

Insights on the Upcoming Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

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Presenters

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What Is USICH?

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness:

- Coordinates the federal response to homelessness
- Develops and implements the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Creates partnerships between national, state, local, and private stakeholders; and helps them use resources efficiently
- The *only* federal agency with the sole mission of preventing and ending homelessness



USICH Council

Council leaders:

- Chair – HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge
- Vice Chair – VA Secretary Denis McDonough

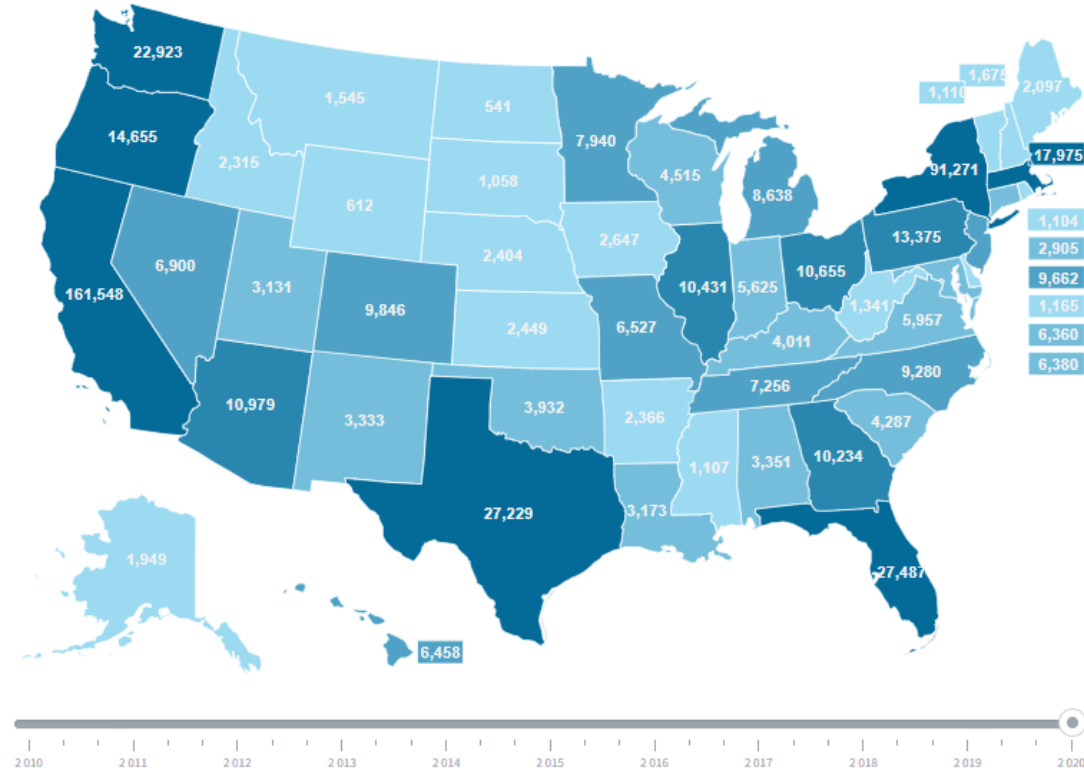
Council members represent 19 federal agencies:



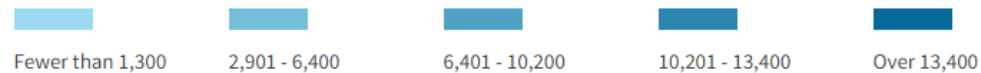


Homelessness in the United States

Total People Experiencing Homelessness



Map Key





A New Federal Strategic Plan to **Prevent** and **End** Homelessness



What is a Federal Strategic Plan?

- Roadmap for **Federal action to prevent and end homelessness**
- Blueprint for **state and local action**



How Did We Get Here?

