Open to All: Low Barrier Shelters and Services

A special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor:
CREATING A LOW BARRIER SHELTER ENVIRONMENT
June 12, 2024

Sabina Cardoso: ALPHA YMCA
Barbara Montrose : NLHHC
Mario Ramirez: ALPHA YMCA
A LOW BARRIER SHELTER

• The requirements for entry are limited or minimal.
• Focus on "harm reduction,"
• Eliminate obstacles by providing resources for homeless individuals
CREATING A LOW BARRIER SHELTER ENVIRONMENT:
Importance of Low Barrier Shelters in Addressing Homelessness

- Importance of Low Barrier Shelters in Addressing Homelessness
- Keep vulnerable people out the streets.
- Ensure safety for all.
- Access to resources faster.
CHALLENGES FACED BY INDIVIDUALS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO HOMELESSNESS

- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health
- Impact of Racial Disparities
- Domestic Violence
- Lack of Affordable Housing
- Minimum Wages/No Income
BARRIERS TO ACCESSING TRADITIONAL SHELTERS

- Sobriety
- Chores
- Criminal background checks
- IDs
- Residency
- Migratory status
KEY PRINCIPLES OF A LOW BARRIER SHELTER

• Inclusivity and non-discrimination
• Minimal entry requirements
• Focus on safety and respect
• Harm reduction approach
• Trauma-informed care
DESIGNING A LOW BARRIER SHELTER

- Physical environment considerations
- Staff training and policies
- Partnering with community organizations
SERVICES AND SUPPORT OFFERED

- Basic needs provision (e.g., food, clothing, hygiene)
- Case management and support services
- Mental health and substance use services
- Employment and housing assistance
- Easy access to services
SUCCESS STORIES AND BEST PRACTICES

- Examples of successful low barrier shelter programs
- Impact on individuals and the community
- Best practices for implementing a low barrier shelter
CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

- Funding and resource challenges
- Community concerns and NIMBYism (Not In My Backyard)
- Strategies for addressing challenges
Recap of key points

Call to action for creating low barrier shelter environments
Questions and Discussion
Thank you for attending this workshop!

A special thanks to our Presenting Sponsor: