

HOMELESSNESS IS COSTLY.



By every measure, homelessness is more costly to ignore than to solve.

- More than **1.5 million people experience homelessness** each year in the United States. Globally, estimates exceed 100 million.
- Homelessness is among the most visible manifestations of **poverty and racial inequity**, disproportionately impacting Black and Native Americans.
- Being homeless undermines people's personal **safety**, their ability to **complete school, retain jobs, remain healthy and keep their families together**.
- Homelessness is a **matter of life and death** for those trapped in it, with long term homelessness reducing average life expectancy by more than 25 years.
- People experiencing long-term homelessness are **more likely to be arrested and become sick** than those with a safe place to live. The costs of jails and emergency health services create enormous and avoidable financial burdens for communities.
- Despite its devastating impacts, the numbers of those experiencing homelessness are **limited at less than a fraction of 1% of local populations**.

HOMELESSNESS IS SOLVABLE

We can create a future where homelessness is a rare and brief experience for a person or family in crisis, and never an enduring or recurring way of life.

Since 2015, fifteen communities in the United States have ended chronic homelessness, veteran homelessness, or both — and many more communities are close behind.

They are part of the Built for Zero initiative led by Community Solutions, a network of 85 communities in the United States dedicated to measurably ending homelessness. Adapted from successful global health initiatives, the Built for Zero methodology represents a powerful approach to local, data-driven collaboration and targeted housing investments that has driven reductions in homelessness.

Communities have proven that homelessness is solvable and that the solutions are clear. It is more urgent than ever to scale this reality to many more communities across our country.

HOMELESSNESS AT THE TIPPING POINT

75 US communities, including five of the country's largest, will end chronic or veteran homelessness by 2026.

In these communities, anyone who is experiencing homelessness will be met by a reliable and equitable local housing system that prevents and quickly ends homelessness. Built for Zero is uniquely positioned to establish new conditions and expectations around ending homelessness in our country, and plans to do so by scaling these results to nearly 20% of the country's jurisdictions working to end homelessness. Our network and approach will be primed for expansion throughout the U.S. and internationally.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS: A RECORD OF SUCCESS

Our 100,000 Homes Campaign (2010-2014) trained 186 communities in coordinating and streamlining their housing efforts, securing homes for

105,570 VULNERABLE AND CHRONICALLY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS.

Received the 2013 World Habitat Award.

15 COMMUNITIES HAVE ENDED HOMELESSNESS for veterans, people experiencing chronic homelessness, or both.

Since January 2015,

BUILT FOR ZERO COMMUNITIES HAVE HOUSED

126,912
HOMELESS AMERICANS.

80+ US COMMUNITIES are part of our current Built For Zero network.

30+ INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITIES have adopted the Built for Zero methodology.

50+ COMMUNITIES HAVE REDUCED HOMELESSNESS since joining Built for Zero.

We have trained partners in parallel large-scale change efforts to **END HOMELESSNESS IN OTHER COUNTRIES AND FOR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE U.S.**

HOW YOU CAN HELP

To get 75 communities over the finish line and prime our work for expansion:

- **\$1 million** funds targeted communications and education campaigns aimed at key influencers to shift the perception of homelessness as an intractable problem, drive new expectations of leaders, and establish new community norms around homelessness.
- **\$5 million** funds the development of enhanced data collection and management tools, developing data-enabled insights for testing for and correcting racial bias in housing, improving governance of local housing systems and developing platforms for training local implementation teams at scale.
- **\$10 million** funds the development, tests, and tracking of innovations in areas of knowledge gaps, especially homelessness prevention and new housing and finance models.

To learn more, visit www.community.solutions or contact apdelja@community.solutions.

**COMMUNITY
SOLUTIONS**