

Pallet's PathForward™ Homelessness Advisory Services

Homelessness is a complex crisis that many cities across the United States are grappling with. Through a nationwide program in partnership with the National League of Cities—Pallet's PathForward™ homelessness advisory services ran a pilot program to support cities in addressing homelessness. The PathForward team carried out a comprehensive analysis of the unique challenges in each city, with a comprehensive work plan that addresses homelessness at its root cause.

Huntington, WV

In Huntington, West Virginia, the city was experiencing a homelessness crisis heavily impacted by the opioid epidemic, and low-quality, declining housing supply leaving city officials with limited solutions. With the crisis compounding, leaders knew they needed a different approach.

In early 2022, the Pallet's PathForward team partnered with Huntington as part of a nationwide program to support in solving their challenges. The team conducted an extensive and robust community needs assessment that covered effective policies, social services, economic viability, funding, basic needs and housing supply. The result was a holistic and actionable work plan with detailed recommendations for the city to address its most pressing needs.

Of the list of recommendations, the need for a nonemergency response for people experiencing homelessness, mental health crisis, or other issues requiring alternative responses and de-escalation was high priority. Through the National League of Cities' Capstone Challenge, PathForward was able to continue to support Huntington with the program implementation of the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). The team partnered with local public health, first responders, and city experts to implement the program that will launch in March 2023. The CIT is an essential first step to aid the most vulnerable people experiencing homelessness. Longer term, the recommendations support Huntington in developing comprehensive plans to provide more shelter, permanent housing, and holistic strategies to end homelessness.



RECOMMENDATIONS

- Develop Crisis Intervention Team for mental, behavioral and physical health support
- Educate and train first responders and medical professionals to combat stigmas and misinformation about People Experiencing Homelessness (PEH)
- Policies and programs to streamline and incentivize development, construction, rehab, and home ownership
- Provide additional temporary shelter capacity with supportive services
- Address mental hygiene process for PEH
- Oversight and regulation of sober living/ recovery homes at a local & state level
- Develop a community engagement toolkit and improved data system tracking for homelessness related issues

PHASE 1 : Research & Assessment

- Interviews with community leaders
- Site visits and city tours
- Research local best practices and strategies

PHASE 2 : Execution

- Assemble team of issue experts to develop improvement for state and local policy
- Outline actionable recommendations
- Identify program or policy to champion with national partners

CITY OF Northglenn



Northglenn, CO

Northglenn, Colorado is a landlocked city located in Adams County. The 2022 Point in Time (PIT) Count, (overseen by the Metro Denver Homelessness Initiative, MDHI) identified 462 people experiencing homelessness on a single night in Adam's County. The city had robust social services programs such as a Mobile Crisis Unit and weekly case management services to assist people experiencing homelessness in the area. Northglenn strived to promote regional homelessness plans but had struggled to secure buy-in, funding and support from regional partners. What the city urgently needed was emergency shelters to meet current demand.

Pallet's PathForward homelessness advisory services developed a comprehensive analysis of the service and program landscape for homelessness, identifying recommendations for improvement with an implementation plan for local leaders. The plan included step-by-step instructions for how to develop emergency shelters including specific locations, service providers, and the budget needed to bring the project to fruition.

In February 2022, PathForward's plan was presented to the Adams County Board of County Commissioners, the Northglenn City Council, and a regional body of City Managers working to end homelessness. As a result, Northglenn expects to partner with Adams County and neighboring cities to advance specific plans for an emergency shelter program in the region. With Concrete plans underway, Northglenn aims to develop programs that provide wraparound services to people experiencing homelessness to help stabilize and transition residents into permanent housing.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Explore opportunities and partnerships to develop low-barrier, temporary shelter programs with wrap-around programming to meet clients' needs.

Pursue Federal, State and Local grants and funding opportunities to bring new homelessness shelter programs and services to the city and county.

Develop a subcommittee or hold strategy and planning forums within the Adams County Intergovernmental Committee on Homelessness to brainstorm improvements to the SWAP program that will address its current barriers and challenges.

Recruit and cultivate service provider organizations with expertise and training in managing interim shelter programs and mental and behavioral health programs for people experiencing homelessness.

PHASE 1 : Research & Assessment

- Interviews with community leaders
- Site visits and city tours
- Research local best practices and strategies

PHASE 2 : Execution

- Policy and Fiscal Analysis report
- Develop regional plans for temporary shelter village(s) in partnership with Adam's County and local cities
- Presentation of plans to regional City Managers, the Northglenn City Council, and the Adam's County Commissioners



Start your journey with Pallet's PathForward Homelessness Advisory Services today and email us at pathforward@palletshelter.com