- Listening to and learning **from you**
- Building upon **what's working**
- Addressing **areas in need of greater attention**

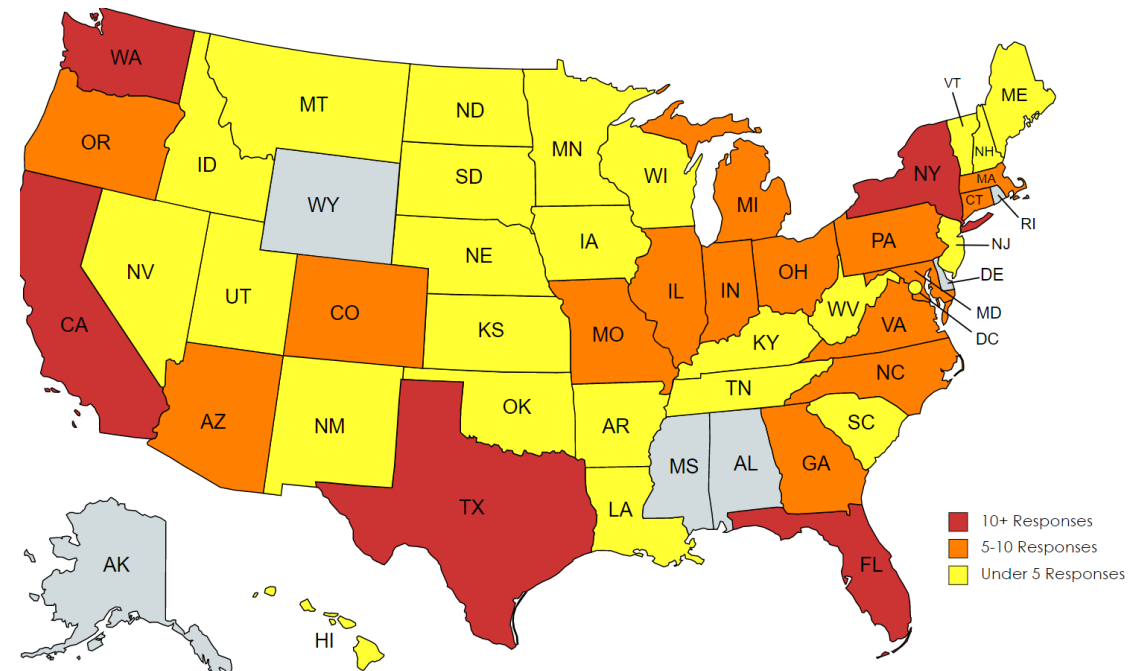




Federal Strategic Plan: Input Process

- Through an online portal and more than 80 listening sessions, USICH received feedback from nearly 2,000 stakeholders across 649 communities.
- This feedback helped to inform the plan's components and strategies.
- USICH received over 500 public comments from people with lived experience of homelessness, coming from 284 communities.

The following map illustrates where responses from people with lived experience originated from.





Input Process: What did we ask?

- What should the federal government's top priorities be?
- What are the biggest barriers in your community?
- How can the federal government more effectively center racial equity and support equitable access and outcomes at the local level?
- What lessons have you learned during the COVID pandemic about how housing, health, and supportive services systems can best respond?
- Is there anything else you wish to add?



Input Process: What did we hear?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Insufficient and mismatch of supports and services
- Need to focus on reducing inflow
- More guidance and flexibility
- Concern around false narratives and public perception, criminalization
- Impact of systemic racism, discrimination and caseworker bias
- More authentic and meaningful engagement



Guiding Principle: Housing is a human right

“If we are to fully achieve justice in housing, we must fully accept what that means. Justice in housing is everyone realizing the fundamental truth—housing is a human right.”

