



NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign for
Long-Term Housing Solutions

February 7, 2022

Agenda



Welcome & Updates

- Paul Kealey, NLIHC

“Build Back Better Act” Updates and Next Steps

- Sarah Saadian, NLIHC

Mayors and America’s Homelessness Crisis

- Katherine Levine Einstein, Boston University, & Charley Willison, Cornell University

Database of Multifamily Affordable Housing Properties Covered by CARES Act 30-Day Eviction Notice Requirement

- Andrew Aurand, NLIHC

ERASE Project & ERA Spending Updates

- Emma Foley, NLIHC

Field Updates

- Cara Tratner, Self, Inc.
- Chloe Shiras, HIAS
- Anne Mavity, Minnesota Housing Partnership

Census Pulse Survey Data on Housing Insecurity

- Sarah Hassmer, National Women’s Law Center

Next Steps

Welcome & Updates

Paul Kealey

Chief Operating Officer

National Low Income Housing Coalition

pkealey@nlihc.org

"Build Back Better Act" Updates & Next Steps

Sarah Saadian

Senior Vice President of Policy

National Low Income Housing Coalition

ssaadian@nlihc.org

Mayors and America's Homelessness Crisis

Katherine Levine Einstein

*Associate Professor & Director of Undergraduate Studies,
Department of Political Science*

Boston University
bdipietro@hchmd.org

Charley Willison

*Assistant Professor
Department of Public & Ecosystem Health*

Cornell University
bdipietro@hchmd.org

Boston University Initiative on Cities

**BOSTON
UNIVERSITY**

Mayors and America's Homelessness Crisis

MENINO SURVEY OF MAYORS

2021 Results

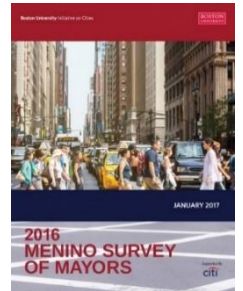
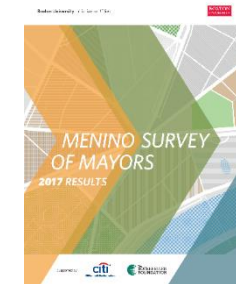
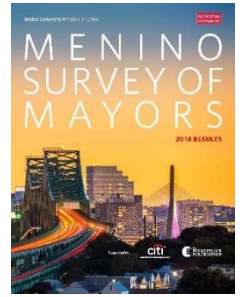
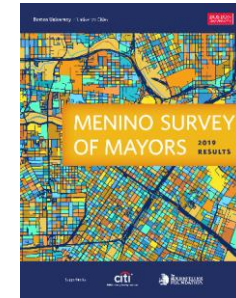


**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**

**NLIHC National Call
February 7, 2022**

Menino Survey of Mayors

- Only nationally representative, scientifically rigorous survey of American mayors
- Initiated in 2014 at Boston University under the direction of the late Mayor of Boston, Tom Menino
- Continues with the support of Citi and The Rockefeller Foundation
- New partnership with Community Solutions in 2021 to field a series of questions on homelessness
- Principal investigators: Katherine Levine Einstein, David Glick, and Maxwell Palmer
- Homelessness Report Authors: Katherine Levine Einstein (Boston University) and Charley E. Willison (Cornell University)



2021 Menino Survey

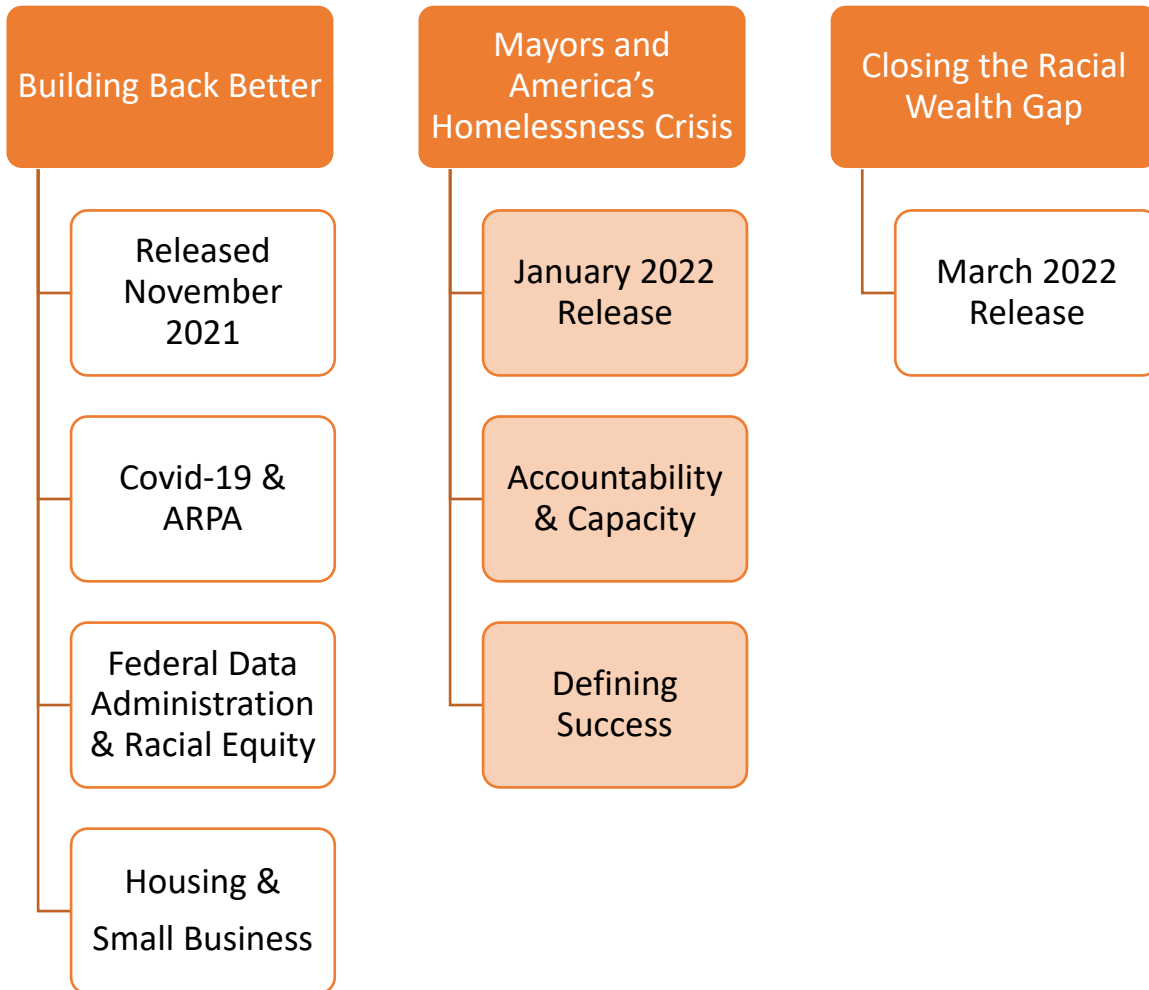
- Interviews with 126 mayors of cities > 75,000 residents
- Live interviews, conducted by phone (June-August 2021)
- Nationally representative sample



