Grand Challenge to End Homelessness

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• Roughly 1.5 million Americans experience homelessness annually.
• Growth in homelessness from young adults and persons over age 50.
• New paradigm
  – Prioritize housing over shelters
  – Value client choice and direction
  – Match flexible support services to actual need
• Incurred tax expenditures >$160 billion annually to support homeownership for higher-income households.
Policy Recommendations

• Expand *access* to housing and housing subsidies (e.g. housing choice vouchers, short-term subsidies) through HUD, CMS, child welfare, criminal justice, etc.

• Ensure that evidence-based psychosocial interventions (e.g. housing first, CTI, supported employment, etc.) accompany housing assistance.

• Develop and evaluate housing-led and psychosocial interventions for specific populations (e.g. homeless youth, unaccompanied women, older adults).
Next steps

– Reduce homelessness overall (e.g. “functional zero” for homeless Veterans)

– Increase social work workforce, collaboration, and leadership on homelessness policy, practice and research

– Increase housing resources and support services

– Address upstream factors with other challenges (decarceration, youth development/foster care, etc.)

– End homelessness
Policy Recommendations

• Expand access to housing subsidies (e.g. housing choice vouchers, short-term subsidies)
  – Reduce barriers

• Ensure that evidence-based psychosocial interventions (e.g. housing first, CTI, etc.) accompany housing assistance

• Develop and evaluate housing-led and psychosocial interventions for specific populations (e.g. homeless youth, unaccompanied women, older adults)