

**ADVANCING
HOMELESSNESS
SOLUTIONS**

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

All Hands on Deck: Mobilizing a Broader Network of Advocates

June 25, 2024

Agenda



- **Welcome & Opening Remarks** – Ann Oliva, The Alliance
- **State and Local Homelessness Advocacy**
 - Andrea Vocos, United Way of Greater Los Angeles
 - Jeremy Saunders, VOCAL-NY
 - Lindsey Krinks, Open Table Nashville
- **Panel Discussion**
- **Audience Q&A**
- **Closing Remarks** – Ann Oliva, The Alliance

Welcome & Opening Remarks



Ann Oliva

Chief Executive Officer

National Alliance to End Homelessness

State and Local Advocacy



Andrea Vocos

Housing Coalitions Manager

United Way of Greater Los Angeles

avocos@unitedwayla.org

Everyone In: An Introduction

Andrea Vocos, Housing
Coalitions Manager



WHO WE ARE

EVERYONE IN is a community movement that formed in 2017 to build the public and political will to end our homelessness and housing crisis by fighting for solutions we know work: affordable and supportive housing in every part of L.A. County.

Our goal is to activate the millions of people across L.A. County who support real solutions to ending homelessness.



Core Components of Everyone In:

- Communications/
Narrative shift
- Mobilization
- Advocacy/Policy change



Creation of Coalition Spaces

Our Future Los Angeles (OFLA)



- A coalition of nonprofits, community advocates and people who are working to address the rise in homelessness by improving housing policies and creating affordable housing. We're bridging the gap between aspiration and meaningful impact.
- LACAHS, Measure ULA

Reimagine L.A. County (RELA)



- A coalition of advocates, community organizations and neighbors calling for a ballot measure to divest from incarceration and policing and invest in the health and economic wellness of marginalized people in their communities.
- Measure J

Housing & Homelessness Workshops

- Large portion of county residents want to know more and want to help but don't know how
- Created for people who aren't currently part of an existing organization
- Variety of workshops for different levels of advocacy and experience



Town Halls

- Created as a way to bring together different organizations and people working to end homelessness in LA County
- Space to share knowledge and plan together
- Current series: Bold New Solutions Town Hall



Community Action Team (CAT)

- Group of dedicated super volunteers that always show up and want to help as much as possible
- More than 50K people have signed up and followed EI but roughly 1K always open email and engage
- Likely not already part of some other housing justice advocacy org



Bold New Solutions 101: How You Can Help

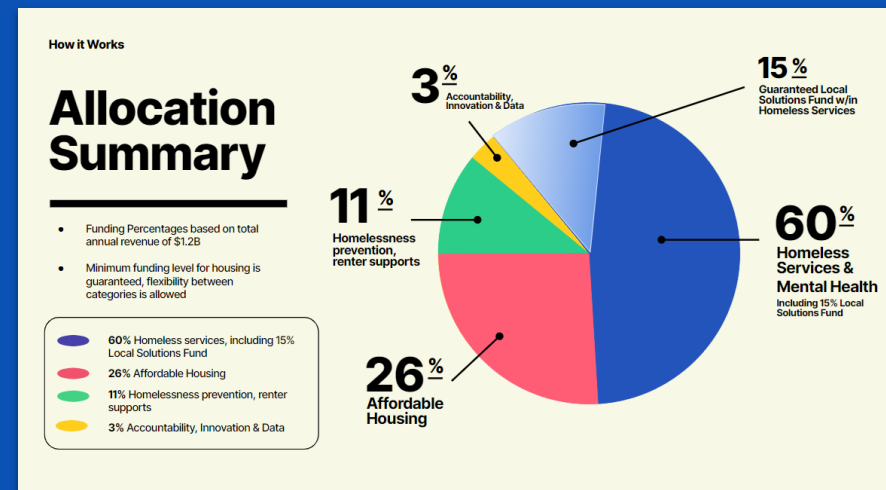
- Purpose is to educate and mobilize around the Affordable Housing, Homelessness Solutions, Prevention Now initiative, aka the Bold New Way
- Bi-weekly calls until election day
- Aimed for general public

The Solution

This citizens' initiative keeps what's working and improves on lessons learned to provide:



- More housing we can afford
- More mental health care
- More accountability



Thank you!