Findings available at:

surveyofmayors.com

2021 Menino Survey Topics





Local Policy and Homelessness

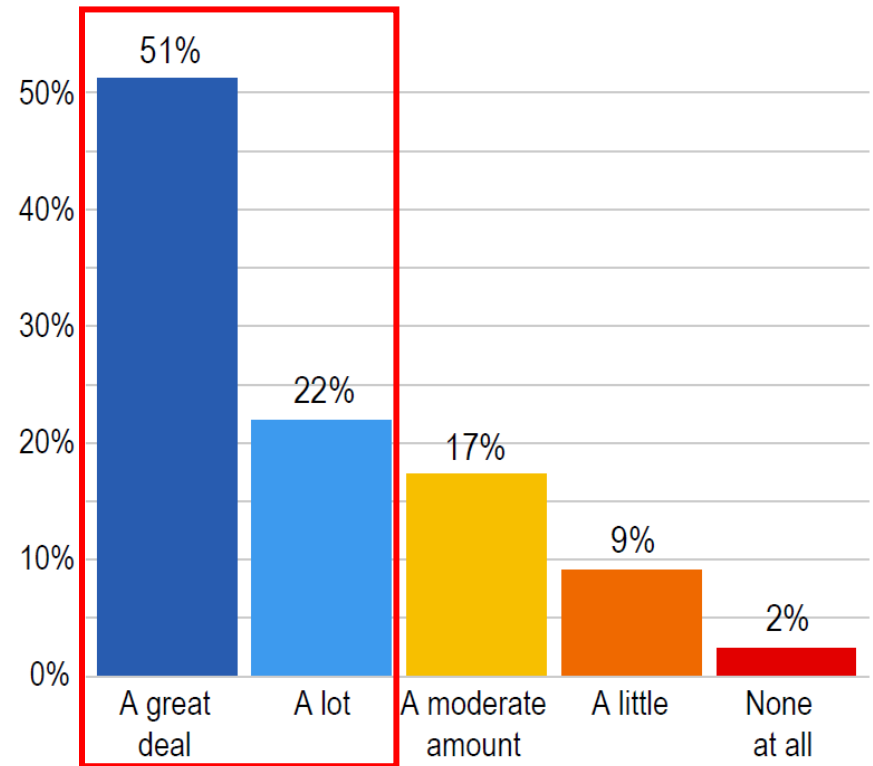
- Impactful homelessness policy made at the local level**
- Local leaders make critical decisions about:**
 - How much new housing gets built and where
 - Punitive vs. harm reduction
 - How and where homelessness policy gets administered



Accountability & Capacity

Accountability for Homelessness

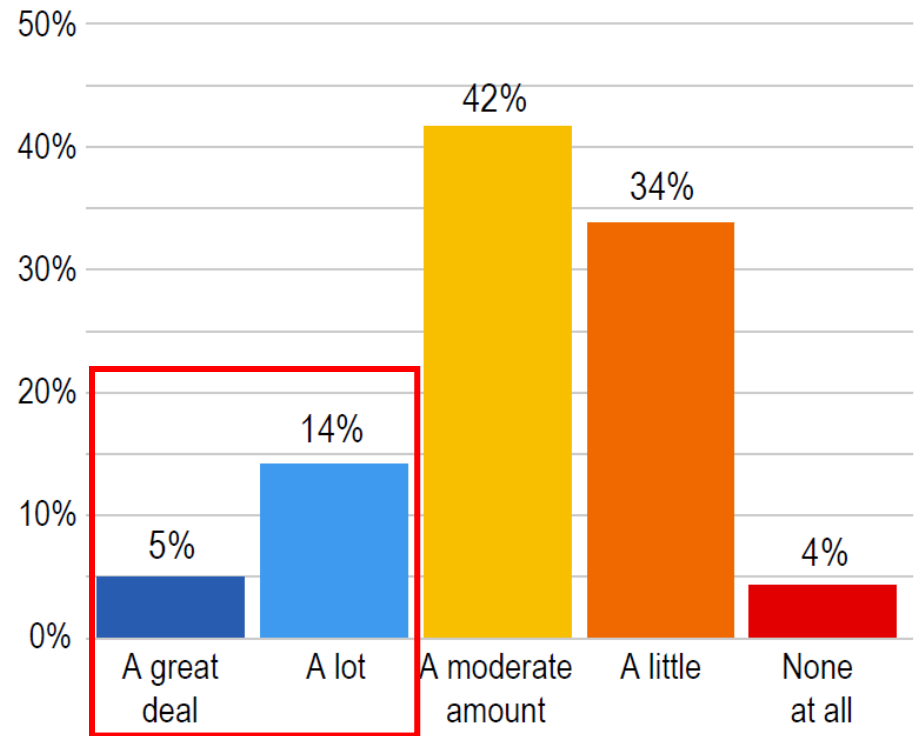
- Majority of mayors (73%) perceive themselves as being held highly accountable for addressing homelessness in their communities.
- Mayors of high and low housing cost cities hold remarkably similar views: 69% of less expensive cities and 79% of more expensive cities believe they are held responsible by their residents.



How much do your residents hold you accountable for addressing homelessness in your city?

