Strategic Framework & Action Plan
to Prevent & End Homelessness in Summit County

Kick-Off Meeting Gallery Walk Prompts

1. Community Agreements
2. Data & Landscape: What data or information do we need to review to support the landscape analysis?
3. Key Collaborators: In addition to the people in the room, what other voices should be included community meetings, an interview, or listening session? Who is missing?
4. Strategic Framework & Action Plan: What other components or content should be included?
5. I don't understand/need more information about _____.
6. Key Hopes & Priorities
7. Potential Challenges or Barriers + Potential Solutions

Community Agreements

What do you need to feel safe and supported? What do you need to feel open, productive and trusting so that we may achieve our goal for this community?

- Respect others
- Hear out opinions
- Respect
- Truth
- Treat others as you want to be treated
- Transparency
- Communication in all capacities, not just
- Listen
- Open to change and new ideas
- Honesty
- Understanding
- Refreshments
- Active listening

- Non-judgemental
- Respect
- Listen for change
- Understand the need of the community we plan to serve
- Respect and value what others are saying
- Know when to move on from a topic and come back later
- All voices are heard
- Set our personal desires aside when it's best for the group to move forward
- Respectful
- Challenge thoughts/ideas
- Know when to step up vs. Step back
- Transparency
- Comprehensive vision
- Dignity
- Remember that we're all in this together
- Gratitude
- Just because it's always been done a certain way, doesn't mean it can't be done differently, more efficiently
- Be real
- Dignity
- Focus on the issues
- Assume positive intent
- Candor always
- Listen louder than you talk
- Be transparent
- Lean into curiosity
- Don't talk over another
- Collaborative
- Be honest at all times
- Prioritize empathy building
- Stay positive
- Grace
- Think outside of the box
- Listen to others
- No insults
- Willingness to change

- Be real
- Be direct
- Keep it about results
- Be curious; don't assume
- Don't yuck a yum
- Be open and honest about what's not working even in your own program
- Actually follow through with recommendations the group comes up with
- Be curious, open, respectful
- No one person knows everything, but together we know a lot
- All of us have lived experiences to contribute whether we've been homeless or not
- Hear the unpopular opinion
- Cultural humility
- Honesty
- Active listening
- Be respectful
- Assume good intention
- Active listening
- No judgment zone
- Everyone is entitled to their opinion
- Listen to understand
- Fight the power
- No matter your intention, you are responsible for impact
- Assume everyone means to do good
- My opinion is valued
- Honesty
- Disagree respectfully
- Stay open to other perspectives
- Speak your truth
- Give each other respect even during disagreements
- Be brave
- Speak your truth
- Don't be responsible for other folks discomfort
- One mic
- Step up, step back
- Assume best intentions
- Everyone entitled to their opinion

- Non-judgmental
- Listen
- Keep the long-term goal in mind, not just the short-term solutions
- Respect pronouns
- Open-mindedness

Data & Landscape

What data or information do we need to review to support the landscape analysis?

- Data on how consumers feel about specific services
- Data on housing rights/landlord responsibilities/landlord rights/renter rights
- Data & outcomes regarding LGBTQ+ homelessness, exits to permanent housing, prevalence of homelessness among queer community compared to overall Akron population
- Census tracking with breakdown of demographics
- Differentiated categories of youth homelessness
- Eviction data
- Housing cooperative ownership data
- Upcoming legislative priorities at OH State House
- Information from studies that have had positive homelessness reduction
- What is working in other communities?
- Outside of Akron communities in other parts of the country
  - Housing availability in those areas/City Falls/Barberton/Kenwood
- Average cost of local living rental prices
- More data concerning how many returning citizens
- Data on acuity and long-term outcomes
- Data and landscape: cost of local housing/quality of local housing
- How many people do not meet the definition of "homelessness" per HUD, but are housing unstable- couch surfing, staying at friends, hotels etc.
- CIT officer
- Summit DoDD and ODoA
- Percentage of out-of-state investors buying rental properties in Summit driving up rents
  - Vs. Outside of Akron: Barberton, Cuyahoga Falls, and ____
- Understanding what current practices are out of date
- Info on who is providing housing not the HMIS and why not engaged

- Eviction data: Barberton
- Cost of living vs. cost to purchase
- Connect data systems with Unite US and integrate cross data solutions; data is siloed

Key Collaborators

In addition to the people in the room, what other voices should be included in community meetings, an interview, or listening session? Who is missing?

- Faith Community
  - Land owners with space to build
  - Patronages no longer in use; could be converted to house and implement a model program. They serve as landlords to the orgs running the program
  - Tax free land or property
  - Religious organizations that provide temporary financial assistance to it's community members
- South Street Ministries
- School Board Members
- Healthcare (ER, FQHCs)
- Churches
- Those who experience homelessness and are willing to share their stories
- Peter Maurin Center
- Pregnancy centers
- Law enforcement, Fire, EMS (many different cities; not just Akron)
- Akron City Council
- Sage Lewis
- Mental health professionals
- Drug and alcohol agencies
- Senior Citizen service agencies
  - Covering aging in place is homeless prevention
- Known community activists
- Possibly members of AMHA's resident advisory board
- Board of Commissioners for AMHA
- Someone who has experienced or experiencing homelessness
- Fair housing

