

# 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 a “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