Control Over Homelessness

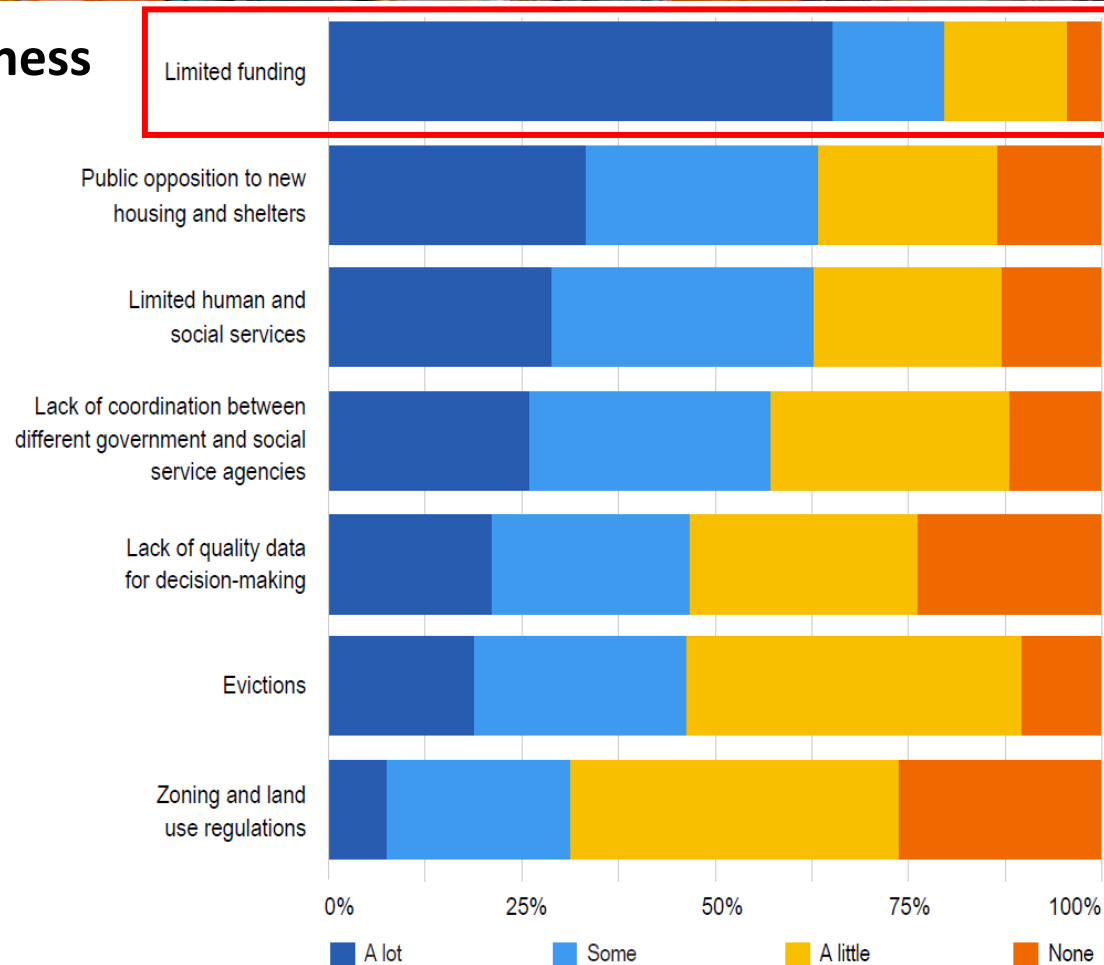
- Yet, only 19% of mayors feel they have 'a great deal' or 'a lot' of control over addressing homelessness.
- Mayors in the Northeast are particularly pessimistic: just 7% of them feel they have a lot of control over addressing homelessness, while 29% of their southern counterparts, in contrast, see themselves as having a fair amount of influence over local homelessness.



How much control do you have over addressing homelessness in your city?

Barriers to Addressing Homelessness

- Over half of mayors cite limited funding; public opposition to new housing/shelters; limited human and social services; and a lack of coordination between the government and social service agencies as significant obstacles to addressing homelessness.
- Limited funding stood out as a substantial hindrance: over 60% of mayors used the most extreme option to describe the extent to which it hindered their ability to address homelessness.
- Nearly four-in-five (78%) mayors believe that ARPA resources will allow them to accomplish transformative aims—most notably around homelessness (21%), housing (15%) and social services/programs (15%).



How much do each of the following hinder your ability to address homelessness?

