

Reducing Homelessness

LEAVING PEOPLE TO LIVE ON THE
STREETS IS NOT COMPASSIONATE

Cities that criminalize homelessness waste public resources and ignore the root cause of homelessness - the lack of affordable housing.



Housing chronically homeless patients reduced hospital emergency room visits by up to 78%



Stable housing dramatically improves the ability to overcome substance use and mental health issues.



Supportive housing reduces the number of arrests and cuts overall incarceration costs

75% of voters support **expanding supportive housing**



HOUSING WITH SERVICES WORKS

Overcoming mental illness and addiction is extremely difficult for everyone. Experience demonstrates that people who have no support or resources can not meet rigid requirements and usually return to homelessness. The Housing First approach - ready access to treatment AND housing - greatly increases the odds of recovery, as seen with the HUD-VASH program, which has significantly decreased homelessness among veterans.



Coalition on Homelessness
and Housing in Ohio

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THE STATE CAN TAKE ACTION TO HELP
END HOMELESSNESS

1

Fund programs with proven success

Increase funding for existing programs that demonstrate success in preventing homelessness and permanently rehousing people

2

Ensure homeless agencies use best practices

Expand training for service providers to adopt a housing first approach that includes effective treatment strategies

3

Use Medicaid Funding for Housing and Services

Require the Ohio Department of Medicaid to seek a waiver to fund tenancy supports and services in supportive housing

4

Allow state public safety grants to be used for multi-disciplinary homeless outreach teams

Houston took this approach in 2011 and cut homelessness in half

5

Expand outpatient treatment and street medicine programs

Undiagnosed, untreated mental illness is prevalent among the unsheltered population



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