



The Reno Initiative
FOR SHELTER & EQUALITY

Current Projects, Our Place, & Regional Planning

Community Homeless Advisory Board Presentation

June 1, 2020

Presentation Outline

1. Introductions & History of RISE - Ben Castro
2. Current Projects - Kim Barghouti
 - RISE & Dine / E. Fourth Rest Stop
 - Free Market
 - Outreach & Training
3. Our Place - Jen Cassady
 - Utilizing Peers
4. Spectrum of Solutions
 - Safe Camp Collective - Lisa Lee
 - i. Research
 - ii. Current Regional Costs
 - iii. Budget
 - iv. Projected Savings and Overview



These slides are intended to be a brief introduction of RISE to officials before the June 1, 2020 presentation and to help guide the discussion

History & Philosophy of RISE

Mission Statement: “Our initiative is to cultivate a greater sense of dignity and humility by providing equal access to shelter, knowledge and opportunity. We seek to create a stronger community through the use of shared resources and mutual aid.”

History: Founded 2012

Philosophy: Our greatest resource is and always has been the people we serve.



Current RISE Projects

E. Fourth Rest Stop

Engages Volunteers
Platform for Outreach
Provides Hot Meals

RISE schedules & supports over a dozen local organizations... some have served for 12 years. (Pictured)

Living Room

Client Casework
Community Building
Housing Vouchers

RISE uses fundraising events and private donations to provide housing vouchers for people who 'fell through the cracks' in the last three years

Free Market

Donation Management
Survival Gear
Hygiene Supplies

RISE partners with the Woman and Children's Center of the Sierra, distributes at the Rest Stop, hires outreach staff, & exchanges donations with other organizations to maximize value

Outreach

Relationships
Safety Planning
Resources

RISE builds long-lasting relationships with life saving interventions, designs needs assessments, provides referrals to public resources, & collects data

@RISE

Advocacy
Training
Empowerment

@ = Advocacy & Training. RISE hosts trainings in de-escalation skills, volunteer staffing at the emergency winter tent, computers and other job skills, & substance use resources



Draft Logo

E. Fourth Rest Stop

Over 1,000 meals served weekly

Daily Meal Providers



Additional Providers:
 Bring It Home Charities
 TriNet Cares
 Monday Meals



Partners

Hosted community meetings, provided the location, maintains restrooms & garbage donated seating, installed storage, lights, & handwashing stations



Team Intros

The RISE Board of Directors is currently comprised of people with very diverse backgrounds. Our Directors range in age from Gen Z to Boomers. We represent education levels from GED to PhD. We have many years of outreach & case work experience with disadvantaged people, business & HR experience, volunteer work, community ministry, social work, peer support, public health, harm reduction, behavioral health and substance use treatment, community health, technology management, faith-based service, humanistic service, social activism, financial management, crisis management & prevention, and over 163 years combined personal recovery.

RISE currently employs 37 team members who work at Our Place and in outreach. We also draw on a volunteer base of over 700 community members to meet specific needs and serve meals.

We all have had challenges in our lives and we bring a culture of unity.



163 Years of
personal recovery



37 Staff members
as of May 24, 2020



700 Volunteers
serve with us yearly



OUR PLACE

UNLOCKING A BETTER TOMORROW

Operator Team

Jennifer Casady, *Our Place Director*

Ordained Minister & Hospice Care Worker
Master of Arts in Social Change from Starr King School for
the Ministry in Berkeley, CA.
Bachelor of Science in Biology from UNR

Kim Barghouti, *Operations Director*

20 years of HR, payroll, and business process analysis
Bachelor of Business Administration – Human Resources,
Eastern New Mexico University, Portales, New Mexico

Benjamin Castro, *RISE Executive Director*

Co-founded The Reno Initiative for Shelter and Equality
12 years of HR experience and
Bachelor's in Economics from UNR

Camille Jones, *Family Home Manager*

Background in mental health services
Pursuing an MSW through UNR

Markos Angelides, *Women's Home Manager*

Assists & supports people who are struggling
Bachelor in Psychology with a Minor in
Addictions Treatment from UNR

Peer Perspective



- RISE's board is uniquely positioned to coordinate the complicated processes that will be required to deliver effective services at Our Place. We value the small things and feel higher meaning in everything we do from cleaning up to sitting in silence with a grieving neighbor.
- Rates of long term homelessness reveal that our community is in need of solutions that look different than the current model (OrgCode, 2019). Our approach understands the value of relationships, respect, dignity, & trust.
- RISE hired a high percentage of peers and people with lived experience who are completing the CPRSS (Certified Peer Recovery Support Specialist).
- Staff is using the remaining construction time to train new team members.
- Safety is a team effort. Emergency situations leave clients facing the tyranny of the moment. Our staff is equipped to diffuse this stress through preparation for likely emergency scenarios, shared responsibilities, & accountability processes.

People First Focus



Under the direction of RISE, Our Place will be more than a bed; it will be a second home. Guests will find themselves in a place where they and their families have a therapeutic place to heal at their own pace. Our model is structured to feel like a respite instead of a reprise of the same cycle of homelessness they have seen before. Smooth transitions will allow clients to stay in touch with the community even when they have moved on to permanent or transitional housing.

Through motivational interviewing and our support overcoming barriers, clients who need a little monetary aid are also quickly transitioned to more sustainable plans whenever possible. A large base of supporters from the community assist with this first step when it is appropriate. Diversion policies reduce case manager client numbers, open beds for emergency situations, decrease wait times, provide structure for early intervention, and build our base of support for future clients.

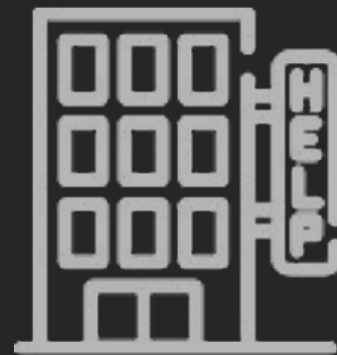
Need still exists and is likely to increase

While the numbers for the **Point In Time Count** conducted in January have not been released, early estimates suggest that the number *may be tripled* what it was a year ago.

Washoe County may see an increase in people experiencing homelessness when the eviction moratorium ends and our community struggles to recover from COVID-19.

Our Place is not designed to serve everybody including couples without children and men.

Post COVID-19 Nevada has the highest unemployment rate of any USA state in history.





Safe Camp Collective

TOGETHER, WE RISE

Safe Camp Intro

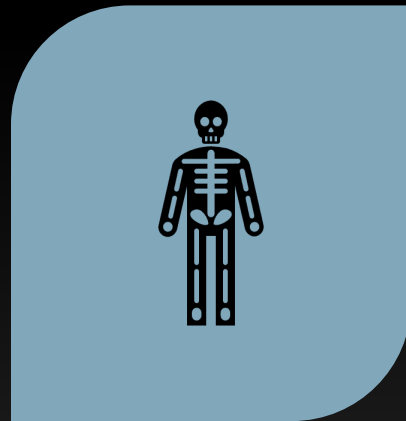
- Successfully works in other communities
- Addresses public health concerns
- Makes it easier to access services and case managers
- Saves the region money
- Supports effective recovery options

How can safe camps help?



Housing Crisis

Reno/Sparks/Washoe County is experiencing a severe lack of affordable housing



Housing Gaps

Filling the gap for those who are unable to access the shelter (pets, partnerships, trauma, ptsd, etc.)



Survival: Without Shelter People Die!

Homelessness compounds health, substance use, mental health, and issues that lead to hospitalization, incarceration, & citation

Narratives

Survey Question: What is your biggest difficulty on a daily basis?

1. “Homeless being harassed and told to move from Reno to Sparks, then Sparks to Reno.”
2. “Finding a place for four people and a dog.”
3. “Finding a place to rest without getting chased off. Staying cool or warm. Healthy food daily. Dragging my stuff around each day with no safe place that's clean to store it.”
4. “Moving around locations every day.”
5. “Trying to find a safe place to sleep at night.”
6. “Drinking water, restrooms, washing dishes, moving belongings everywhere and making appointments with companion dog.”
7. “Waking up to the reality that this is my life now. Having the strength to know things will get better. Just knowing there's more than this. Most of all, knowing I don't have to settle for this and I deserve better.”
8. “Well right now, keeping warm and cops telling us we can't camp where we are. The one thing is I'm not camping, I'm living or trying to.”
9. “Moving my stuff so I don't lose it all. I don't have much but it is hard to replace it all once a week or more.”

