

S1.05 We've Got an Agenda: What's on the National Alliance to End Homelessness' Policy Priorities List



Marcy Thompson

Vice President, Programs and Policy
National Alliance to End Homelessness
mthompson@naeh.org

What are the most critical policy priorities right now for preventing and ending homelessness? In this session, hear about the Alliance's new policy agenda, and how we developed it through input from a broad range of stakeholders, including community leaders, frontline service providers, researchers, technical assistance providers, and (most importantly), people with former and current lived experience of homelessness. Come hear from Alliance staff about our overarching policy goals and priorities for 2025 and beyond.



Overview

- **What:** Organizational policy framework to shape and focus policy efforts moving forward
- **Why:** To create greater transparency on the Alliance's policy priorities to inform short-term and medium-term reforms and long-term transformation
- **How:** 18 months of formal and informal input
- **When:** Driving the Alliance's policy efforts beginning in January 2025



External Input Process

- Beginning in September 2024, the Programs and Policy Team held a series of focus groups and sent out a survey to solicit input from more than 500 stakeholders including:
 - Continuum of Care Leaders (including Leadership Council)
 - Researchers (Research Council and Research Network)
 - Technical Assistance Providers (including Capacity Building Network)
 - People with Lived Experience
 - Funders
 - Advocates
 - Direct Services Providers
 - Federal Partners (HUD, USICH, HHS, VA)
 - Key Congressional Staff
 - National Organizations and Interest Groups related to housing, homelessness, and healthcare





National Alliance to
END HOMELESSNESS

POLICY AGENDA



GOAL 1:

Equip systems to meet urgent needs and protect people experiencing homelessness — especially those unsheltered.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Expanding federal homelessness programs (diversion, outreach, shelter, housing).

Promoting rights-based, non-punitive responses to encampments.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Increasing access to mainstream programs and flexible funds.

Strengthening use of data to inform equitable policies.

Enhancing preparedness for climate and public health crises.



GOAL 2:

Ensure everyone has access to affordable, accessible, and climate-resilient housing.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Securing federal rental assistance for all eligible households.

Increasing the availability of affordable housing for renters with the lowest income levels.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Expanding rural and tribal housing access.

Advancing renter protections.

Promoting income-based strategies for low-income renters.



GOAL 3:

Ensure people can access healthcare and services that support housing stability.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Addressing the homelessness and human services workforce shortage.

Expanding access to integrated, community-based care.

Increasing health coverage for low-income, at-risk populations.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Improving the quality and coordination of supportive services.

Join us in shaping equitable, evidence-driven solutions to end homelessness.

Learn more at
endhomelessness.org

Ending Homelessness is Possible.

**GOAL 1:**

Equip systems to meet urgent needs and protect people experiencing homelessness — especially those unsheltered.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Expanding federal homelessness programs (diversion, outreach, shelter, housing).

Promoting rights-based, non-punitive responses to encampments.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Increasing access to mainstream programs and flexible funds.

Strengthening use of data to inform equitable policies.

Enhancing preparedness for climate and public health crises.

- Objective 1: Allow for people experiencing homelessness to quickly be rehoused using evidence-based approaches
- Objective 2: The human and civil rights of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness are protected
- Objective 3: Communities use a targeted universalism framework that addresses the needs of all people experiencing homelessness ensuring targeted and tailored solutions for specific groups to address specific cultures and geographies and overcome specific structural barriers

**GOAL 2:**

Ensure everyone has access to affordable, accessible, and climate-resilient housing.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Securing federal rental assistance for all eligible households.

Increasing the availability of affordable housing for renters with the lowest income levels.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Expanding rural and tribal housing access.

Advancing renter protections.

Promoting income-based strategies for low-income renters.

- Objective 1: Prevent individuals and families with the lowest incomes from becoming homeless
- Objective 2: Facilitate the quick rehousing of individual and families experiencing homelessness
- Objective 3: Remove structural barriers to accessing housing particularly for people of color and other marginalized groups

**GOAL 3:**

Ensure people can access healthcare and services that support housing stability.

KEY PRIORITY AREAS

Addressing the homelessness and human services workforce shortage.

Expanding access to integrated, community-based care.

Increasing health coverage for low-income, at-risk populations.

OTHER AREAS OF IMPORTANCE

Improving the quality and coordination of supportive services.

- Objective 1: Remove structural barriers to accessing quality, comprehensive, affordable healthcare, treatment, and supportive services
- Objective 2: Address housing instability and other housing-related social needs of households with the lowest incomes
- Objective 3: Identify workforce development programs to respond to the shortage, training and retention of sectors engaged in service delivery of people experiencing homelessness

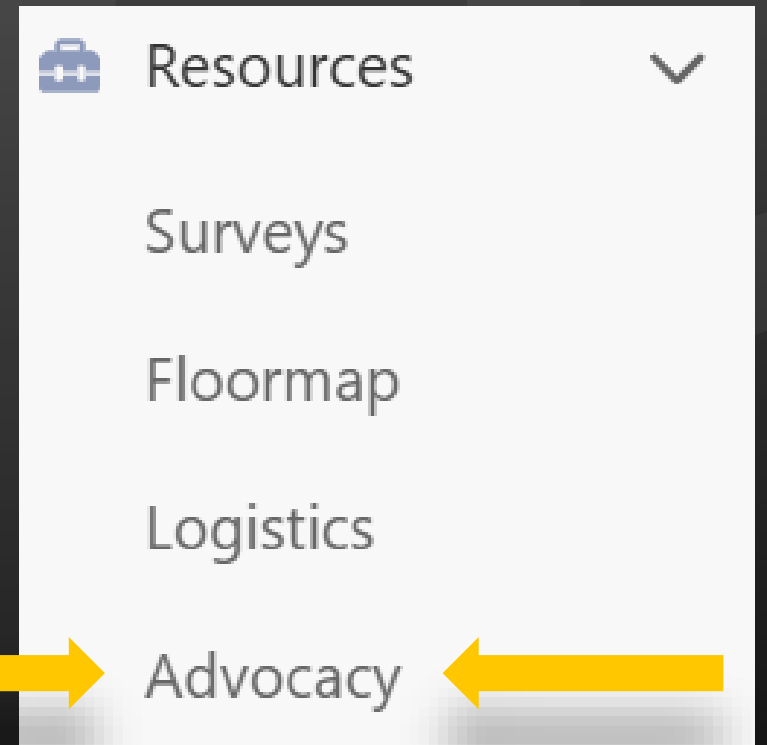
Questions?

Ending Homelessness is Possible.



WHOVA > RESOURCES > ADVOCACY

Engage with our advocacy resources on WhoVa.



SAVE THE DATE

***Virtual* Capitol Hill Day: September 17**



[ENDHOMELESSNESS.ORG](https://endhomelessness.org)

TAKE ACTION TODAY

Prepare to take
action and sign
up for our
Advocacy Alerts.



ENDHOMELESSNESS.ORG

TAKE ACTION TODAY

1. Defend the two-year NOFO to keep funding flowing
2. Prevent dangerous budget cuts & advance real solutions