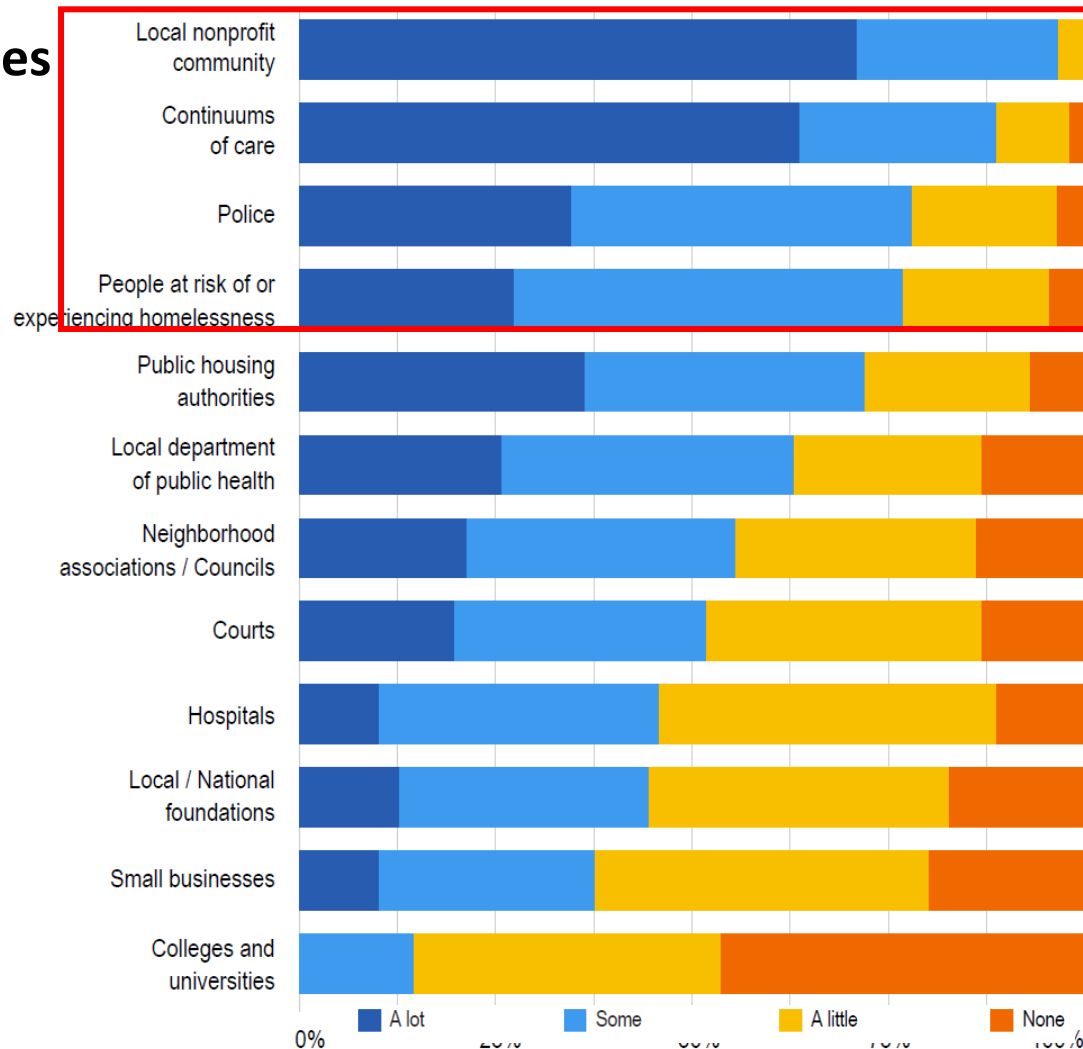


Barriers to Addressing Homelessness, continued

- **There were some differences along partisan lines:**
 - 63% percent of Democratic mayors worry about a lack of coordination between different government and social service agencies, compared with 28% of Republican mayors.
 - 55% of Democratic mayors see evictions as a barrier to reducing homelessness—30 percentage points more than their Republican counterparts.
 - Republican mayors are 19 percentage points more likely to say that public opposition hindered their ability to address homelessness “a lot.”

Influences on Homelessness Policies

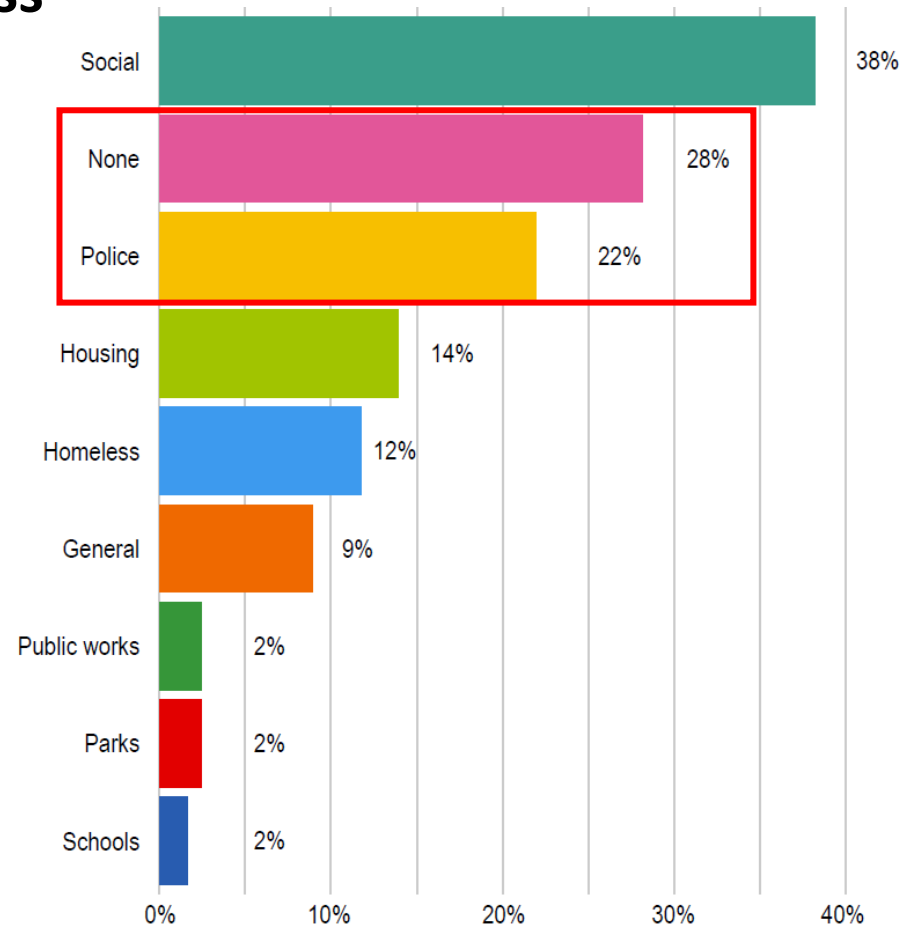
- Nearly all mayors describe the local nonprofit community as important influencers of local homelessness policy.
- The police play an important role in shaping homelessness policy: 78% of mayors say that police have at least some influence over their city's homelessness policy. Police were the third most influential group listed, just above people experiencing homelessness.



How much do each of the following groups shape your city's homelessness policy?

City Staff Dedicated to Homelessness

- 28% of mayors say they have no staff exclusively dedicated to serving people experiencing homelessness.
- 22% of mayors place their homelessness staff in police departments.



Does your city government have staff dedicated to the needs of persons experiencing homelessness? If so, what is their title/department?