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State and Local Advocacy



Jeremy Saunders

Co-Executive Director

VOCAL-NY

Jeremy@vocal-ny.org



Building a National Movement to End AIDS, the Drug
War, Mass Incarceration, and Homelessness

Our Vision

VOCAL-US is building a movement of low-income people dedicated to ending the HIV/AIDS epidemic, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and homelessness. We fight for systemic change rooted in justice, compassion, and love. We approach this work with a firm belief in reducing harm and ending stigma, and the knowledge that the issues impacting our communities are driven by institutional oppression, not personal failings. Our campaigns have saved or improved the lives of hundreds of thousands of people across the country.

Our Model

Our model of movement building draws inspiration from three traditions:

- **Traditional community-based organizing**
- **Direct-action AIDS activism**
- **Black-led social movements for racial justice**

Our States



Our Organizing Structure

Our 4 Issue Areas

- Ending the Drug War
- Ending Homelessness
- Ending Mass Incarceration
- Ending the AIDS Epidemic

VOCAL also fights for a fair economy and democracy critical to winning on our issues

VOCAL States

- VOCAL-NY (1999)
- VOCAL-KY (2022)
- VOCAL-TX (2023)
- VOCAL-US *Coming soon!*

Levels of Engagement and Leadership

- Contact
- Member
- Active Member
- Leader
- Board Member

Allies are those who are not directly impacted

How We Evaluate Success

- Ability to move people to action
- Strengthen and Depth of Leadership
- Ability to Shift the Narrative
- Concrete Victories

Our Organizing Model at Work

Standard Types of Outreach

- Clipboard
- Doorknocking
- Teach-ins
- Events

Outreach Locations

- High traffic areas w/ our base
- **Service or housing providers***
- Government institutions that serve our base

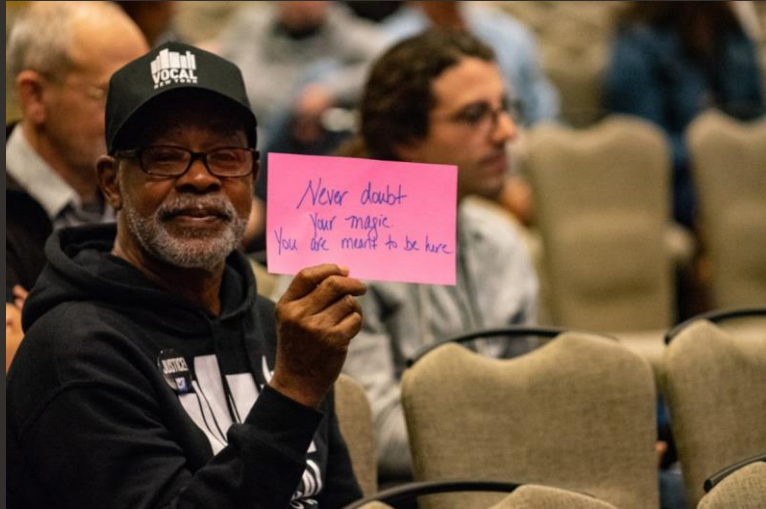
Roles for Leaders

- Event logistics
- Powerbuilding; basebuilding, mobilizing and leader development
- Speaking to the press & politicians
- Guiding the campaigns

Heavy Re-engagement

- 24-48 hour follow up calls
- 3-call system
- 1-to-1s
- Always make an ask

We Honor Those We've Lost By In Their Names



We Need a National Movement

VOCAL-US is a national leader with a proven track record of building power, shifting politics and winning on issues that...

- Have become national crises: *The US is the global leader in mass death, mass incarceration, mass homelessness and harm*
- Have long existed: *They have always been racist, classist and deadly, destroying low-income communities and communities of color.*
- Have long been ignored: *Most groups ignored our issues, or made them worse. They believed our people couldn't build power*
- Are intersectional: *They fuel each other*

Can We Support You?!

Could we support you with messaging and communications or organizing?
If so, submit this interest form:

VOCAL-US Training + Support Sign-Up

vocal-ny.com/training



New York State
Assemblyman
Carl E. Heastie
Tel: 718-654-6539

Bronx Pentecostal Tabernacle, Inc.
(Apostolic)
Presiding Bishop: Frank & Otto Pastor: Elder Michael Needham

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THANK YOU!

A Home for Every
New Yorker!

