

Regional Strategy Portfolio

All Strategies: Summary

Description		
Category	Name	Overview
Housing	Create a Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool	Public-private partnerships help subsidize housing and provide flexible assistance with move in costs. Examples include housing subsidies, case management, utility and move in assistance, stabilization support.
Services	Co-locate workforce development with homeless services/ access points	Strengthen pathways to employment for people experiencing homelessness. Examples include cross-system education, co-locating staff, employment counselors, job training, financial aid, rent assistance, develop programs for specific populations such as veterans and people with disabilities.
Services	Implement drop-in centers and co-located services	Identify brick and mortar city site for locating services from various partners or integration of co-located services. Examples include basic needs services, coordinated entry assessments, housing assistance, case management, job training, and benefits assistance.
Shelter	Implement housing focused shelter or Navigation Centers	Low barrier admissions, client centered services, minimal rules, community spaces, co-located services, pets allowed, at times paired with encampment resolution programs
Diversion and Prevention	Coordinate regional homeless prevention programs and financial assistance	Coordinate rent and deposit assistance, case management, transportation, childcare assistance, landlord negotiation/ mediation. This could be achieved through the Flexible Housing Fund.
Housing	Increase bridge housing	Scattered site subsidy models or site-based facilities, focus on chronically homeless, can also serve families, youth, people with behavioral health issues, case management, move in assistance, low barrier to entry, basic needs services
Housing	Increase affordable housing	Build/ rehab housing units for homelessness
Housing	Increase permanent supportive housing units	Prioritize Housing Choice vouchers, particularly for people transitioning to services and veterans. This will reduce the strain on use of existing resources.
Housing	Conduct landlord recruitment	Regionalize efforts to recruit and incentivize landlords to participate. This makes more housing options available while reducing the strain on local communities.
Housing	Develop a Resource Guide	Develop and distribute a regional, comprehensive guide of homeless/ housing services. This will raise awareness and political support.
Services	Conduct Coordinated Entry evaluation	Continuously monitor, evaluate and refine the coordinated entry system to ensure people experiencing homelessness can access needed services and assistance.
Services	Enhance system navigation	Develop system navigation services and hire navigators to help clients access the services they need
Services	Coordinate Outreach Teams	Coordinate outreach activities with diverse partners to assess needs. Empower the outreach teams to conduct coordinated entry assessments.
Coordination	Build relationships with school districts	Strengthen the relationships to empower school districts to conduct coordinated entry assessments. This will connect students experiencing homelessness with assistance more quickly.
Diversion and Prevention	Coordinate discharge planning	People experiencing homeless enter the system from a variety of different institutions. Coordinate discharges from entities such as hospitals, jail, prison, and foster care.
Coordination	Coordinate the response to unsheltered homelessness	Regional approaches to unsheltered homelessness, including alignment and coordination of effective approaches to encampment resolution, Safe Parking, and other practices.
Services	Implement school-based family interventions	Homelessness system and school system partnerships to more quickly identify and serve families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, often targeting rapid rehousing resources. School-based approaches can also be integrated as part of a diversion initiative.
Services	Implement Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) Teams	Multi-disciplinary teams that provide wrap around, community-based care with comprehensive treatment for maximum effectiveness in supporting permanent housing outcomes. Demonstrated impact in communities of varying compositions.
Coordination	Strengthen regional rapid response resolution and problem solving	Approach to preventing a household's immediate entry into homelessness or a quick resolution of their homelessness.