Data and Coordination Challenges

- **Mayors also struggle to get the data they need to evaluate homelessness:**
 - 38% say they have access to annual data
 - 35% collect monthly data
 - 3% collect daily data
 - 10% say they have no access to city-level data (8% indicate that they only have county-level data)
- **We also asked an open-ended question about obstacles to collecting and using high-quality data. Mayors highlighted coordination challenges with their:**
 - Counties
 - Surrounding local governments
 - Nonprofits



Counties and Surrounding Local Governments

- **“We waited for the county to do their job, but they never did, so we had to get direct funding from the state and do it ourselves. We didn’t want the job from the county.” – Mayor of western city**
- **“Biggest obstacle is the county: they have overarching responsibility (and the funding) for tracking and dealing with homelessness, even though the majority of the problem is in city limits. We’re trying to take over the annual census where we can (in city limits).” – Mayor of southern city**

NOTE: County-city coordination problems are more generally a huge problem for public health data collection, data reporting, and policymaking.



Nonprofit Sector

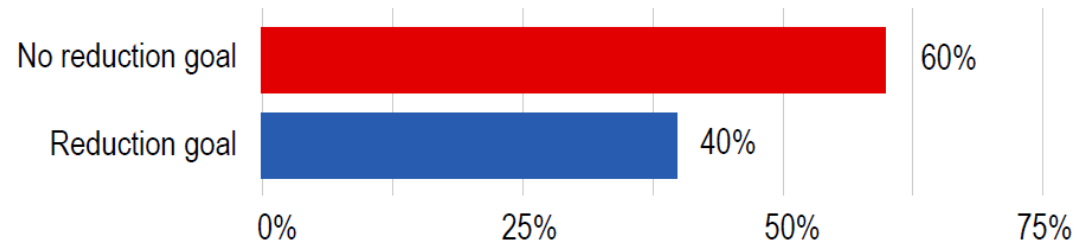
- **“We are not where we need to be. Lack of coordination (and disagreement) between the city and the homeless agencies.”** – Mayor of midwestern city
- **“One shelter doesn’t share their data with the city.”** – Mayor of a southern city
- **“We have several shelters and they don’t collect a lot of data that we need, or they don’t share it with us.”** – Mayor of a southern city



Defining Success

Definition of Success, by reduction goal

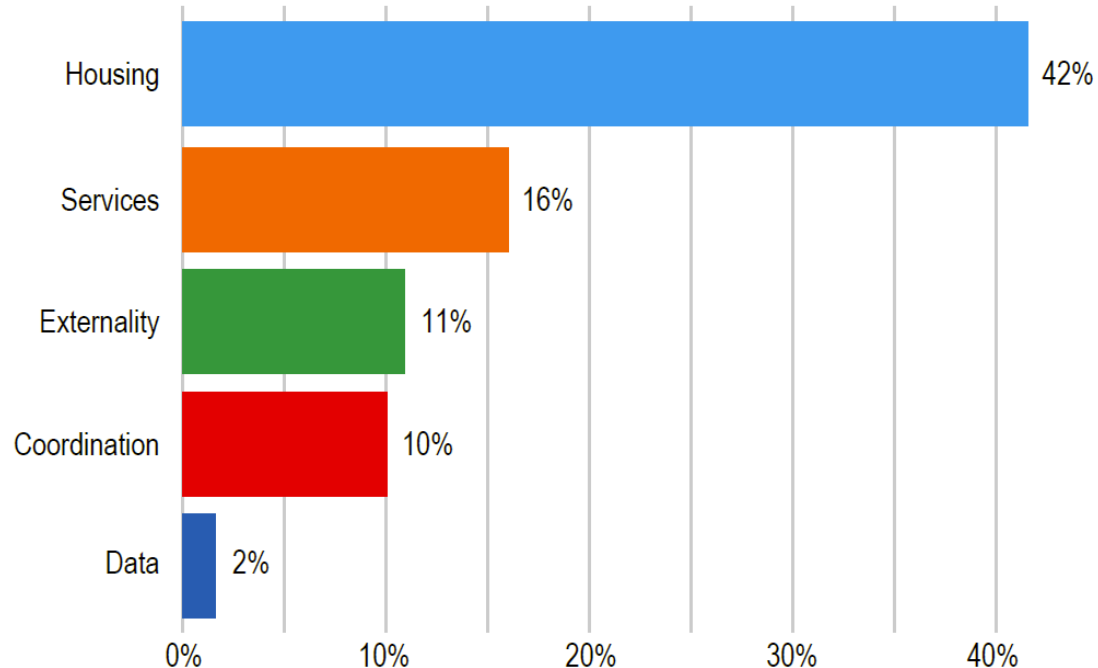
- In response to an open-ended question on how they “define success” in addressing homelessness, only 40% of mayors explicitly outline a policy goal of reducing homelessness.
- Midwestern (62%) and southern mayors (50%) are significantly more likely to highlight reduction goals than their northeastern (29%) and western counterparts (22%).
- Mayors of lower housing cost cities are 18 percentage points more likely to cite reduction goals (48% of lower housing cost cities vs. 30% of higher housing cost cities).



How does your city define success in addressing homelessness?

Definition of Success, by priority area

- Mayors list a variety of different policy goals when asked to define successful homelessness policy: 42% highlight better housing and 16% mention access to better social services.
- 11% of mayors centered the needs of non-homeless residents—defining success in terms of reducing complaints.



How does your city define success in addressing homelessness?



Definitions of Success

- **“Moving someone from the street to housing and/or a job.”** – Mayor of a southern city
- **“Transition of previously homeless individuals into permanent housing with necessary supportive services.”** – Mayor of a northeastern city
- **“The Midwest does not tolerate people being homeless. It cannot be seen; if it is seen, it’s not being addressed. Can’t have people sleeping on the streets.”** – Mayor of a midwestern city
- **“We kind of eyeball the thing. If there’s a homeless encampment this week, and it’s gone next week, we consider that a success.”** – Mayor of a western city
- **“Success to my citizens would be not seeing people camping or wandering the streets in need of mental health or addiction services. Success more for myself and staff [...] is getting to people on the cusp of becoming homeless and keeping them from becoming homeless.”** – Mayor of a western city



Conclusion

- Local governments are critical partners in reducing homelessness
- Left without staff, data, and financial tools to address key challenges
- Frequently resort to police policy implementers
- Intergovernmental coordination a significant challenge
- Mayors need better data and clear measurement standards for success

Thank you! Questions?

