

Ensuring Everyone's at the Table: Uplifting Black Male Leaders

2025 NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON
ENDING HOMELESSNESS



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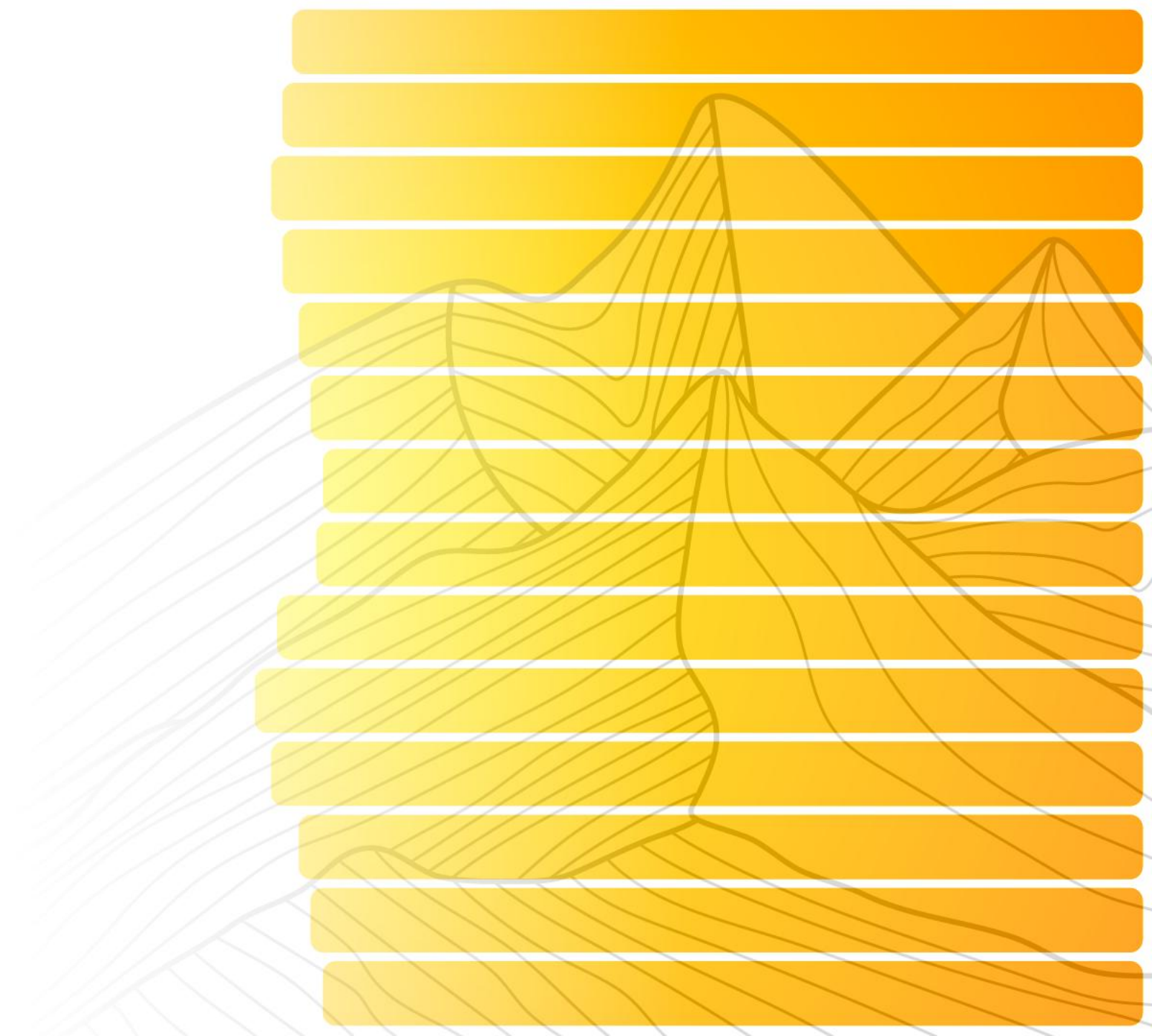
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Black men are disproportionately affected by homelessness, yet they remain significantly underrepresented across all areas of homeless response, particularly in leadership roles. This interactive session will take a deep dive into the systemic barriers contributing to this disparity, offering a candid conversation with Black male leaders in the homelessness field. Attendees will explore the critical gaps in services for Black men experiencing homelessness, the persistent underrepresentation of Black men in leadership positions, and actionable strategies for creating leadership opportunities and increasing representation at the decision making table.



Welcome

Why are we here?



Agenda

- Welcome
- Panel Introductions & Conversation
- Small Group: Discussion & Reflection
- Small Group: From Reflection to Action: Building Solutions
- Key takeaways and next steps
- Closing Reflections



Panel Introductions



David Dirks



Sean Whitten



Richard Crews

Panel Questions

What has your experience been like sitting at the proverbial "decision-making table"?

Can you share your path to leadership?

What has it meant to lead as a Black man, especially managing teams and staff?

What challenges have you faced on your leadership journey?

How have allies helped or hindered efforts to advance Black male leadership?

How is the current political climate (e.g., DEI backlash) impacting Black male leaders?

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Small: Discussion & Reflection Group Conversation

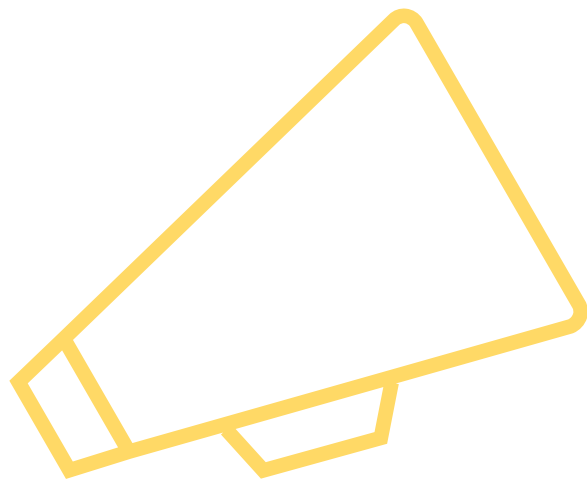
- Are there Black men on your board or CoC governance body?
- Is your organizational culture truly ready for Black men in leadership? How do you know?
- How many Black men do you work with closely?
- Have you had explicit conversations about the experiences of Black men in the homelessness sector about their needs or experiences?
- Are you prepared to hold space or make space for these conversations?



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Group Report Back



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Small Groups: From Reflection to Action: Building Solutions

- Who are five people in your community you can partner with today to create more leadership opportunities?
- Does your network include Black men? If not, how can you expand it?
- What are concrete ways to diversify your partnerships and decision-making spaces?
- What are ways that you're ensuring that you meeting the needs of Black men experiencing homelessness?
- What is one actionable next step you will take based on today's conversation?

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Group Report Back: : Key takeaways and next steps



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Closing Reflections

Panel Wrap-Up: One thing each panelist wants communities to walk away with



David Dirks



Sean Whitten



Richard Crews

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Black Men Ending Homelessness

Mission

"Our mission is to empower and uplift Black men in or around the homeless response system. Through fostering connections, shedding light on service gaps for Black men, and providing recommendations, we aim to enhance access to safe and supportive resources. With collective action and advocacy, we strive to create a more just and equitable system where everyone experiencing homelessness can receive adequate and responsive service and care."

Learn more



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