

# Homelessness is a policy choice. So is ending it.

## Supporting Californians still waiting for housing

A brief summary of the steps you can take to support unsheltered Californians while they wait for housing to become available.

### More than meets the eye

As a result of our housing shortage, the process of finding affordable and supportive housing is often frustrating and can last for years.

Those who are living outside represent the thousands still waiting for a home they can afford.

### Street engagement

Refers to individualized support offered by service providers directly to unsheltered community members.

When done effectively, this strategy reduces the trauma of homelessness.



### Effective street engagement is:

- Built on earned trust from unhoused community members
- Led by experts trained in Trauma-Informed Care
- Aimed at providing immediate safety and support
- Rooted in the goal of connecting people to housing when it becomes available
- Conducted until everyone is stably housed

### What now?

Here's how you can support unhoused Californians:

- Increase access to affordable and supportive housing
- Ensure street engagement is driven by people trained in Trauma-Informed Care
- Lead street engagement efforts with respect rather than force or coercion