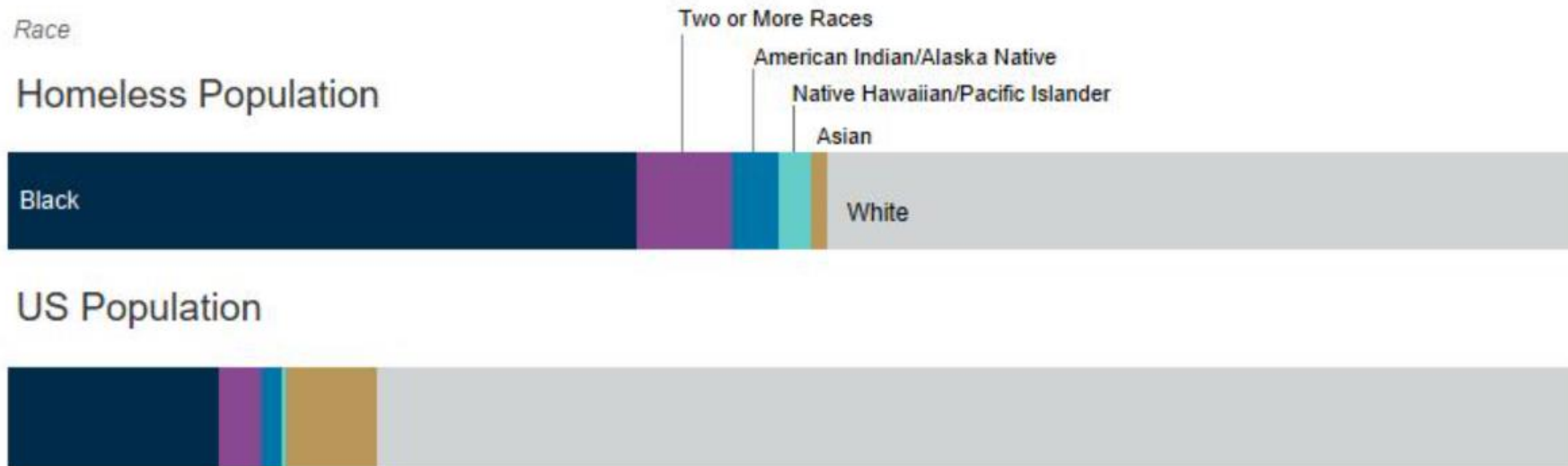
USICH Council Chair, Secretary Marcia Fudge



Guiding Principle: Addressing Systemic Racism

Most Minority Groups Make up a Larger Share of the Homeless Population than They Do of the General Population

Race and ethnicity of those experiencing homelessness compared with the general population





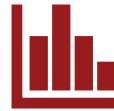
Guiding Principles: Data and Evidence



Build off what we know



Evaluate, assess, and course correct



Consider all qualitative and quantitative data to gain insight



Strengthen infrastructure



Shared research agenda



Transparency and accountability





Guiding Principle: Rely on the experts

For too long, we haven't had the right people at the right tables. For too long, people who have never experienced homelessness, including myself, have been in positions to make policy decisions “on behalf of” rather than “in partnership with” people who best understand the problem. **We need to create new, meaningful opportunities for people who have been homeless to design policies and programs, devise solutions, and allocate budgets at all levels of government.** And they should be paid for their expertise—not just with a gift card or a slice of pizza. We must move beyond tokenism to real power-sharing.

Jeff Olivet, USICH Executive Director





Guiding Principle: Prevent Homelessness



- Reduce housing instability for persons exiting jail/prison, foster care, hospitals, etc.
- Increase access to community-based health
- Rebuild the social safety net to prevent housing crisis *before* it occurs



