



Thirteen community leaders with lived experience of homelessness came together for six sessions in 2022. They shared their experience and perspectives on solutions to homelessness, reviewing Alameda County's Home Together 2026 plan. They described their top ten priorities for reducing homelessness and improving services to protect the dignity and well-being of people, especially Seniors.

These policy fact sheets will provide topics for research actions in 2022-2023 and inform advocacy work in Alameda County.

Congratulations to our graduates: Anne, Richard, Luwana, Sheila, Valerie, Arlene, Marlene, Helen, Shirley, Mary, Lillian, Brenda and Cecelia.

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## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2022: PRIORITY #1A

### BETTER SANITATION SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING CURBSIDE

#### Problem statement by Leadership Academy Participants

"It's not just homeless encampments, it's city streets and common spaces messed up. Nobody should live that way. It's inhumane. City trash cans are always full and nasty. Businesses get their trash picked up. Homes and apartment get their trash picked up. Cities need to clean up their streets if they aren't going to provide housing."

#### How services should work

City of Oakland and other cities are responsible for garbage pick-up and fail to serve encampments regularly. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides housing quality standards to evaluate public and private housing [Source: [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC\\_35620.PDF](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_35620.PDF)].

The first two criteria are:

- Sanitary facilities;
- Food preparation and refuse disposal;

...because these factors contribute directly to people's health, wellbeing and ability for self-care.

#### Current programming/funding and how it falls short

Trash collects curbside, often from illegal dumping by contractors and landlords. City has installed cameras to catch dumping, but are they working? What is City doing to provide sanitation services?

#### Who has responsibility for this issue

Harold Duffy is the Director of Oakland's Public Works and attended a meeting on Brockhurst St. in 2021 thru the Hoover Foster Resident Action Council.

#### Next steps - needed research:

- Review [City of Oakland Auditor's Report on Homelessness](#) (April 2021)
- Does the Auditor include the perspective of unhoused residents?
- Does the Auditor consider quality and reliability of services or merely costs?
- What questions would you ask the Director of Public Works? Who does he answer to?



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## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2022: PRIORITY #1B

### BETTER HYGIENE SERVICES FOR PEOPLE LIVING CURBSIDE

#### Problem statement by Leadership Academy Participants

"It's not just homeless encampments, it's city streets and common spaces messed up. Nobody should live that way. It's inhumane. City trash cans are always full and nasty. Businesses get their trash picked up. Homes and apartment get their trash picked up. Cities need to clean up their streets if they aren't going to provide housing."

#### How services should work

People need regular access to safe, clean, free laundry and showers to improve health and wellbeing while unhoused.

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development provides housing quality standards to evaluate public and private housing [Source: [https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC\\_35620.PDF](https://www.hud.gov/sites/documents/DOC_35620.PDF)].

The one criteria is:

- Sanitary facilities;
- ...because these factors contribute directly to people's health, wellbeing and ability for self-care.

#### Current programming/funding and how it falls short

Services have closed and downsized over the past two years, and no mobile shower service is now available in the East Bay. Should services be available in a central location or at specific encampments?

#### Who has responsibility for this issue

We can ask candidates for Alameda County Supervisor, also the Office of Homeless Care and Coordination, and Health Care for the Homeless.

#### Next steps - needed research:

- Review [City of Oakland Auditor's Report on Homelessness](#) (April 2021)
- Does the Auditor include the perspective of unhoused residents?
- Does the Auditor consider quality and reliability of services or merely costs?
- What questions would you ask the Director of Homeless Care and Coordination? Who do they answer to?



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## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2022: PRIORITY #2

### BETTER MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

#### Problem statement by Leadership Academy Participants

"I'll share with anybody, my God, that I can help. People don't have to stay there. There is life after a storm like addiction. You go to the right place, and take in what is given. There is hope here, but people need access to services."

#### How services should work

- Real-time access to quality mental health services that are sensitive to people's experience, based on an informed understanding of trauma, culturally competent and informed by people with lived experience
- Non-police response to emergency / crisis calls
- Individual and group services
- Harm reduction approach and trauma informed care.

#### Current programming/funding and how it falls short

Alameda County funds services through the County and at non-profit organizations through the Health Care Services Agency. MACRO pilot through City's Fire Dept. is expanding in East and West Oakland to provide outreach and crisis response. Anti Police-Terror Project operates M.H. First on Friday and Saturday nights in Oakland.

#### Who has responsibility for this issue

Alameda County: Behavioral Health (HCSA), Alameda County Health Care for the Homeless

City of Oakland: Police/Fire

#### Next steps - needed research:

New funding under "California Advancing and Innovating Medi-Cal" (CalAIM) will provide mental health and housing supports through federal healthcare funding.

- What funding is in the community now?
- How are people getting access to services?



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## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2022: PRIORITIES #4—10

### PRIORITY #4: CREATIVE LAND AND BUILDING USE

Adapt existing publicly or privately owned buildings for re-use as community resource hubs or interim housing/permanent housing.

Potential partners: Oakland Community Land Trust, East Bay Housing Organizations (has a public lands campaign), All Home CA and Non-Profit Housing Assn. lead a coalition working to pass a revenue measure to fund more affordable housing across 9 Bay Area counties. Urban Habitat and others are working to expand its focus on homelessness and new solutions.

### PRIORITY #5: CENTRALIZE INFORMATION AND CREATE REGIONAL RESOURCE GUIDES

Expanded access to information through both technology and pamphlets. Informational materials and resources for leaders, [advocates](#), and organizations to distribute – along with encouragement.

Potential partners: Office of Homeless Care and Coordination, Tipping Point, All Home

### PRIORITY #6: WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT & CAREER PATHWAYS

Recognize the leadership of people with lived experience by offering advocacy and employment training and compensation, with aligned opportunities in social work from entry level outreach workers through professional and managerial roles.

Potential partners: West Oakland Jobs Resource Center, Sierra Health Foundation



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## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY 2022: PRIORITIES #4—10

### PRIORITY #7. RAISE INCOME LIMIT ON GOVERNMENT BENEFITS

Low limits on income and assets prevent people from getting the support they need. Support state and national campaigns to raise Supplemental Security Income (SSI) and increase housing voucher availability.

Potential partners: Justice in Aging, #CA4SSI

### PRIORITY #8. UNIVERSAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING APPLICATION

Create county or statewide database of affordable housing listings, [information](#), and applications. [San Francisco has pilot program](#).

Potential partners: Housing CA Residents United Network (Sponsor of [Assembly Bill 1961 – Gabriel, 2022](#)); East Bay Housing Organizations, Non-Profit Housing Assn.

### PRIORITY #9. RETRIEVABLE ONLINE STORAGE OF IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Create a secure online system for storing documents (driver's license, Social Security card, birth certificate, [possibly income](#) verification) to facilitate housing applications.

=> Question: Could this be part of the Universal Housing Application? [Might](#) be more secure to upload and “prequalify” in one location?

Potential partners: Justice in Aging, #CA4SSI

### PRIORITY #10. MENTORING / PEER PROGRAM FOR UNHOUSED YOUTH

Newly unhoused young people need help to connect to services, per counselors.

Note: County [RFP \(REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL\)](#) out now for youth transitional housing & services