OLDER ADULTS NEEDS AND ASSETS ANALYSIS PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Background: Older adults are the fastest-growing group of people experiencing homelessness in the United States[1]. Currently, older adults make up almost half of the homeless population, and the numbers are expected to triple by 2030[2]. Older adults experiencing homelessness have more complex health needs when compared to their housed counterparts, including prevalence and severity of physical and geriatric conditions like falls, memory loss, difficulty performing activities of daily living (ADLs) like bathing, eating, and dressing, cognitive impairment, other functional impairments, and higher rates of mental health and substance use disorder conditions.[3]

For many older adults experiencing homelessness — especially those living with disabilities — the existing systems of care are failing to meet their basic needs. Most shelters and housing programs are not equipped for mobility challenges, leaving out people who use wheelchairs, walkers, or need medical devices such as oxygen tanks. The same lack of accessibility extends to health and behavioral care. These systems are rarely designed to reach people who lack stable housing, making it especially hard for older adults to get ongoing treatment or long-term support. Together, these gaps in housing and health services leave some of our most vulnerable neighbors without a safe place to live or the care they need to stay healthy.

Proposal: *[Organization Name]* **is seeking to collaborate with local stakeholders who** offer support to and provide resources for older adults in general, and those experiencing homelessness specifically. As *[organization receiving the email] focuses on [include elements of service delivery/advocacy/focus on older adults]*, *[organization sending email]* is inviting you to participate in this cross-sector effort.

Specifically, we are hoping to engage *[organization receiving this email]* in focused conversations and data analysis to understand:

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[1] Espinoza, M., Moore, T., Adhiningrat, S., Perry, E., & Kushel, M. **Toward Dignity: Understanding Older Adult Homelessness (California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness).** San Francisco: University of California San Francisco Benioff Homelessness & Housing Initiative, May 2024. https://homelessness.ucsf.edu/sites/default/files/2024-05/Older%20Adult%20Homelessness%2005.2024.2.pdf

[2] Culhane, D.P., Byrne, T., Metraux, S., Kuhn, R., Doran, K., Johns, E., & Schretzman, M. (2019). Emerging Crisis of Aged Homelessness. Retrieved January 31, 2022, from https://aisp.upenn.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2019/01/Emerging-Crisis-of-Aged-Homelessness-1.pdf.

[3] Henderson, K., Manian, N., Rog. J. D., Robison, E., Jorge, E., & Al-Abdulmunem, M. (2023). *Addressing Homelessness Among Older Adults.* United States Department of Health and Human Services. https://aspe.hhs.gov/sites/default/files/documents/9ac2d2a7e8c360b4e75932b96f59a20b/addressing-older-adult-homelessness.pdf

COMMUNITY SOLUTIONS

HC² STRATEGIES HEALTHY CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

OLDER ADULTS NEEDS AND ASSETS ANALYSIS
PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- The number of people experiencing homelessness who are age 50 and older in our community
- The specific housing, physical health, and behavioral health needs of this population
- The current resources that your organization offers or refers older adults and/or older adults experiencing homelessness to meet needs across the domains of housing and health
- The mechanisms your organization currently uses to fund these services
- Resource, capacity, and workforce gaps that could be addressed to better meet the needs of older adults experiencing homelessness in our community

The goal of this project is to create an asset map of all current services and resources available for the population. Additionally, we are aiming to use the collaborative knowledge of this cross sector group to identify short term and long term recommendations for meeting the needs of this population's health and housing needs.

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