Authors

Katherine Levine Einstein
Associate Professor, Political Science
Boston University
kleinst@bu.edu

Charley E. Willison
Assistant Professor, Public and Ecosystem
Health Cornell University
cew253@cornell.edu

Initiative on Cities

Boston University
75 Bay State Road
Boston, MA 02215
ioc@bu.edu
www.bu.edu/ioc
www.surveyofmayors.com
@BUonCities



Database of Multifamily and Affordable Housing Properties Covered by CARES Act 30-Day Eviction Notice Requirement

Andrew Aurand

Vice President for Research

National Low Income Housing Coalition

aurand@nlihc.org

ERASE Project & ERA Spending Updates

Emma Foley

Research Analyst

National Low Income Housing Coalition

efoley@nlihc.org



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Emergency Rental Assistance and ERASE

Updates on tracking and resources

February 7, 2022

Emma Foley (she/her)

Research Analyst

efoley@nlihc.org

Spending Update



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Spending Tracker

ERA FUNDS APPROVED OR PAID TO HOUSEHOLDS

ERA1: \$15.55 billion of \$25.00 billion



ERA2: \$3.81 billion of \$21.55 billion

Congress appropriated \$46.55 billion in Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) via two separate programs; ERA1 provides \$25 billion, and ERA2 provides \$21.55 billion in emergency funds. NLIHC tracks data on ERA funds approved or distributed from all 50 state ERA programs, the District of Columbia's ERA program, the five territories' ERA programs, and nearly 300 local ERA programs. The tracker includes information from (1) U.S. Department of the Treasury's Emergency Rental Assistance Program Monthly Compliance Report and Quarterly Reports, (2) publicly available data from program dashboards, (3) data from communications with program administrators and advocates, and (4) news articles.

Additional data points including those from state and local programs with ERA dashboards can be found [here](#) (see State spending rates in the third tab).

NLIHC ERA SPENDING TRACKING

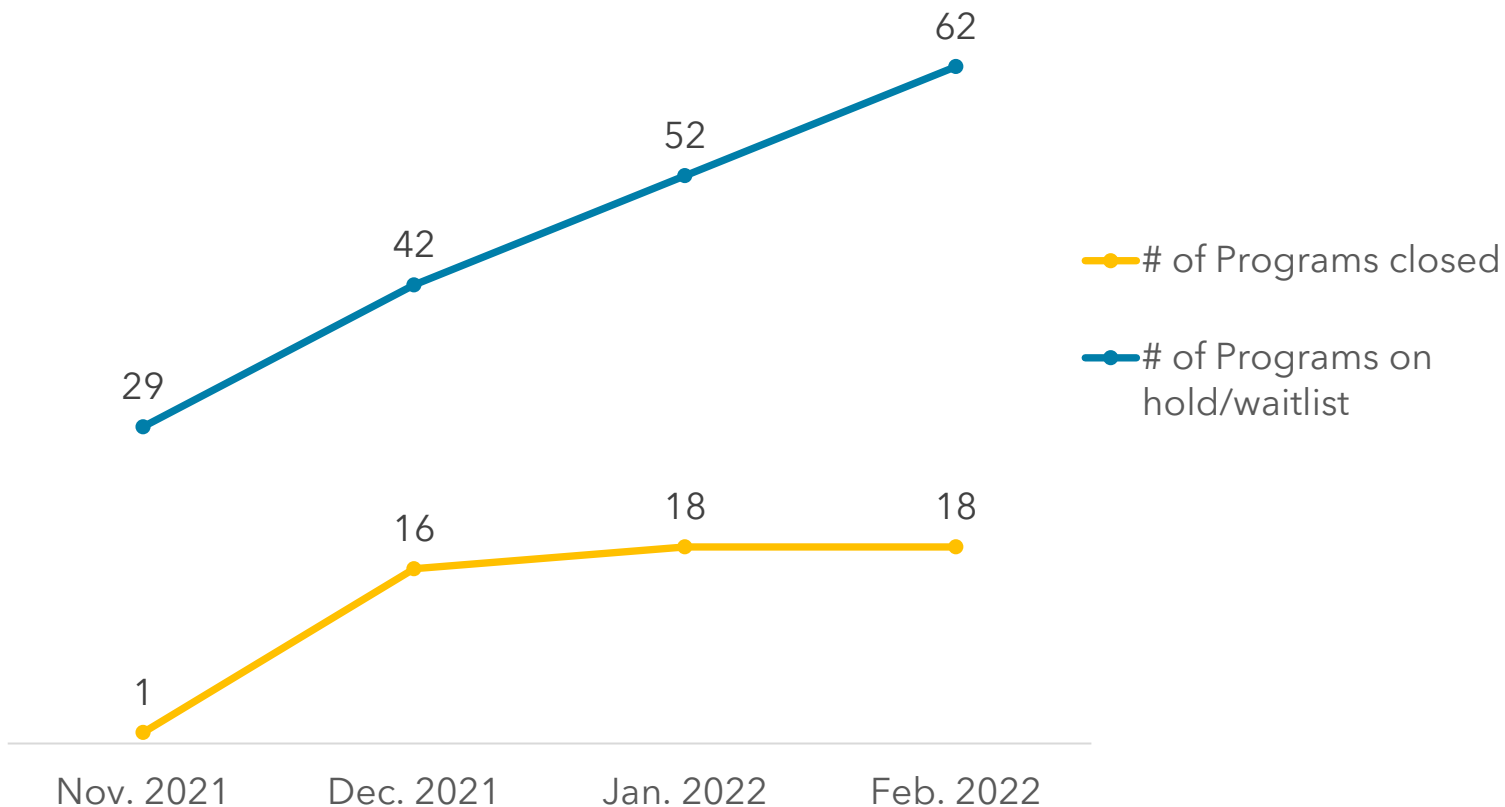


nlihc.org/era-dashboard

ERA Programs Closed or On Hold Increasing



Number of ERA Programs Closed or On Hold by Month



Program Closures/Holds



- **8 state programs** are closed or on hold, including Alaska, D.C., Illinois, Minnesota, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas.
- **69 local programs** closed or on hold, including Chicago, Philadelphia, and Austin.
- **Programs may be on hold for different reasons.** Some may be transitioning to ER2 funds, while others may be waiting to see if they receive reallocated funds.
- **NLIHC's Rental Assistance Look-Up** shows which programs are open and closed, though program status may change.
nlihc.org/rental-assistance

Program Closures/Holds



- **At a minimum, closing programs should:**
 - Provide ample notice before closing.
 - Provide alternative resources to households seeking rental assistance.
 - Collect emails/waitlists of potential applicants.
- **Examples:**
 - **Texas** developed an extensive list of resources on their program page to point applicants to other assistance available in the state.
 - **New Jersey** notified applicants that their program was going to close a month before the final deadline.
 - **Chicago** had an application deadline published on their website and have since redirected folks to the state program.
 - **Austin** redirects to the state's 2-1-1 program and has a place for tenants to sign up to receive updates if funds are later available.



