p>Develop and Sustain a Diverse and Inclusive Workforce and Organizations that are Committed to Antiracism</p>	<p>Implementing next steps working from the regional Racial Equity Plan will help ensure that policies, programs, and system structures are unbiased, promote inclusion, and strengthen equity of access and outcomes for Black, Indigenous and other People of Color.</p>
	<p>Build and Coordinate Cross-sector Relationships with other Systems</p>	<p>Cross-sector collaborations with stakeholders such as schools, child welfare, the criminal justice system (including law enforcement), the faith-based community, and the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) allow for agencies to share data and collaborate in the care and services provided to their shared clients including discharge planning and care management.</p>

Services	Evaluate and Redesign the Coordinated Entry System	An evaluation of the Coordinated Entry System , the regional process for assessing and prioritizing people experiencing homelessness for supportive housing and other resources, can support more efficient and equitable use of resources to more rapidly and permanently end homelessness for more people.
	Expand and Coordinate Employment Assistance and Services Available to People Experiencing Homelessness	Employment assistance and services support people experiencing or exiting homelessness achieve and sustain housing stability. It can include co-locating employment assistance with other services or homeless system access points, engaging with employer partners and the business community, integrating the perspective of people experiencing homelessness in already existing workforce development efforts, and leveraging or expanding the service provider workforce pipeline.
Shelter	Increase Bridge Housing	Bridge Housing provides short-term, temporary shelter and supportive services for people prioritized for permanent housing but who are unable to access that housing immediately.
	Strengthen the Regional Response to Unsheltered Homelessness and the System of Local Shelters	A regional, coordinated response to unsheltered homelessness can include a regional system of local and geographically dispersed shelters, encampment resolutions, safe parking, hotel vouchers, and/or other solutions to ensure that people throughout the region don't live in circumstances not fit for human habitation.

Emerging Priorities: “What’s Next”

Category	Strategy	Explanation/Examples
Diversion/ Prevention	Coordinate Discharge Planning	Discharge planning coordination supports partnerships between the homeless system of care and health care, criminal justice, child welfare and other systems to ensure that people exiting those systems do not become homeless.
Housing	Build Deeper Relationships with Local Housing Authorities	Work with local housing authorities to target resources such as housing choice vouchers and increase housing opportunities for people experiencing homelessness.
	Increase Access to Shared Housing Programs	Shared housing programs increase housing options for people experiencing homelessness by assisting two or more unrelated people to successfully share a house or apartment.
	Continue to Increase the Capacity in the Nonprofit Sector to Operate Housing Programs	Increase the number and effectiveness of nonprofit providers with capacity to administer successful supportive housing programs for people experiencing homelessness, including best practices and navigating state and federal funding sources and requirements. This ensures adequate local capacity to implement funds efficiently and effectively to reduce homelessness.
Coordination	Strengthen Regional Provider Capacity	Provide support to assist direct service provider agencies to improve systems and service provision to enhance outcomes. Can include peer learning communities and communities of practice, topical workshops, policy and procedure development, and one-on-one site visits to help agencies identify and address challenges and ensure resources are being used efficiently and in compliance with regulations.
	Develop and Coordinate a Regional Public Engagement Effort	Establish systems to communicate regularly with the public and other stakeholders across the region about local homelessness, its causes, solutions, and the impact of work underway. These may include reports, data dashboards, public meetings, and other forums.

Coordination (cont'd)	Strengthen Partnerships with Domestic Violence Service Providers	Deepen engagement with providers who work with domestic violence survivors to support this vulnerable population to access housing and shelter quickly and safely. This may include recommending that a seat be added to the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board for a domestic violence provider representative and evaluation of the Coordinated Entry System.
	Partner with Bureau of Land Management to Make Land Available for Programs	Support communities in entering into recreational public purpose agreements with the Bureau of Land Management with the purpose of regionally siting homeless housing, shelter and services on vacant parcels of land.
	Develop an Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Team	ACT Teams are multi-disciplinary teams that provide wrap around, community-based care with comprehensive treatment for maximum effectiveness in supporting people with complex conditions to retain their housing. These programs can significantly improve housing outcomes for clients with severe needs in supportive housing programs.
	Enhance System Navigation Services and Navigators	System navigators are staff dedicated to supporting people experiencing homelessness to connect with resources, including warm referrals and assistance with application processes for benefits, housing, and other supports that facilitate a successful exit from homelessness.
Services	Coordinate Outreach Teams	Outreach teams help engage people living unsheltered to access resources and services, including crisis shelters and assessments for the Coordinated Entry System that can support them in obtaining permanent housing.
Shelter	Establish a Housing-focused Shelter/Navigation Center	Navigation Centers are best practice crisis shelters for people experiencing homelessness who would otherwise be unsheltered. They are typically low-barrier and housing-focused, with an emphasis on facilitating engagement and expedited exits to permanent housing.

Emerging Priorities: “What’s Possibly Later”

The strategy portfolio also identifies strategies that may be considered for implementation at a later date due to time intensiveness, cost, and/or other factors. They include:

- **100 Day Challenge** - Coordinate a housing “sprint” initiative that emphasizes getting as many people (usually from a sub-population such as youth or people experiencing chronic homelessness) housed as quickly as possible (in 100 days).
- **Increase Regulatory Parity Among Federal Programs** - Work with Federal partners to develop standardized program requirements regardless of funding source.
- **Establish Drop-in Centers and Co-located Services** - Create new one-stop sites where people experiencing homelessness can access multiple services in one location.
- **Develop a Regional Guide of Homeless Resources** - Create, distribute, and regularly update a compilation of resources for people experiencing homelessness across the region.
- **Establish Safe Haven, Medical Respite, or Sobering Centers** - Develop a new site and program to serve individuals who are too medically frail to return to the streets and/or provide sobering and care coordination for acutely intoxicated adults.