



DEPARTMENT OF
HOMELESSNESS AND
SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Safe Housing Working Group Update

July 11th 2022



Agenda

Community Needs Assessment

- a. Overview
- b. Stakeholder Interviews
- c. Survivor Listening Sessions
- d. Safe Housing Survey
- e. Safe House Working Group
- f. Data Analysis
- g. Policy Development & Data Management
- h. Next Steps



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Community Needs Assessment



Overview

- **Community Needs Assessment is a Coordinated Entry (CE) planning process that centers survivors' rights, voices, and perspectives via a collaborative design process for the Homelessness Response System (HRS).**
- **Goals:**
 - Improve survivor access, safety, choice, and privacy to Coordinated Entry and services from Homelessness Response System.
 - Improve coordination between Victim Service Providers and Homelessness Response System.
- **Desired Outcome:**
 - Survivors can access housing in ways that are safe for them.

Overview

🔑 Values:

- **Centering the rights, voices, and experiences of survivors:** *Using a collaborative design process, the project will identify barriers survivors face to safe housing. This includes partnership with survivor-led organizations, extensive survivor interviews and listening sessions, and 50% survivor membership on the project's Safe Housing Working Group (which is to be co-chaired by a survivor).*
- **Using an intersectional lens in all project activities and in assessing data and findings:** *HSH and project partners are keenly aware that survivors' multiple issues and identities combine to create additional challenges to accessing and retaining safe housing. These include income disparities, housing discrimination, impacts of historical trauma, and systemic racism. **The project will center the experiences and needs of LGBTQ+, immigrants, diverse genders, nonnative English speakers, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC), people with disabilities, and other marginalized groups.***
- **Employing Radical Listening and humility:** *In seeking to understand and center the perspectives of survivors, emphasis is placed on creating safe space, listening deeply, and asking thoughtful follow-up questions and to ensure people can share their experiences fully and are heard with empathy and without judgment.*

Overview



Stakeholder Interviews

- Interviewees from different organizations and city departments:
 - Victim Service Providers
 - Department on the Status of Women
 - Office of Sexual Harassment and Assault Response Prevention
 - Office of Transgender Initiatives
 - Department of Public Health
 - Various non-profits
- **A total of 27 stakeholder interviews were conducted**

Survivor Listening Sessions

• Survivor Listening Sessions:

- Gathered input on survivor housing needs and gain insight into survivor experiences with the homelessness response system including Coordinated Entry regarding safety, race equity, confidentiality, and sensitivity to the trauma that survivors have experienced.
- Survivor facilitated
- Survivors that participated were compensated.
- **A total of 7 Survivor Listening Sessions were conducted in English and Spanish.**

Safe Housing Survey

- Safe Housing Alliance in collaboration with HSH developed a survey with questions that capture the experiences of non-profits working with survivors either providing victim services or providing housing resources.
- Key topics in the survey included safety, confidentiality, and trauma informed services.
- **100 responses were received- 72 were from organizations in the Homelessness Response System and 28 were from Victim Service Providers.**

Safe Housing Working Group

- Led by survivors for survivors and include other representatives from relevant systems, responders, and service providers.
- Solicits input from the community on the design of Coordinated Entry for Survivors of Violence through monthly meetings that began in April.
- Report back to the LHCB through the Coordinated Entry committee on a regular basis with progress updates.
- **Topics discussed thus far include themes from stakeholder interviews and survivor listening sessions, and system mapping.**

Data Analysis

- Focus Strategies completed data analysis looking at:
- The prevalence of different types of violence in San Francisco including intimate partner violence, human trafficking, and community based violence.
- Demographics: Gender, Sexual Orientation, Race, Ethnicity, Age and Household Type of survivors currently accessing the Homelessness Response System including:
 - Coordinated Entry for Adults, Youth, Families
 - Emergency Shelter
 - Transitional Housing
 - Permanent Supportive Housing
 - Rapid Rehousing
- Comparing current outcomes for survivors in accessing housing as compared to peer Adults, Youth and Families.

Policy Development and Data Management

- The San Francisco Coordinated Entry Written Standards were updated as it pertains to survivors' privacy and confidentiality including use of Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- HSH has been convening a Survivor Data Management working group with Homebase and Safe Housing Alliance to identify key functions that would be needed in a comparable database specifically for victim service provider programs as federally required.

Next Steps

- Safe Housing Alliance and Homebase will consolidate the input received from stakeholders, survivor listening sessions, the survey results into a report focused on the current system.
- The report with recommendations will be released this fall.