Services	Increase access to Safe Haven clinics, medical respite, sobering centers	Partnerships between homeless and health systems to support individuals who are too medically frail to return to the streets, and/or provide safe short-term sobering and care coordination for acutely intoxicated adults.
Coordination	Strengthen criminal justice system partnerships	Convenings/planning processes to support understanding and development of partnerships between justice and homeless systems, including ensuring understanding of coordinated entry, housing first and other key concepts.
Coordination	Conduct landlord engagement campaigns	Coordinated outreach campaign that educates landlords about benefits of partnerships and risk mitigation approaches.
Housing	Increase access to Shared Housing Programs	Housing targeting individuals experiencing homelessness that involves two or more unrelated adults cohabitating in a single unit.
Housing	Conduct 100 day Challenges	Challenge spanning 100 days that establishes a collective goal of housing a specific number of individuals.
Coordination	Strengthen regional housing development strategies and partnerships	Jurisdictional and public-private partnerships to support affordable housing development strategies for Extremely Low Income and homeless residents, including municipal policies and strategies, opportunities to consolidate funding, and approaches to establishing a housing development pipeline for creation or conversion of temporary and permanent units.
Coordination	Conduct an Advocacy Network and Campaign	Coordinated approach to develop public community engagement and buy-in to solutions for homelessness as a way of addressing local resistance, and increasing momentum for increasing resources and support by key stakeholders.
Coordination	Conduct regional provider capacity building initiatives and leadership academies	Promotes leadership development, best practices, and inter-agency collaboration to address challenges in service provision for persons experiencing homelessness and improve outcomes, including around racial equity.
Coordination	Increase regulatory parity among federal programs	Since homelessness is such a multi-faceted issue that includes housing, supportive services, workforce development, health, addiction, etc. the ability to use Federal funds in a comprehensive way is limited by the disparate regulations for each program. A suggested goal to counter this effect would be to work with our Federal delegations to carve out exceptions to HUD regulations when using multiple funding sources to address homelessness (i.e. same income limits, length of allowable assistance, types of assistance that can be funded, etc.), and apply a standardized set of regulations through adoption of existing regulations (i.e. ESG regs across the board for all homelessness activities regardless of funding) or some other means.
Coordination	Implement a regional approach to criminal diversion programs	Many communities in the region have very successful criminal diversion programs for situations when homeless people find themselves being charged with a crime. Consistency is needed in the region for these programs and the appropriate funding to support them from the city side (public safety, courts, etc.) in addition to standardized case management from behavioral specialists etc. Equity in an diversion program is essential. Being homeless does not give a pass on consequences for criminal behavior, but rather includes a mechanism for highly encouraging the homeless individual to accept case management and resources.
Coordination	Strengthen relationships with domestic violence shelter and service providers	There are a number of concrete steps that may be taken to further this goal. This includes, but is not limited to, providing a seat for a domestic violence representative on the Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care Board, recognizing and applying the fourth category of HUD's definition of homelessness that would make more domestic violence survivors eligible for homeless assistance programs, and identify improvements to the VISPDAT, Coordinated Entry, and other screening tools that may inadvertently preclude domestic violence survivors from receiving assistance in the homeless system.
Shelter	Site geographically dispersed small shelters	Utilize hotel rooms, apartments, shared housing, and other housing options to site geographically dispersed shelters throughout the region. These can focus on specific subpopulations. The shelter includes wrap around services, often provided through partnerships and contracts with nonprofit agencies.
Coordination	Partner with the Bureau of Land Management to make land available for homeless assistance programs.	Support communities in entering into recreational public purpose agreements with the Bureau of Land Management with the purpose of siting homeless housing, shelter and services on vacant parcels of land. The cost for the land is \$2/acre or \$10/acre to convey the property. There are parcels throughout the region.

Coordination	Improve data coordination among AHCCCS and homeless service providers by establishing a closed loop referral system.	Health Current is establishing a pilot program with full program launch in the fall of 2021. This program will open access to AHCCCS data to nonprofit agencies serving people experiencing homelessness. The agencies will be able to use screening tools to determine eligibility for their clients and then enroll them in services. Data from 2-1-1 will be used to cross check provider information in the AHCCCS database. In the second phase of the project, a partnership with CRN and the CoC Board will be explored to utilize HMIS data to confirm if people experiencing homelessness have received the assistance to which they have been referred.
Housing	Build capacity in the nonprofit community to operate housing programs by offering a Supportive Housing Academy.	The influx of federal COVID relief funds and support by a broad range of stakeholders offers an opportunity to provide additional training on how to create and maintain supportive housing programs. There is a significant need to locate additional housing programs in geographically dispersed locations throughout the region. Vitalyst Health Foundation will offer this training with partners in May 2021.
Services	Redesign the coordinated entry system to achieve more equitable housing outcomes.	The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care's Racial Equity Action Plan identified the need for the following steps based on extensive analysis and outreach: Review and revise CoC policies and procedures to center racial equity; Examine efforts by communities across the country to replace or augment the VI-SPDAT; Involve people with lived experience in redesign process; Develop strategies to expand access for people of color to the coordinated entry system; Design and implement new intake tools and processes.
Coordination	Include people with lived experience of homelessness--particularly people of color--in decision making role in the homeless response system.	The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care's Racial Equity Action Plan identified the need for the following steps based on extensive analysis and outreach: Identify leaders; Create multiple opportunities for meaningful involvement; Create structures for training and ongoing support.
Coordination	Continue to examine data from the homelessness system and other systems to understand and respond to racial disparities.	The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care's Racial Equity Action Plan identified the need for the following steps based on extensive analysis and outreach: Examine placements in housing and returns to homelessness by race/ethnicity from different housing interventions; Obtain eviction data by race, ethnicity, and zip code; Create a commitment statement around data tracking and policy creation and race equity; Integrate race equity metrics into community dashboards and ensure community workgroups use data to inform operations; Analyze data from all sub-populations with a race and ethnicity lens and make recommendations to the Board based on that data.
Coordination	Develop and sustain a homeless services workforce and organizations that are diverse, inclusive, and committed to antiracism.	The Maricopa Regional Continuum of Care's Racial Equity Action Plan identified the need for the following steps based on extensive analysis and outreach: Develop a Statement of Shared Values regarding racial equity that can be utilized by stakeholders to guide their own reformed processes; Work with CoC stakeholders to establish diversity targets for boards and executive leadership; Establish diversity targets for CoC Board and Subcommittees; Implement racial equity training strategy for leadership, direct service staff, and people with lived experience serving on boards and committees.
Coordination	Establish community benefit agreements or intergovernmental agreements.	This can help to document relationships, clarify responsibilities, and formalize the commitment partners have to implementing the strategies. This done can be on a project, community, or regional level.
Coordination	Create master services agreements.	A municipality or region can issue a Request for Proposals with a desired set of outcomes or programs desired within a set budget amount. Respondents to the RFP will submit proposals for how they would address the work. Through this competitive process, a proposal would be selected and a contract signed to deliver the work. This helps to leverage the strengths of partners and coordinate the work to be done.