NATIONAL LOW INCOME
HOUSING COALITION

Questions?

For questions regarding ERA
spending or program changes, email
research@nlihc.org.

Field Updates

Cara Tratner

*Housing Assistance Manager, Way Home
Self, Inc.*

tratnerc@selfincorp.org



Way Home

Rapid Re-Housing

SELF, Inc.

WAY HOME

**HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR THE
LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY!**





williamway

lgbt community center

Way Home is a new Rapid Re-Housing program operated by SELF, Inc. offering rental assistance to homeless individuals with specialized services for LGBTQ+ communities.




SELF^{INC.}



Office of
Homeless Services
CITY OF PHILADELPHIA




Way Home - Program Overview

- Background
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Eligibility
 - Program Specialization
 - Referral Process
- 

Way Home - Program Overview

- **Background**

- Rapid Re-Housing
- Eligibility
- Program Specialization
- Referral Process



Why is housing support
needed for
the LGBTQIA+
community?

Unsheltered percentage by gender

Data from 2019 Point-in-Time Count



Cisgender Adults



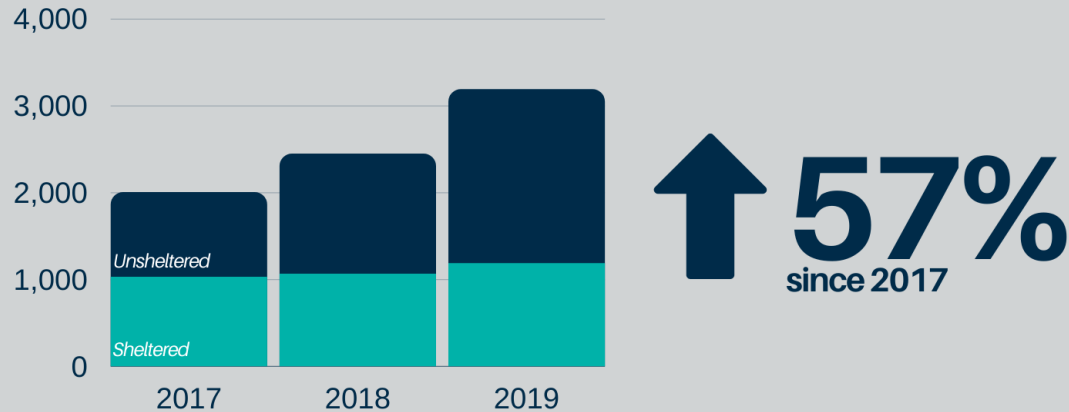
Transgender Adults



Gender Non-Conforming Adults

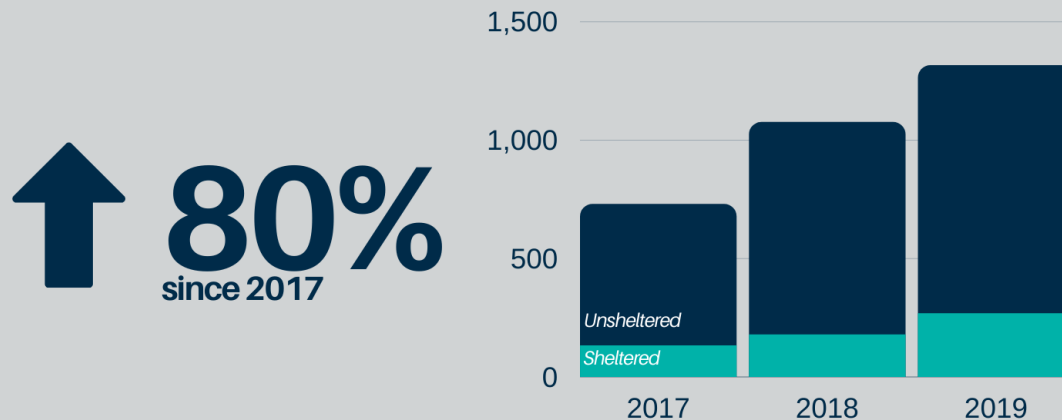


Transgender Individual Homelessness



**Increase in
homelessness
since 2017,
by gender**

Gender Non-Conforming Individual Homelessness





Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers**
to accessing stable housing






Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism:** in all aspects of society
 - **Legal discrimination:** in access to employment, housing, benefits, etc.
- 




Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism**
 - **Legal discrimination**
 - **Lack of support:** less likely to have family support or social acceptance
 - **Kicked out as youth:** 40% of homeless youth are LGBTQ+
- 




Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism**
 - **Legal discrimination**
 - **Lack of support**
 - **Kicked out as youth**
 - **Health risks:** difficulty accessing LGBTQ+ competent medical providers
 - **Violence:** more likely to be targets of hate crimes than any other group
 - **Trauma:** Higher rates of substance use and mental health issues
- 




Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism**
 - **Legal discrimination**
 - **Lack of support**
 - **Kicked out as youth**
 - **Health risks**
 - **Violence**
 - **Trauma**
 - **Racism:** Black trans women experience the highest rates of violence
 - **Criminalization:** Higher rates of arrest and incarceration
- 



Queer & Trans communities face **unique barriers** to accessing stable housing

- **Homophobia, transphobia, heterosexism**
 - **Legal discrimination**
 - **Lack of support**
 - **Kicked out as youth**
 - **Health risks**
 - **Violence**
 - **Trauma**
 - **Racism**
 - **Criminalization**
- **Lack of LGBTQ-affirming emergency housing options**
- 

Way Home - Program Overview

- Background
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Eligibility
- Program Specialization
- Referral Process



Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) **ends homelessness** for families and individuals.