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THE POOR

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State and Local Advocacy

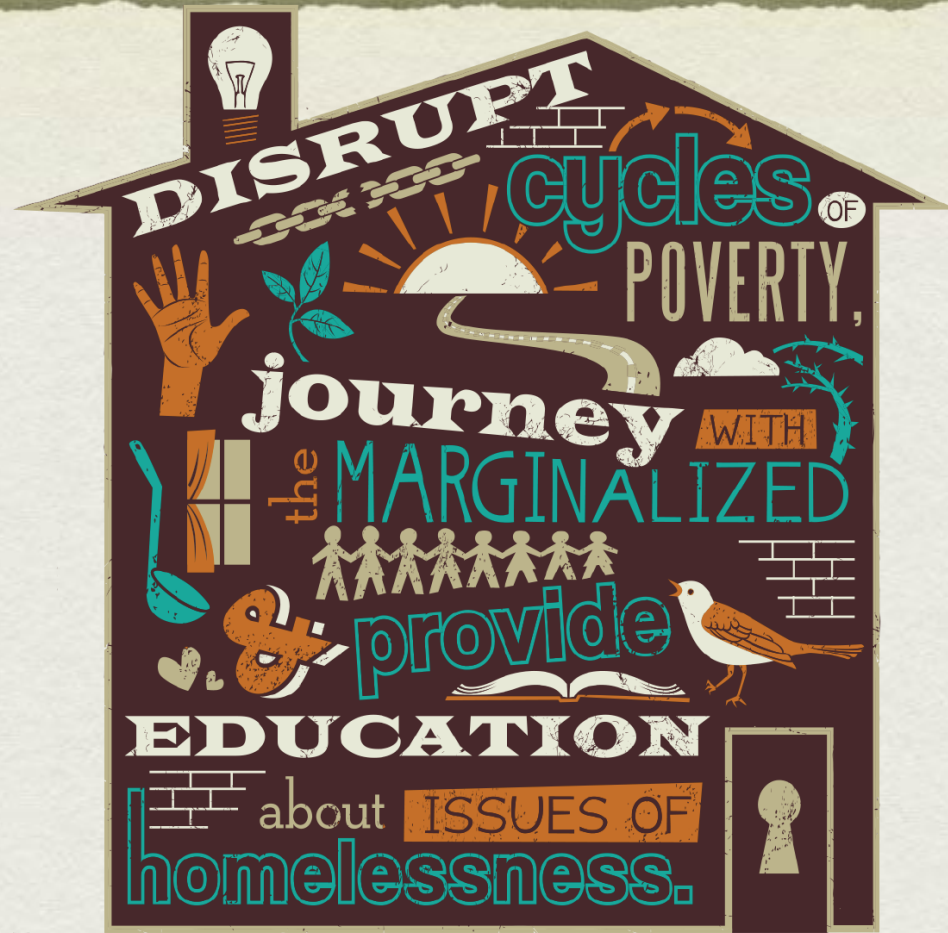


Lindsey Krinks

Co-Founder and Director of Advocacy

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OPEN TABLE NASHVILLE

Lindsey Krinks, Co-Founder & Director of Advocacy

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Open Table Nashville

An interfaith homeless outreach nonprofit that disrupts cycles of poverty, journeys with our unhoused friends, and provides education about issues of homelessness

Outreach

- Homeless Outreach
- Housing Support
- Emergency Weather Response
- Foot Clinic



Education

- Evidence-based Education Sessions & Trainings
- Lived Expertise



Advocacy & Policy

- Advocacy Efforts
- Policy Work
- Collaborations, Coalitions, Community Organizing, & Direct Action





WE ARE NOT A VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

People have their own voices. We are a
megaphone.


OPENTABLE NASHVILLE
HOLDING. HEALING. HOPE.
opentablenashville.org



“The most common way people give up their power is by thinking they don’t have any.” - Alice Walker

TN Solidarity Network for Housing & Homelessness

- Started in 2022 after **anti-camping** law passed making it a felony to sleep and camp on all public property across TN
- Hosted “**Day on the Hill** for Housing & Homelessness” in 2023 and 2024
- **Successfully defeated** a Cicero bill in 2023
- Host statewide housing policy Zooms every month where we work on **proactive legislation** for 2025
- Send out **newsletters** with pertinent information and updates
- We’re building a **statewide coalition** to launch in early 2025



Statewide Coalition Building

- **Three Pillars:** Housing, homelessness, and tenants' rights
- **Members:** Service providers, faith communities, movement orgs, and tenants' rights groups
- **Focus:**
 - Statewide policy change
 - Systemic transformation
 - Fostering solidarity
 - Mutual support and resource sharing for members
 - Bridging geographical and political divides
 - Building power for housing justice



But what if we win?



State & Local Advocacy



Panel Discussion Audience Q&A

Closing Remarks



Ann Oliva

Chief Executive Officer

National Alliance to End Homelessness

Resources



- [NAEH's Criminalization Resources](#)
- [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 \[NAEH\]](#)
- [How to Advocate to Your Lawmaker \[NAEH\]](#)