

**ADVANCING  
HOMELESSNESS  
SOLUTIONS**  
NATIONAL LOW INCOME HOUSING COALITION  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE TO END HOMELESSNESS  
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES

# **Preventing and Ending Homelessness through Innovative State and Local Legislation**

October 8, 2024

# Agenda



- **Welcome & Opening Remarks** – Anna Bailey, CBPP
- **Innovative State and Local Policies**
  - Audrea Rease, Star-C, Atlanta, GA
  - Leepi Shimkhada, Housing for Health, LA County Department of Health Services
- **Panel Discussion**
- **Audience Q&A**
- **Closing Remarks** – Anna Bailey, CBPP

# Welcome & Opening Remarks

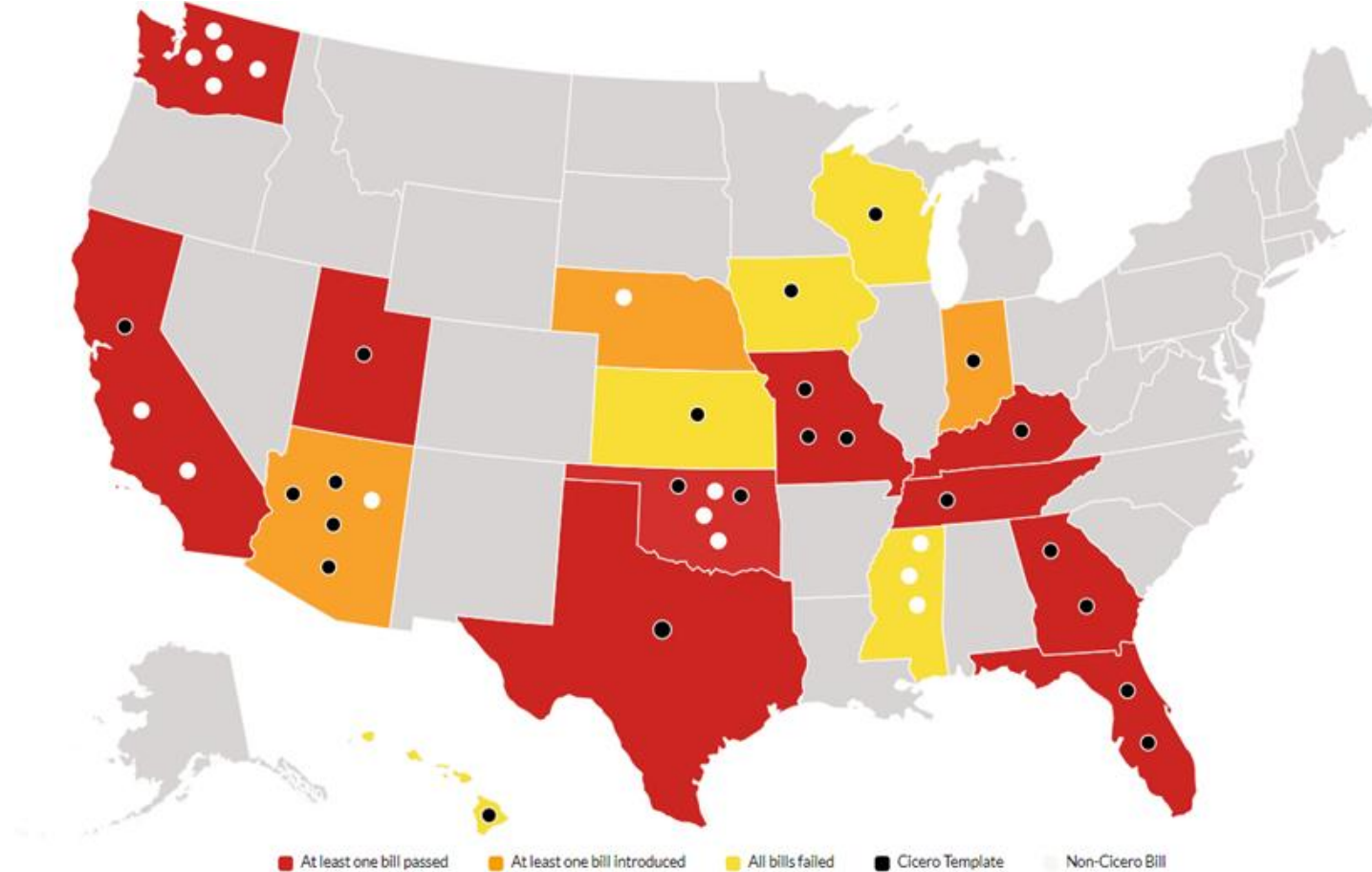


**Anna Bailey**

*Senior Policy Analyst*

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

# Rise in Punitive Proposals Following *Grants Pass v. Johnson* Decision

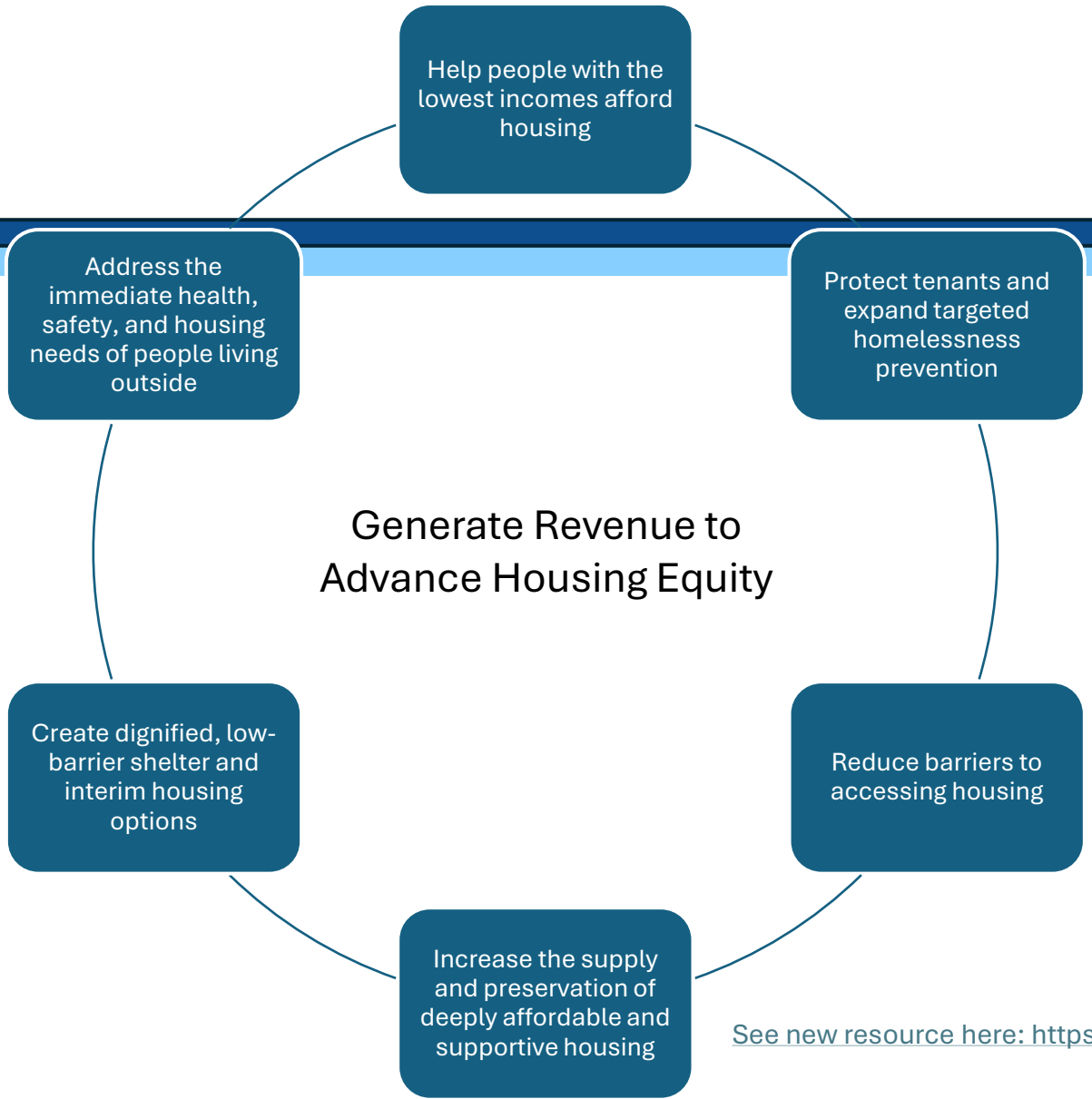


\*This map tracks only current state level bills, as well as ones from recent legislative sessions. The full extent of criminalization at the state and local level is much larger. Please also note that a state may have bills currently introduced and bills that have already passed. In these cases we default to the highest current threat level color

Source: National Homelessness Law Center <https://housingnohandcuffs.org/emergent-threats-homelessness-criminalization/>

<https://nihc.org/explore-issues/housing-programs/housing-first>

# Affirmative State and Policy Levers



See new resource here: <https://housingequityframework.org/policy-levers>

# State and Local Solutions



**Audrea Rease**

*Executive Director*

Star-C | Atlanta, Georgia



***Creating Healthier, Affordable Communities of Choice!***

**[www.star-c.org](http://www.star-c.org)**





## Our wraparound services and partnerships create affordable communities of choice.

- 501c3 nonprofit based in Atlanta region and expanding into other areas
- Partners with landlords committed to affordable housing
- Works to reduce transiency and stabilize affordable housing communities



After School Program & Summer Camp



Healthcare & Wellness Programs



Food Security & Community Gardens

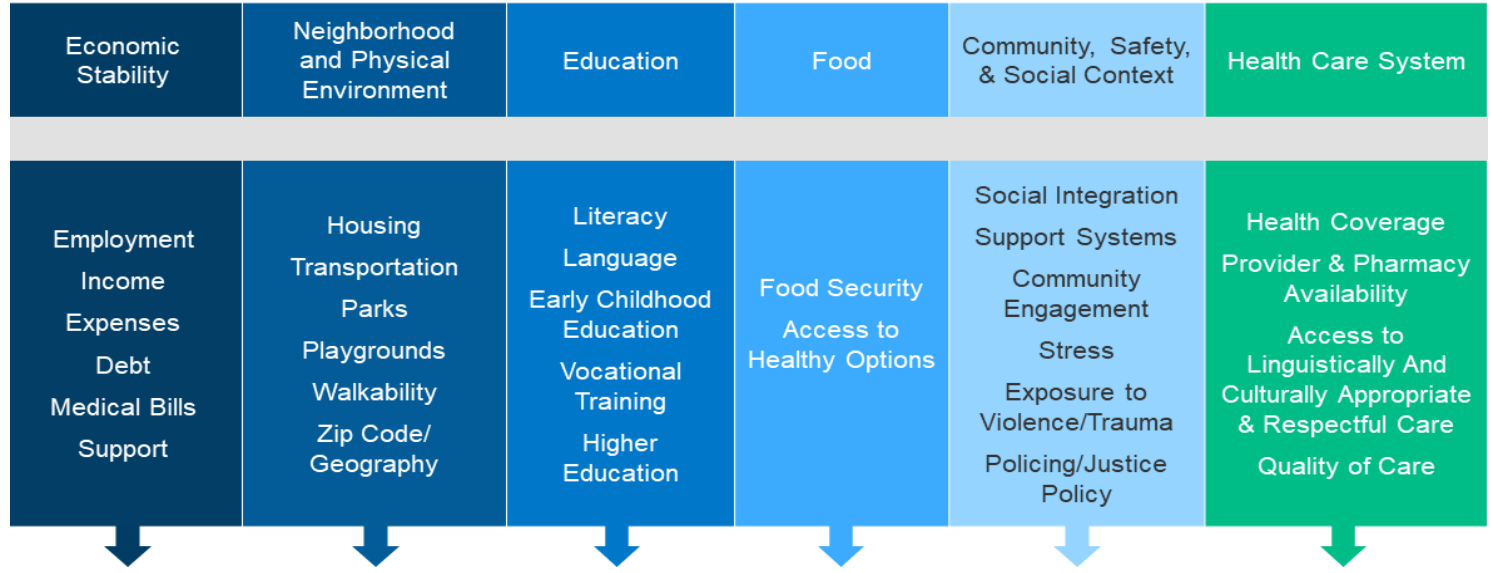


Eviction Relief Fund





# Our North Star: the Social Determinants of Health





## Star-C's Eviction Relief Fund



- Helps keep families in their homes and prevents eviction-related transiency/turnover in the local schools
- Has included motel to home program
- Hardship requirements are based on funding entity
- Covers 14 county area in Metro Atlanta Region (per funding)
- Started with \$50,000 GoFundMe; Raised \$16.5 million to date
- 330+ Metro Atlanta landlords with 62,500+ units registered
- Partnerships with Cobb and Fulton Magistrate Courts
- Funding partners: Cobb County, City of Atlanta, United Way of Greater Atlanta, Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, DeKalb County, Private Foundations, Individual Donors