Guiding Principle: Housing *First*, Not Housing *Only*





Guiding Principle: Housing /S Health Care





Guiding Principle: Housing Not Handcuffs



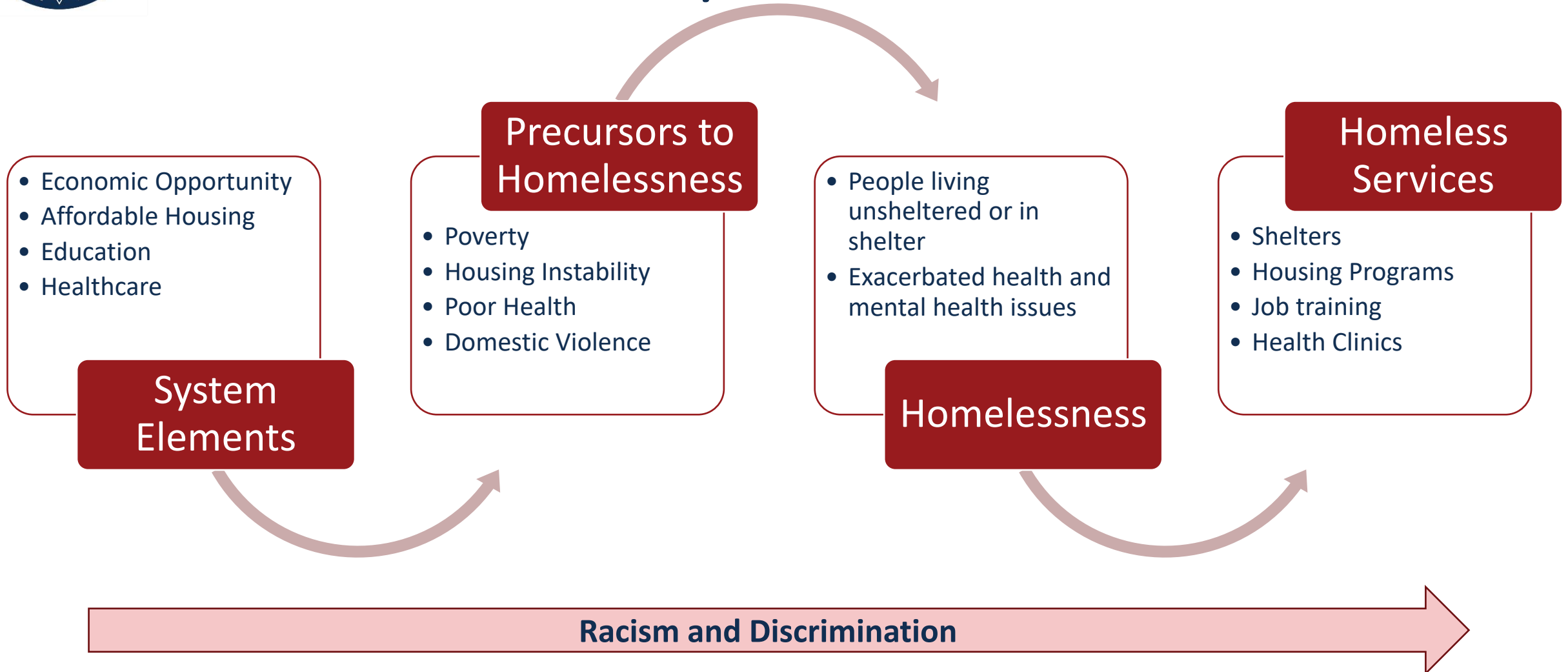


Guiding Principle: No One-Size-Fits-All Approaches

- Each community is different: population, resources, context
- Different people have different needs: tailored approaches are needed
- Flexibility to support innovation



Guiding Principle: Homelessness is a Systemic Problem





What to Expect?

- The Plan will be comprised of key pillars and strategies that will lay groundwork for implementation
 - *Represents current and best thinking*
- Following release of plan:
 - USICH will work with key stakeholders—including persons with lived expertise—to develop tools and guidance
 - USICH Regional Coordinators will work with state and local leaders and organizations to support local and state adoption of the Plan
 - USICH will work with Federal partners to turn strategies into actions and will report on progress



Anticipated Timeline

Interagency Review
April to May 2022

Council Adoption
June 2022

Plan Released
Summer 2022



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