



Bridging the Divide

JENNA HAMPTON

DIRECTOR OF ADVOCACY & FEDERAL PROGRAMS



Council of State Community Development Agencies

COSCDA

Tip #1: Language

Saying the same thing with different words

“We should support **Housing First** program models.”

“We should help get people housed, ***then provide them with services.***”

“Homelessness assistance programs should consider **diversity, equity, and inclusion.**”

“Everyone should have access to basic, safe shelter **no matter their background.**”

“**The only way** to fix homelessness is by building more housing.”

“Building more housing will give people **somewhere to go as they’re addressing other issues** they might have in their lives.”

Tip #2: Give People a Chance.

Lawmakers and their staff are often very different **behind closed doors** than they are on the news or even on social media.



Tip #3: Build a Relationship.



Just like any other relationship:

- Meet regularly
- Figure out how you can help each other
- Be reliable – follow through on what you promise to provide

Success Story (Missouri Legislature)