## City of Atlanta Eviction Diversion Program

- \$4 million in funding for rental/eviction diversion assistance
- City of Atlanta renters with household income up to 60% of AMI
- Assistance capped at \$7,000
- Prioritizes 3 key demographics, but will serve all rental households under 60% AMI:



**Parents of APS Students**



**Young Adults 18-25**



**Seniors 65+**



## **Key Takeaways: Eviction Diversion**

- **Partnerships are crucial**
- **Funders must know who you are**
- **Build relationships before you need them**
- **Amplify your work**

# State and Local Solutions



**Leepi Shimkhada**

*Deputy Director*

Housing for Health | LA County Department of  
Health Services



# Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool

A Nationally Recognized Supportive Housing  
Solution



**Health Services**  
LOS ANGELES COUNTY

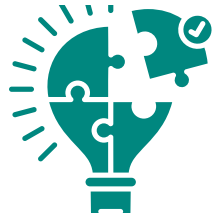


# Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool

## A Public-Private Partnership



Flexible tool to house people in various housing settings



Launched in 2014 by LA County Department of Health Services,  
Housing for Health



Operated by Brilliant Corners



# Why a Local Subsidy Pool?

- Not enough federal or state resources
- The problem is complex and requires flexibility
- Difficult to create a full continuum through federal resources and one-time funding
- This enables creation of new care settings

**Locally funded housing subsidies & supports  
are part of the solution**



# 'Flex Pool' Overview

A fiscal and contractual tool that allows County partners and other investors to scale housing options throughout LA County

- **Engages landlords** to cultivate **scattered-site housing**
- Partners with **PSH developers** to develop and sustain **project-based sites**
- Facilitates **Enriched Residential Care** placements
- **Flexible local rental subsidies** + financial assistance to obtain and maintain housing



# How the Flex Pool Model Works



Landlord Engagement  
Creates Portfolio of  
Units



Tenancy Supports  
Team Ensures  
Housing Stability



Brilliant Corners role also  
includes: Timely rent  
payments, housing  
deposit assistance, and  
flexible funding for  
participants



Intensive Case  
Management Provides  
Wrap-Around Support

# Offers A Range of Housing Options



Scattered-Site



Project Based



Enriched Residential Care



# Success Story



Hospice



Enriched  
Residential Care



Scattered-Site



## Los Angeles Times

Column: He was homeless and in hospice. His recovery is a lesson in what it takes to save a life