- Housing developers
- Landlords
- Youth
- South Street Ministries
- Mega churches
- Black Greek orgs (NPHC)
- Masons/Eastern Stars
- Hospital Reps
    - How are they contributing to wellness initiatives?
- Substance abuse treatment providers & rehab
- Involve the asian american community
- Include realtors, builders and city planners
- City officials outside of Akron (Cuyahoga Falls, Tallmadge, Barberton)
- International Institute (immigrant, refugee, language accessibility providers)
- DV providers
- Schools
- Contractors
- Young adult voices (18-25)
- Refugees/immigrants (non-English speaking, Nepali)
- Unaccompanied minors
- Creating an accessible plan
    - Deaf/hard of hearing population
    - Blind population
    - Neurodivergent population
- Mental health organizations
- More educational advocates
- Police/emergency services
- Public School Homeless Liaisons
- Police & fire and other safety teams
- Catholic Charities and thier many branches
- Community Action is more homeless diversion and could be brought more to the table
- Pregnant women
- Transgender
- Community organizers
- More community advocates

- Community Action is more homeless diversion and could be brought more to the table
- Funders: federal, state, local
- Hospital/healthcare: discharge planners
- Community members: residents of summit
- Schools
- Political organizations
- Clinical leaders: mental health + physical health
- Exp. Of current homeless
- More people of the trans community
- LE success stories

Strategic Framework & Action Plan

What other components or content should be included?

- Policy/think tank orgs
- Emergency rooms/healthcare
- Political organizations: need to be part of this conversation
- Courts: Need to be a part of this conversation
- Have PLE talk to /tell their story to their group
- PLE as core, not adjunct
- Lack of pregnancy resources for housing
- How current process of intro someone into the system/HMIS - is it effective - access to that data
- Strategy on how to make sure we don't try to specialize or address so much that we actually accomplish nothing
- Identify the "lanes" for objectives – for accountability and clarity, roles of housing developers, eviction prevention, policy makers – who is leading the work?
- More housing
- Higher wages
- Homeless respite – 15-30 day intensive beds for stabilization
- Homeless respite to include: nursing care, case management, recovery sources, life skills, behavioral health
- Affordability once services stop
- Consideration/anticipation of aging population

I don't understand/need more information about _____

- Which organizations do rapid rehousing? Who qualifies?
- Who does AMHA determine who qualifies for housing?
- How are we evaluating how we play a role in this process?
- If we are to bring feedback from our communities is there going to be a questionnaire/survey/process?
- What does "urgent care" look like?
- How do we get data/collect so we can track equity?

Key Hopes & Priorities

Key Hopes

- Although we are rich in services, we don't want to be poor in collaboration
- Affordable stable trauma informed housing with supports
- Awareness campaign about solutions and recruitment of funders and influencers to make change
- Collection of LGBTQIA individuals data mandated/required; their data is important too
- Easier tools for collaboration
- Increased home ownership to allow for family/generational wealth to begin
- Permanent supportive community type, i.e. tiny homes
- I don't feel it can be ended in Summit County, but it can be reduced
- Easier referral process & collab
- Education for those who are "housing unstable": Understanding finances and what one can or cannot afford?; The importance of and how to communicate with a housing provider? How to take care of/clean/minor repairs of a living environment? Renters rights and Responsibilities etc...
- Emphasis on specialized populations and ppl who understand those populations
- Easier process for funding housing solutions than are available/affordable
- Set goals for housing units created
- Political analysis developed

- Statewide legislation that reimagines communities to identify land for housing development
- Welcoming and inclusive community
- Closing gaps of services
- Contingent of individuals to visit what works elsewhere

Priorities for the Project

- Newly of age (17-18) need a voice too
- What is working elsewhere – Riverbend (trumball county)
- Sustainable plan
- Emergency beds in shelter available 365 not just when weather is below 15*; open during day and night
- Daytime drop-in centers
- Grassroots organizations getting funding opportunities
- Truly speaks to the needs of Summit County
- Lockers and mailing addresses for currently unhoused persons
- Identify land and city release for use in all communities to build or remodel adding program _____

Potential Challenges or Barriers + Potential Solutions

Challenge/Barrier	Solution
Nimby/zoning/zoning in different areas of Summit	Austin, TX community first village; tiny homes in other areas of the country; pro-housing development legislation Housing options (host homes, tiny homes, maternity shelters) City subsidized housing (temporary and permanent)
Those who do not want to be housed	More shelters until housing is established; day and not, not just in emergency
Meet PLE where they are but trust is also a challenge	
(Quality) affordable housing	Zoning; bring city officials into the coop of this process so they understand the need for changes
Senior living	
In need of more funding and services provided for LGBTQ+ community	

Being unable to imagine housing in different ways…can tents be imagined as okay? Let's make them safe	
Political	
Lack of variety of housing support need more in between cash and shelter	
Affordable housing – rental barriers due to unobtainable requirements	
Who is leading cross-sector conversations – evictions, policy, housing developments – CoC is focused on shelters – who is helping to tie it all together?	
HUD funding limitation on Cat 2+3 homelessness solutions	
Housing for undocumented people or aren't refugees	
Summit County needs more affordable housing for its residents.	Perhaps the CoC and/or the city can request more funding dollars to develop more affordable housing units.
Lack of housing types, work and secure properties or landlords to assist target populations	