Rapid Re-Housing focuses on assisting households to move more quickly into permanent home environments—with appropriate services and support—minimizing the time they spend in shelters or on the street.



Core components of Rapid Re-Housing

FIND LANDLORDS & APARTMENTS

Help people quickly find housing within one month or less.

HELP PAY FOR HOUSING

Help people pay for housing short term; longer-term help an option.

CONNECT TO JOBS & SERVICES

Help access services so people can stay in housing.

The **Core Components** of Rapid Re-Housing help people **find** housing fast, help **pay** for housing, and **connect** to jobs and services.



Housing First

- **Low-barrier, no preconditions**
- Households **will not be screened out** for assistance based on criteria that assumes to predict successful outcomes, such as:
 - Income
 - Employment
 - Criminal history
 - Mental health history
 - Medical history
 - Evidence of “motivation”

RENT AND MOVE-IN ASSISTANCE



Pay for security deposits,
move-in expenses...



... and/or rent and utilities.



Length of assistance varies
but often 4 to 6 months.

Way Home - Program Overview


- Background
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Eligibility
- Program Specialization
- Referral Process

RRH Eligibility

- **18+ years old**
(or legally emancipated)
- **Low-income**
at or below 30% of Section 8 Area
Medium Income (AMI)
- **"Literally Homeless"** (HUD-
defined):
 - **On the street**
 - **In a place not suitable for living**
(car, park, abandoned building,
bus, train station, etc.)
 - **In an emergency shelter**



Way Home - Program Overview

- Background
 - Rapid Re-Housing
 - Eligibility
 - Program Specialization
 - Referral Process
- 

Program Specialization

- **LGBTQ+ affirming**
- **Transgender competent**
- **Anti - Racist**
- **Bilingual (Spanish / English)**

Way Home - Program Overview

- Background
- Rapid Re-Housing
- Eligibility
- Program Specialization
- Referral Process

Referrals to Way Home

All referrals come from the Office of Homeless Services (OHS) Clearinghouse, using the Coordinated Entry and Assessment Based Housing Referral System (CEA-BHRS).

***Community Referral waitlist* short accessible online form:**

- bit.ly/WayHomeApply (english)
- bit.ly/CaminoAlHogar (spanish)



SELF INC

Contact for
more information:

Cara Tratner

Housing Assistance Manager

SELF, Inc. - Way Home

tratnerc@selfincorp.org

215-852-0874

Flyers & materials available!

Contact Wayhome@selfincorp.org



Field Updates

Chloe Shiras

Program Manager, Initial Resettlement

HIAS

chloe.shiras@hias.org

HIAS and U.S. Refugee Resettlement

- Nine resettlement agencies in the U.S.
- Funded by the State Department Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (PRM)
- Nine resettlement agencies fund *affiliate partners*:
 - Local agencies welcoming refugees in their communities and providing mandated services

- | | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| • Tucson, AZ | • Ann Arbor, MI | • Pittsburgh, PA |
| • San Diego, CA | • Buffalo, NY | • Kent, WA |
| • Concord, CA | • Niagara Falls, NY | • Madison, WI |
| • Los Gatos, CA | | |
| • Wilmington, DE | • New York, NY | |
| • Clearwater, FL | • Charlotte, NC | |
| • North Port, FL | • Columbus, OH | |
| • Miami, FL | • Cleveland, OH | |
| • Skokie, IL | • Toledo, OH | |
| • Portland, ME | • Tulsa, OK | |
| • Springfield, MA | • Philadelphia, PA | |



Housing for Refugees and Parolees

■ Challenges:

- Limited funds (\$1,225 per capita)
- No U.S. work history, rental history, or other to satisfy typical background check
- Delayed social security cards upon arrival
- Corporatization of rental application process
- Landlords requiring co-signers
- Single clients and large families

■ Impact:

- Clients placed in temporary housing
 - Eats up limited budget
 - Delays services/integration
- Huge amount of staff time searching for viable permanent options
- Fewer landlords willing to rent to refugee clients
- Forced to place clients in undesirable areas with higher crime rates and less access to transportation, services, and jobs

Field Updates

Anne Mavity

Executive Director

Minnesota Housing Partnership

anne.mavity@mhponline.org



Yes to Invest in Housing: \$2B in 2022



Anne Mavity
Executive Director
February 7, 2022

Invest in Minnesota.
Invest in families.
Invest in housing.

**\$2 BILLION
IN 2022**



**INVESTING
IN HOUSING
WILL REDUCE
DISPARITIES AND
EXPAND CHOICE**

All Minnesotans should have a safe, secure place to call home. Minnesotans of color, particularly Black, Latino, and Indigenous, are disproportionately harmed by poor housing quality, inequitable policies, and one of the largest homeownership gaps in the nation.

INVESTING IN HOUSING will provide stability, housing choice for low income renters, and homeownership and wealth-building opportunities for generations to come.



Invest in Minnesota. Invest in families.
Invest in housing.
\$2 BILLION IN 2022

\$1 BILLION
Creates and
Saves Homes



8,000 FAMILIES
will now have a place to
call home

10,000 FAMILIES
will be able to remain in
their home



22,000 JOBS
for Minnesotans

\$1 BILLION
Creates Access and
Opportunity to Housing

RENTAL ASSISTANCE



137,000 FAMILIES
will have access to homes
they can afford



350K MINNESOTANS
will have housing AND can afford
necessities like food, clothing,
transportation, and medical care

HOMEOWNERSHIP ASSISTANCE



17,000 FAMILIES
can access homebuyer education
and down payment assistance



**5,000 1ST GENERATION
HOMEOWNERS**
will own their own homes

Minnesota
will narrow
the racial
homeownership
gap



FOR MORE INFORMATION
Libby Murphy Minnesota Housing Partnership | libby.murphy@mhponline.org • 651-925-5556 • mhponline.org

Next Steps

Paul Kealey

Chief Operating Officer

National Low Income Housing Coalition

pkealey@nlihc.org

Resources

NLIHC's HoUSed Campaign
(nlihc.org/housed): Campaign
Updates