

Homelessness, Housing, Mental Health Task Force

ORGANIZATION – ABOUT US



Mental Health Association Oklahoma is dedicated to promoting mental health, preventing mental disorders and achieving victory over mental illness through advocacy, education, service and housing.

Which housing types do you offer?

- MHAOK has approximately **1,500 units** of affordable and supportive housing in Tulsa including 22 apartment complexes.
- We offer **affordable, transitional, bridge and permanent supportive housing models**, including single-site 24-hour locations and scattered-site, mixed-income apartment communities.
- We operate a **75/25 model** with 75% of our units as market-rate affordable housing for low-income Tulsans and 25% as supportive housing.

ORGANIZATION – SERVICE NEEDS

Who are your partners?

- Tulsa Area United Way Partner Agency
- City of Tulsa
- INCOG/Tulsa County
- Oklahoma Housing Finance Agency
- Tulsa Housing Authority
- Tulsa Police Department
- Tulsa Fire Department
- Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
- United States Department of Veterans Affairs
- Private philanthropic foundations
- Tulsa Continuum of Care, A Way Home for Tulsa
- Housing Solutions
- Tulsa Day Center for the Homeless
- Family and Children’s Services
- Youth Services of Tulsa
- Volunteers of America
- John 3:16
- Iron Gate
- City Lights
- DVIS
- CREOKS
- Grand Mental Health (12 & 12)
- Counseling and Recovery Services

What barriers prevent your organization’s ability to better assist people experiencing homelessness?

Insufficient funding levels for wrap-around and supportive services

High match requirements of federal pass-through dollars (ESG, HOME)

Inadequate funding available for preservation and new construction (HOME)

Demand for affordable housing far outweighs supply

Inadequate funding for renewable federal grants (Continuum of Care)

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ORGANIZATION – RECOMMENDATIONS

What can the City do to support you in addressing homelessness?

Policy changes in local ordinances and/or state laws:

- Advocate for reform of Landlord Tenant Act to reduce evictions
- Support inclusionary zoning, allowing affordable housing development city-wide
- Increase access to housing/deconcentrate poverty, disability and segregation by requiring set-asides for low-income households in all multi-family developments
- Establish an “in lieu of fund” as a last resort
- Incentivize development through tax breaks, streamlined contracting, zoning and permitting
- Prioritize preservation of existing affordable housing and development of new affordable housing
- Remove any ordinances that criminalize or disproportionately affect homelessness

Convening among community partners and broader public:

- Galvanize community support by increasing awareness, decreasing stigma, overcoming NIMBY
- Convene “developers group” for both affordable and supportive housing projects to speed unit production to the market
- Promote evidence-based practices and partnerships

Financial resources for programs, services, staff:

- Use City funding to match state and federal dollars for affordable housing
- Use City funding to match private dollars for affordable housing
- Determine renewable revenue stream for Housing Trust Fund
 - Expand Housing Trust Fund beyond loans and rental assistance to grants for preservation and new construction of affordable and supportive housing
- Expand funding for street outreach, case management, employment and other supportive services
- Allow more funding for administrative indirect costs