City of Fort Collins

Advisory Committee for
Homelessness Services & Housing Opportunities

City of **Fort Collins**

5:00	Welcome
5:25	Introductions
5:50	Break
6:00	Current Homelessness Responses
6:10	Discussion
6:40	Feedback and Next Steps
7:00	End

Group Norms:

- Speak from personal experience
- Lead with inquiry and curiosity
- Value diverse perspectives
- Get comfortable with discomfort
- Acknowledge the difference between intent and impact
- Use the buffet rule
- Speak Directly and Honestly
- _____

Introductions Prompt:
Speak about a time you were proud of your contribution to a group or team.

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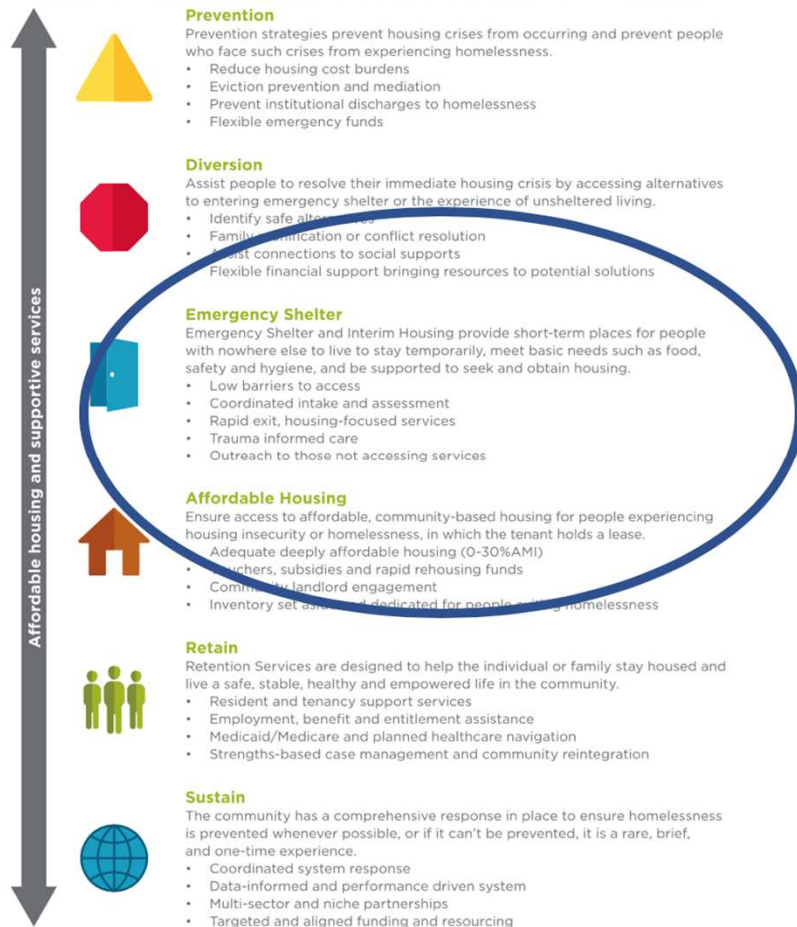
Please place your dots on graphs

City of **Fort Collins**

Some Community Partners:

A Spectrum of Solutions

The solution to homelessness is a housing focus across the system

Prevention
Prevention strategies prevent housing crises from occurring and prevent people who face such crises from experiencing homelessness.
- Reduce housing cost burdens
- Eviction prevention and mediation
- Prevent institutional discharges to homelessness
- Flexible emergency funds

Diversion
Assist people to resolve their immediate housing crisis by accessing alternatives to entering emergency shelter or the experience of unsheltered living.
- Identify safe alternatives
- Family reunification or conflict resolution
- Assist connections to social supports
- Flexible financial support bringing resources to potential solutions

Emergency Shelter
Emergency Shelter and Interim Housing provide short-term places for people with nowhere else to live to stay temporarily, meet basic needs such as food, safety and hygiene, and be supported to seek and obtain housing.
- Low barriers to access
- Coordinated intake and assessment
- Rapid exit, housing-focused services
- Trauma informed care
- Outreach to those not accessing services

Affordable Housing
Ensure access to affordable, community-based housing for people experiencing housing insecurity or homelessness, in which the tenant holds a lease.
- Adequate deeply affordable housing (0-30%AMI)
- Vouchers, subsidies and rapid rehousing funds
- Community landlord engagement
- Inventory set aside and dedicated for people exiting homelessness

Retain
Retention Services are designed to help the individual or family stay housed and live a safe, stable, healthy and empowered life in the community.
- Resident and tenancy support services
- Employment, benefit and entitlement assistance
- Medicaid/Medicare and planned healthcare navigation
- Strengths-based case management and community reintegration

Sustain
The community has a comprehensive response in place to ensure homelessness is prevented whenever possible, or if it can't be prevented, it is a rare, brief, and one-time experience.
- Coordinated system response
- Data-informed and performance driven system
- Multi-sector and niche partnerships
- Targeted and aligned funding and resourcing

Affordable housing and supportive services

homeward2020.org

- Prevention
- Diversion
- **Emergency Shelter**
- Affordable Housing
- Retain
- Sustain

Source: www.homeward2020.org

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THE
FIVE KEYS
TO EFFECTIVE EMERGENCY SHELTER

HOUSING FIRST APPROACH
Align shelter eligibility criteria, policies, and practices with a Housing First approach so that anyone experiencing homelessness can access shelter without prerequisites, make services voluntary, and assist people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.

SAFE & APPROPRIATE DIVERSION
Provide diversion services to find safe and appropriate housing alternatives to entering shelter through problem-solving conversations, identifying community supports, and offering lighter touch solutions.

IMMEDIATE & LOW-BARRIER ACCESS
Ensure immediate and easy access to shelter by lowering barriers to entry and staying open 24/7. Eliminate sobriety and income requirements and other policies that make it difficult to enter shelter, stay in shelter, or access housing and income opportunities.

HOUSING-FOCUSED, RAPID EXIT SERVICES
Focus services in shelter on assisting people to access permanent housing options as quickly as possible.

DATA TO MEASURE PERFORMANCE
Measure data on percentage of exits to housing, average length of stay in shelter, and returns to homelessness to evaluate the effectiveness of shelter and improve outcomes.