Narratives

Survey Question: What are the reasons you do not stay in the shelter?

1. "No good. Treated like an inmate. ____ sucks. They dictate every move. Too institutional."
2. "The homeless down there scare me and I can't be with my man."
3. "Don't want to be downtown."
4. "Try it yourself. Just one night you will definitely get the jst (sic) of it. I bet you'll never ever go back for seconds."
5. "Bugs/illness not properly cared for. Not being fair about rules and changing daily. Too many in tight spaces. Sleeping at tables for intake."
6. "Don't like being around others due to anxiety."
7. "Other people smell. I was 86'd for fighting."
8. "They institutionalize the average person, is run by corrupt politicians and corrupt theories."
9. "The shelter sucks my soul dry. Women there are ok with taking meds and doing nothing. The staff is just doing their job but rules make me feel like I'm a mouse being led through their maze of "you do this like this right now." There needs to be understanding that not everyone is the same. I'm not 2 years old and I do know how to fold my clothes, when to shower, and that being considerate of others is a must. Monica at VOA is the shit! Best VOA employee ever!"
10. "Too many drunks, dope fiends, and just plain nasty people--attitude wise."
11. "Full. I have a fear of people. Too many in one place."

Filling the Gaps of the Shelter

Safe camps will provide shelter for the population that have trouble accessing the shelter

Couples (regardless of sexual orientation)

People with pets

People who have lived outside for many years

People who have been assaulted, 86'ed, or have experienced trauma in the shelter

People who live with anxiety and/or PTSD

Considerations

Use and Use
Restrictions

Maximum Length
of Stay

Maximum Residents

Landscape Buffers/
Beautification

Services for Residents

Community
Outreach

Inspections

Rules and
Regulations/Code
of Conduct

Security

Insurance
Requirements

Utilities

Indemnification and
Hold Harmless
Agreements

Evidence-Based

City of Seattle, Human Services Department. (2017). *Seattle Permitted Encampment Evaluation*. Seattle, WA: City of Seattle. Retrieved from <http://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/HumanServices/AboutUs/Final%202017%20Permitted%20Encampment%20Evaluation.pdf>.

Cohen, R., Yetvin, W., & Khadduri, J. (2019). Understanding encampments of people experiencing homelessness and community responses: Emerging evidence as of late 2018. U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research. Retrieved from <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/sites/default/files/pdf/Understanding-Encampments.pdf>.

Herring, C. (2014). The new logics of homeless seclusion: Homeless encampments in America's west coast cities. *American Sociological Association*, 13(4), 285-309. doi: 10.1111/cico.12086.

Lemke, J. (2016). From the alleys to city hall: An examination of participatory communication and empowerment among homeless activists in Oregon. *Journal of Communication Inquiry*, 40(3), 267-286. doi: 10.1177/0196859916646045.

