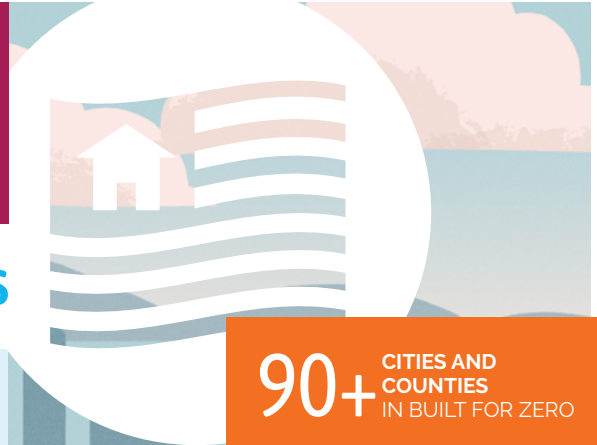# Built For Zero.

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

A MOVEMENT TO END HOMELESSNESS

Community Solutions is a nonprofit that leads Built for Zero, a national initiative of more than 90 cities and counties committed to measurably ending homelessness.

Homelessness is solvable. This isn't a statement of aspiration — communities across the country are proving it.

90+ CITIES AND COUNTIES IN BUILT FOR ZERO

14 HAVE REACHED FUNCTIONAL ZERO FOR A POPULATION

44 HAVE DRIVEN MEASURABLE REDUCTIONS

Since 2015, Community Solutions has worked alongside communities in Built for Zero that are proving that it is possible to drive population level reductions in homelessness. We found that there are four necessary features of a homeless response system designed to get to zero:

THE PROBLEMS

No single actor is fully accountable for ending homelessness in a community. Each local agency or program holds its own small piece of the solution, but no one has their eye on how the pieces fit together.

Funders evaluate success on the performance of individual housing programs, not on whether a community collectively reduces homelessness. But single programs don't get us to zero — whole communities do.

A once-a-year count of a problem that changes nightly. Annual street counts are a snapshot; your community needs a video. Getting to zero takes line of sight into how people move through your system over time.

Housing supply paralysis. Expanded housing resources are crucial, but many cities have dramatically expanded housing supply without making a dent in homelessness. The reason? They never fixed the housing system.

THE BUILT FOR ZERO SOLUTIONS

An integrated, command center team. Key agencies, like the Continuum of Care, the housing authority, local government, and the VA, work together every week toward a shared definition of zero.

Community-level measurement. Built for Zero communities measure success by the total number of people experiencing homelessness, not by program outcomes. Data enables communities to rapidly test new ideas and understand if those efforts are working.

Comprehensive, real-time, by-name data. Built for Zero communities know everyone experiencing homelessness by name, in real time. The result is more tailored solutions for individuals and a clearer picture of the system as a whole.

Strategic, data-driven housing investments. Built for Zero communities use real-time data to secure the housing resources they need and target them for the greatest possible reductions in homelessness.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO END HOMELESSNESS?

Imagine a future where any one experiencing homelessness is quickly known by name, and a system is in place to connect that person with the support they need to access a safe affordable place to live. A community may not be able to stop every person from experiencing a housing crisis, but homelessness would be rare overall and brief when it occurs — and never a way of life. That is the future that communities are building toward by achieving functional zero.

Cities and counties in Built for Zero commit to reaching functional zero for a population, a milestone demonstrating that fewer people are experiencing homelessness than can be housed in a month. In doing so, they are creating systems that can actively reduce and end homelessness for an entire population.

✓ FUNCTIONAL ZERO (VETERAN):

ACTIVELY HOMELESS VETERANS < AVERAGE MONTHLY HOUSING RATE (MINIMUM 3)

✓ FUNCTIONAL ZERO (CHRONIC):

ACTIVE CHRONICALLY HOMELESS < 3 OR 0.1% PIT COUNT

Watch our explainer video!

WHAT COMMUNITIES ARE PARTICIPATING IN BUILT FOR ZERO?

ALASKA
- Anchorage

ARIZONA
- Phoenix, Mesa, Maricopa County
- Tucson, Pima County

ARKANSAS
- Fayetteville/Northwest Arkansas

CALIFORNIA
- **Bakersfield, Kern County****
- Fresno, Madera County
- Marin County
- Nevada County
- Placer County
- Richmond, Contra Costa County
- Sacramento City and County
- San Diego City and County
- Sonoma County
- Watsonville, Santa Cruz City and County

COLORADO
- **Fremont County****
- Mesa County
- Pueblo
- Roaring Fork
- Southwest Region
- Western Colorado
- Denver
- Northern Colorado
- El Paso County

CONNECTICUT
- Hartford

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
- District of Columbia

FLORIDA
- Jacksonville, Duval County, Clay County
- North Central Florida
- Pinellas County
- Saint Johns County
- Tallahassee, Leon County
- West Palm Beach, Palm Beach County

GEORGIA
- Atlanta

HAWAII
- Honolulu

ILLINOIS
- **Lake County****
- McHenry County
- **Rockford, Winnebago, Boone Counties****
- Suburban Cook County

KANSAS
- Douglas County

LOUISIANA
- Northwest Louisiana

MARYLAND
- Baltimore City
- Baltimore County
- **Montgomery County****

MASSACHUSETTS
- Springfield

MICHIGAN
- Detroit
- Kent County
- Washtenaw County
- Out-Wayne County

MINNESOTA
- Minneapolis, Hennepin County

MISSISSIPPI
- **Gulf Coast region****
- Jackson, Rankin, Madison Counties

MISSOURI
- Columbia-Boone County
- Greater Kansas City
- St. Louis

NEBRASKA
- Omaha, Council Bluffs

NEVADA
- Washoe County

NEW JERSEY
- **Bergen County****
- Middlesex County
- Newark, Essex County

NEW MEXICO
- Albuquerque
- Santa Fe

NEW YORK
- Nassau County, Suffolk County

NORTH CAROLINA
- Charlotte, Mecklenburg County
- Guilford County
- Winston-Salem, Forsyth County

OHIO
- Cleveland, Cuyahoga County
- Downtown Cincinnati

OKLAHOMA
- **Norman, Cleveland County****

OREGON
- Central Oregon
- Clackamas County
- Eugene, Springfield, Lane County
- Marion County, Polk County
- Portland, Gresham/ Multnomah County
- Washington County
- Yamhill County

PENNSYLVANIA
- Chester County
- **Lancaster City & County****

TENNESSEE
- **Chattanooga****
- Nashville, Davidson County
- Tennessee Valley Region

TEXAS
- **Abilene****
- El Paso City and County
- Lubbock

UTAH
- Salt Lake County

VERMONT
- Burlington/Chittenden County

VIRGINIA
- **Arlington County****
- **Lynchburg Region****
- Charlottesville
- Fairfax County
- Richmond, Henrico County, Chesterfield County, Hanover County
- Roanoke City and County, Salem
- **Crater Region****
- Waynesboro
- Western Virginia

WASHINGTON
- Clark County
- Spokane City and County
- Thurston County

WEST VIRGINIA
- West Virginia Balance of State

WISCONSIN
- Madison, Dane County

***Functional zero communities**

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS