

Housing Health Justice Framework: Goals & Strategy

Developing a comprehensive continuum of housing options to meet individual psychiatric and medical needs. This would allow a person with a mental health disorder to transition between supportive living to independent living as their level of need changes.

The following overarching strategies are key to attaining this goal:

1. Affordable Housing Options

- Inventory of current programs both locally and nationally
 - Gather state and federal emerging best practices
 - Use existing data to examine how people at different stages in the criminal justice system are connected with support services.
 - Interview homeless people to better understand their view of the problem
 - Determine barriers to affordable housing (e.g. zoning, NIMBY)
 - Determine needs for specific target groups based on Area Median Income
- Data warehouse creation and maintenance
 - Data accumulation and use agreement development
 - Live and regularly updated by owners of the information to be used by communities, legislators and other stakeholders for data-driven decisions
 - Advocate for current bills so that funding is used to address the scope of the subcommittee
- Mobile app development
 - Meeting with Mile High United Way to learn how it has developed and maintained its 211 directory
 - Surveying mental health professionals, social workers, service providers, etc., along with members of the public, to determine the gaps in the existing 211 system
 - Convening a focus group to discuss and compare applications and resource directories from other states
 - Developing a new mobile app (or re-developing the Colorado 211 app) with information screens for each entity or program in the state
 - Keeping the directory as comprehensive as possible, allowing for careful curation through user-selected filters (e.g. to identify when organizations have certain licenses, or receive state funding, or have received awards, etc.)
 - Providing users the opportunity to rate and review entities and programs

2. Funding

- Secure supportive services to help individuals navigate into stable housing
- Maintaining stability through housing program and support services
- Work with tenants to identify what services are needed (physical, mental health, substance use, financial, etc.)
- Connect services with inventory (For example, Permanent Supportive Housing could be connected to current vouchers)
- Optimize legislative funding passed in 2019, including: HB-1245 and HB-1322
- Solicit stakeholder feedback on best use of new DOLA funding