City of
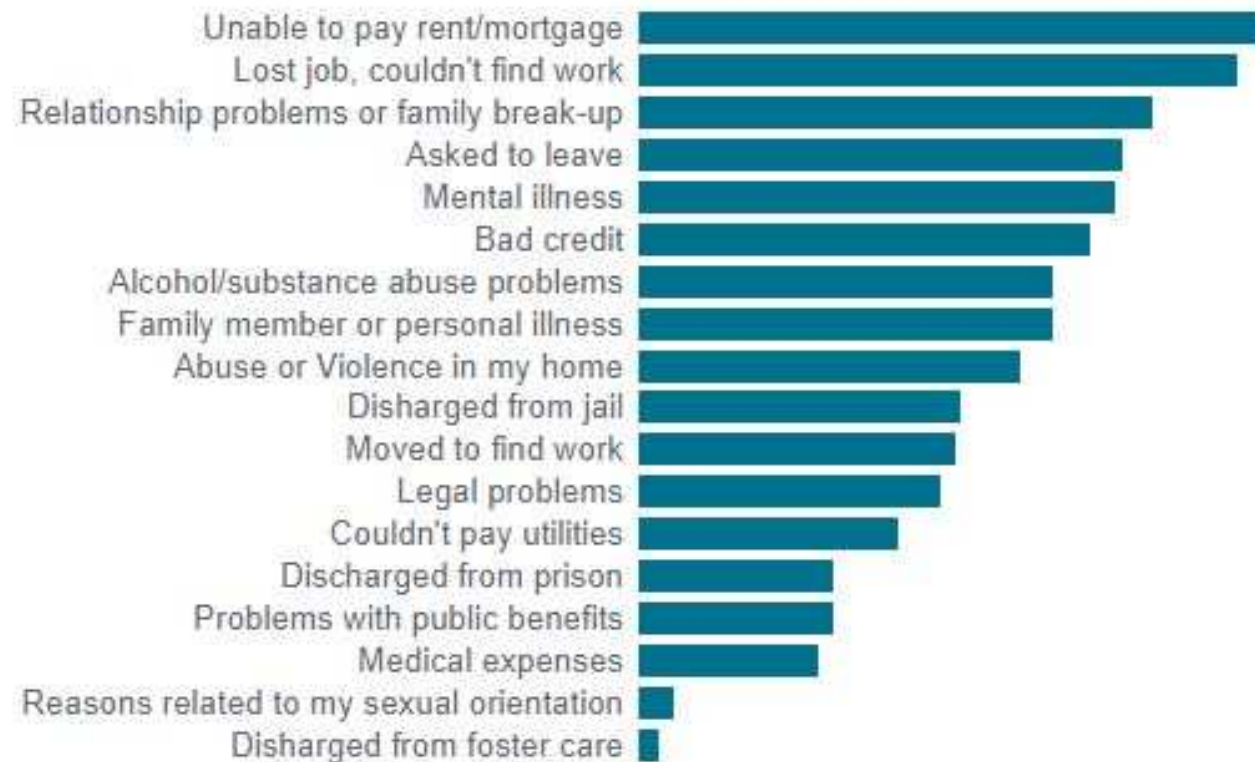**Fort Collins**

Number of persons in Fort Collins currently experiencing homelessness for <u>six months or longer</u>:   **434**

*The following information focuses on individuals experiencing chronic and long-term homelessness.

Contributing Factors Snapshot (Self-Reported)

Horizontal bar chart showing contributing factors from highest to lowest:
- Unable to pay rent/mortgage
- Lost job, couldn't find work
- Relationship problems or family break-up
- Asked to leave
- Mental illness
- Bad credit
- Alcohol/substance abuse problems
- Family member or personal illness
- Abuse or Violence in my home
- Disharged from jail
- Moved to find work
- Legal problems
- Couldn't pay utilities
- Discharged from prison
- Problems with public benefits
- Medical expenses
- Reasons related to my sexual orientation
- Disharged from foster care

Fort Collins Rescue Mission

	Winter Season (Nov-April)		Summer Season (May-Oct)	
	Men	Women	Men	Women
Residence Program Beds (per night)	14	8	14	8
Work Dorm Beds (per night)	18	16	18	16
Overflow Mats (per night)	44	5	24	--
Total Served (monthly average)	2,159	789	1,758	770
Turned Away (monthly average)	13	15	35	19
Days Over Capacity (monthly average)	11	7	14	14

Catholic Charities

	Winter Season (Nov-April)			Summer Season (May-Oct)		
	Men	Women	Families	Men	Women	Families
Residence Program Beds (per night)	18	6	4	18	6	4
Veteran Shelter Beds (per night)	12	--	--	12	--	--
Overflow Shelter Beds (per night)	44	32	1	24	20	1
Total Served						125
Turned Away						--
Days Over Capacity						3

Shelters are at/beyond capacity and
do the best they can given current situations.

- Community-wide issue, community-wide responses
- Many factors contribute to homelessness
- Shelter system is stressed

- Best Practice: Data-informed solutions
- Best Practice: Housing First approach

End goal: Homelessness is Rare, Short-lived, Non-recurring

5:00   Welco

5:25   Intro

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6:00   Current Homelessness Responses

Discussion Prompt:
What is Your Experience Around Homelessness?

6:10   Discussion

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7:00   End

Prompts:

- *What worked for you today?*

- *Is this process heading in the right direction?*

- *What could be done better in the future?*

HSHO Advisory Committee Schedule			
December 5, 2019	February 3, 2020	April 9, 2020	June 11, 2020
December 23, 2019	February 24, 2020	April 30, 2020	July 2, 2020
January 16, 2020	March 19, 2020	May 21, 2020	