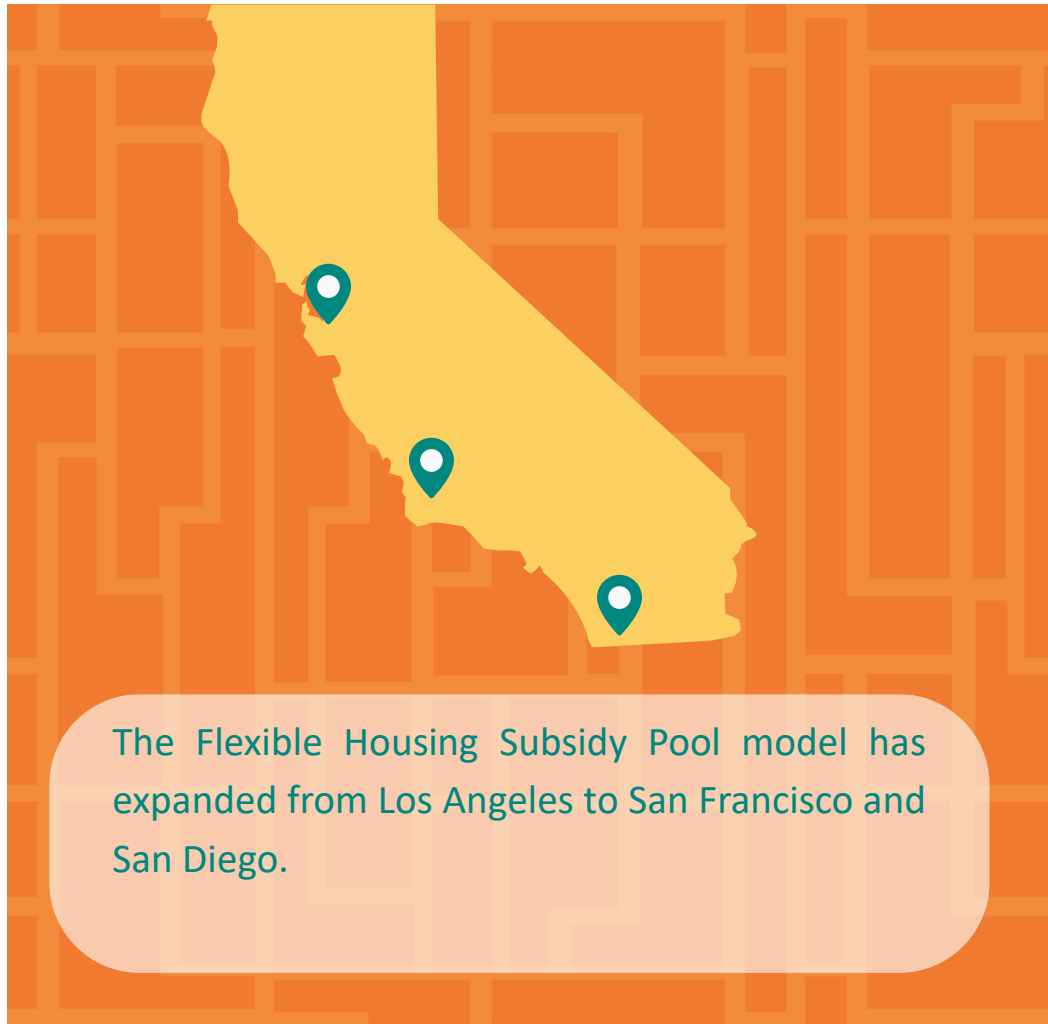
# FHSP Partnerships and Funding Streams



- **Can use funding sources flexibly.**
- **Seeded with funding** from government and philanthropy
- **Expanded with funding** from other County depts, voter-approved taxes, Medicaid waivers, local health plan grants, state + federal funding
- Over **\$220M in braided funding** in FY24/25, & help support **utilization of federal subsidies**
- By **pooling resources, FHSP enables LA County** to use **shorter-term, restrictive funding** to create **flexible solutions + long-term stability**



# Replicating the Model



## San Francisco

- Launched July 2020
- Operated in partnership with San Francisco Department of Homelessness & Supportive Housing

## San Diego

- Launched October 2020
- Operated in partnership with San Diego Regional Task Force on Homelessness

# Challenges

- **Housing stock and market conditions**
- **Funding for ongoing solutions**
- **Data sharing and integration**
- **Ensuring equity across the board**



# Opportunities for the Flex Pool





# How This Can Work in Your Community

- ✓ Develop comprehensive program design and structure
- ✓ Build relationships with your local county, government stakeholders, housing authority
- ✓ Engage with your local government to see if funds available to cover any gap funding needed to ensure vouchers are used
- ✓ Centralize the framework for client-related costs



# Thank You

Please contact us with any further questions:

**Leepi Shimkhada**, Deputy Director of Housing for Health | LA County Department of Health Services  
[Ishimkhada@dhs.lacounty.gov](mailto:Ishimkhada@dhs.lacounty.gov)

# Innovative State & Local Solutions



## Panel Discussion Audience Q&A

# Closing Remarks



**Anna Bailey**

*Senior Policy Analyst*

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

# Resources



- [State and Local Policy Levers to Prevent and Address Homelessness \[Framework Project\]](#)
- [Emerging Strategies to Combat State-Level Punitive Bills \[NAEH\]](#)
- [Unlocking the Full Potential of the Housing First Approach \[NAEH\]](#)
- [Scaling Services to Meet People’s Need \[NAEH\]](#)
- [Policymakers Can Solve Homelessness by Scaling Up Proven Solutions: Rental Assistance and Supportive Services \[CBPP\]](#)
- [Housing Narrative Lab Resources](#)
- [Emerging Threats: State Level Homelessness Criminalization \[NHLC\]](#)