The Way Home
Continuum of Care
Encampment Response Strategy
Coalition for the Homeless

Mission:
• To provide leadership in the development, advocacy, and coordination of community strategies to prevent and end homelessness.

Role:
• Coordinate the community response to homelessness
• Lead agency for the TX-700 Continuum of Care (CoC)
• Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) lead
• Coordinated Entry Lead
Encampment Response Strategy

- Community Covid Housing Plan (CCHP) initial investment of $65 Million
- CCHP funded the roll-out of an Encampment Decommissioning Program.
- HUD has recognized our strategy as a national best practice.
Coordinated Encampment Response

Law Enforcement & Outreach identify encampments on targeted thoroughfares.

With City/County input, CFTH created a schedule based on prioritization & housing availability.

Weekly encampment coordination with City/County, Law Enforcement, and Service Providers.

Individuals are housed and encampment site is decommissioned & cleaned. Law Enforcement starts monitoring site.
Decommissioning Timeline

**Site Identification & Reconnaissance**
- Visual Inventory of site
- Identify community groups

**Comprehensive Engagement**
- By-name list created
- First briefing w/partners

**Encampment Response 1**
- CE Assessments
- Confirm housing & needs
- Landlord engagement

**Encampment Response 2**
- Office “closure” notice posted
- Confirm structures to be removed
- Confirm transportation & storage needs
- Units available, location, inspection, pre-approvals

**Housing Surge Week**
- Housing partners on-site HMIS enrollments
- Transport clients to units
- Law enforcement & solid waste

**Aftercare**
- Daily home visits w/housed clients
- Monitor site to maintain clearance
- Site monitored by law enforcement

**Timeline**
- Site Identification & Reconnaissance: 4-6 wks
- Comprehensive Engagement: 4 wks
- Site Assessment: 3 wks
- Encampment Response 1: 2 wks
- Encampment Response 2: 1 wk
- Aftercare: 1 wk
The Landlord Engagement Team is performing strategically-focused recruitment efforts to expand affordable housing availabilities for both Continuum of Care (CoC) and CCHP program participants.
Encampment Results

• 113 Encampments Decommissioned
• 683 Individuals
• 69% Accepted a Housing Option
• 21% Self-Resolved
• 10% Refused
$4 Million Encampment Approach

Outreach Staff

Landlord Engagement Staff

2 Vehicles

Client and Staff Supplies
Additional Expenses to Consider

- Housing Programs
- Housing Case Management
- Additional Partners
  - Mental Health
  - Domestic Violence
- Landlord Incentives
- Furniture
- Welcome Kits
Lessons Learned

No Two Encampments are the Same
Start small
Integrated Care Teams
Housing Referral Timing
Restoring Community Support in Housing First
Create a Client List
Overlap Supportive Services