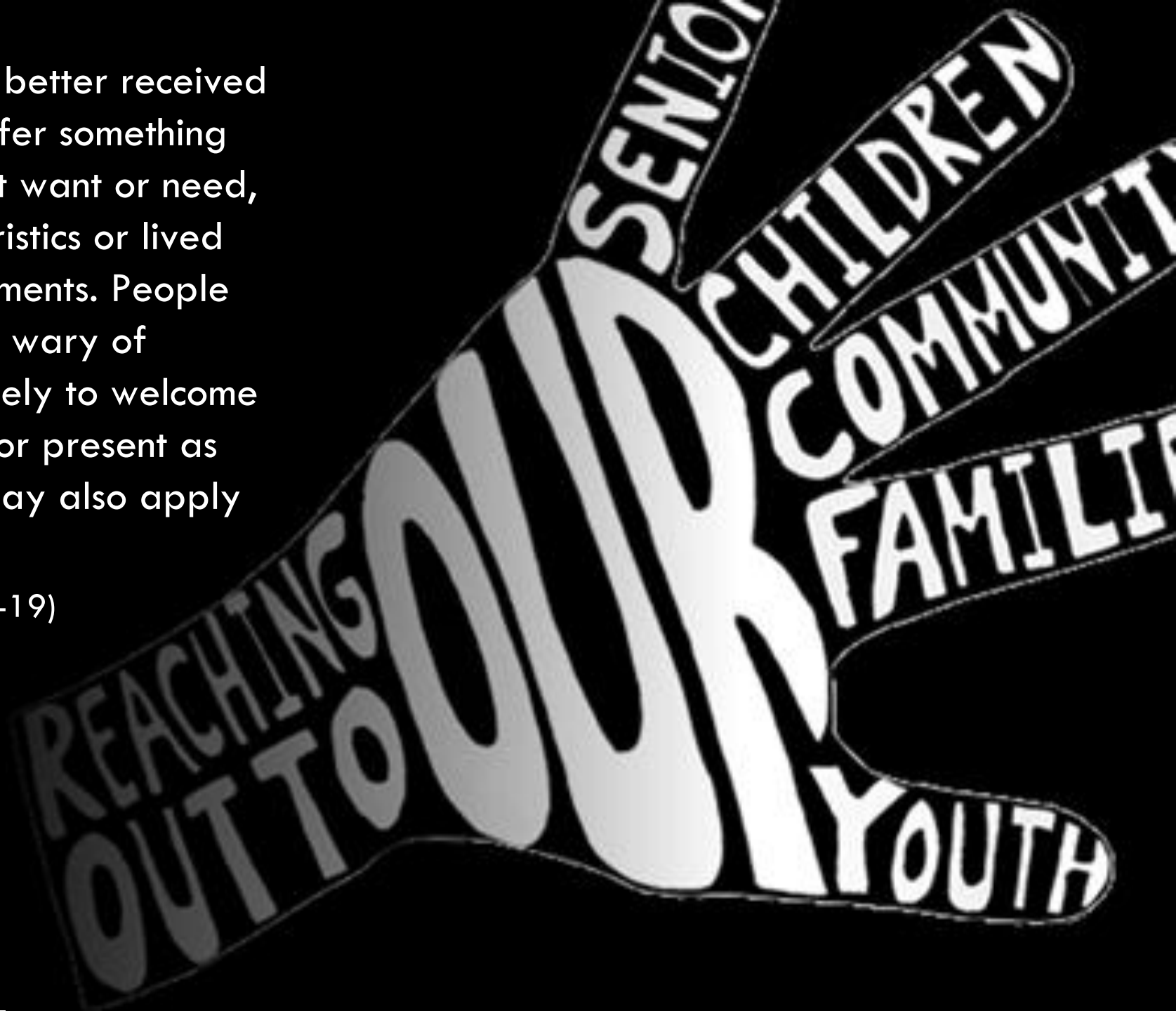
Parr, E., & Rankin, S.K. (2018). It takes a village: Practical guidance for authorized homeless encampments. Homeless Rights Advocacy Project, 13. Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.law.seattleu.edu/hrap/13>



“Outreach workers are generally better received when they make low demands, offer something that people in encampments might want or need, and share demographic characteristics or lived experiences with those in encampments. People who stay in encampments may be wary of authority figures and are more likely to welcome outreach workers who do not act or present as such. These same considerations may also apply to sanctioned encampments”

(Cohen, Yetvin, & Khadduri, 2019, p. 18-19)

**Relationships
are Key**



Social Organization & Management



Priority Populations

Veterans,
Vulnerable
Individuals,
Couples, &
Seniors



Screening Tool

Ensure that
unsheltered and
chronically
homeless have
preferential
placing



Resident Advisory Council (RAC)

Governs the affairs
of the community.
Provides essential
feedback to
Program Director



Sweat Equity

Community service
from residents to
ensure sanitation
& safety of the
community



Rules And Bylaws

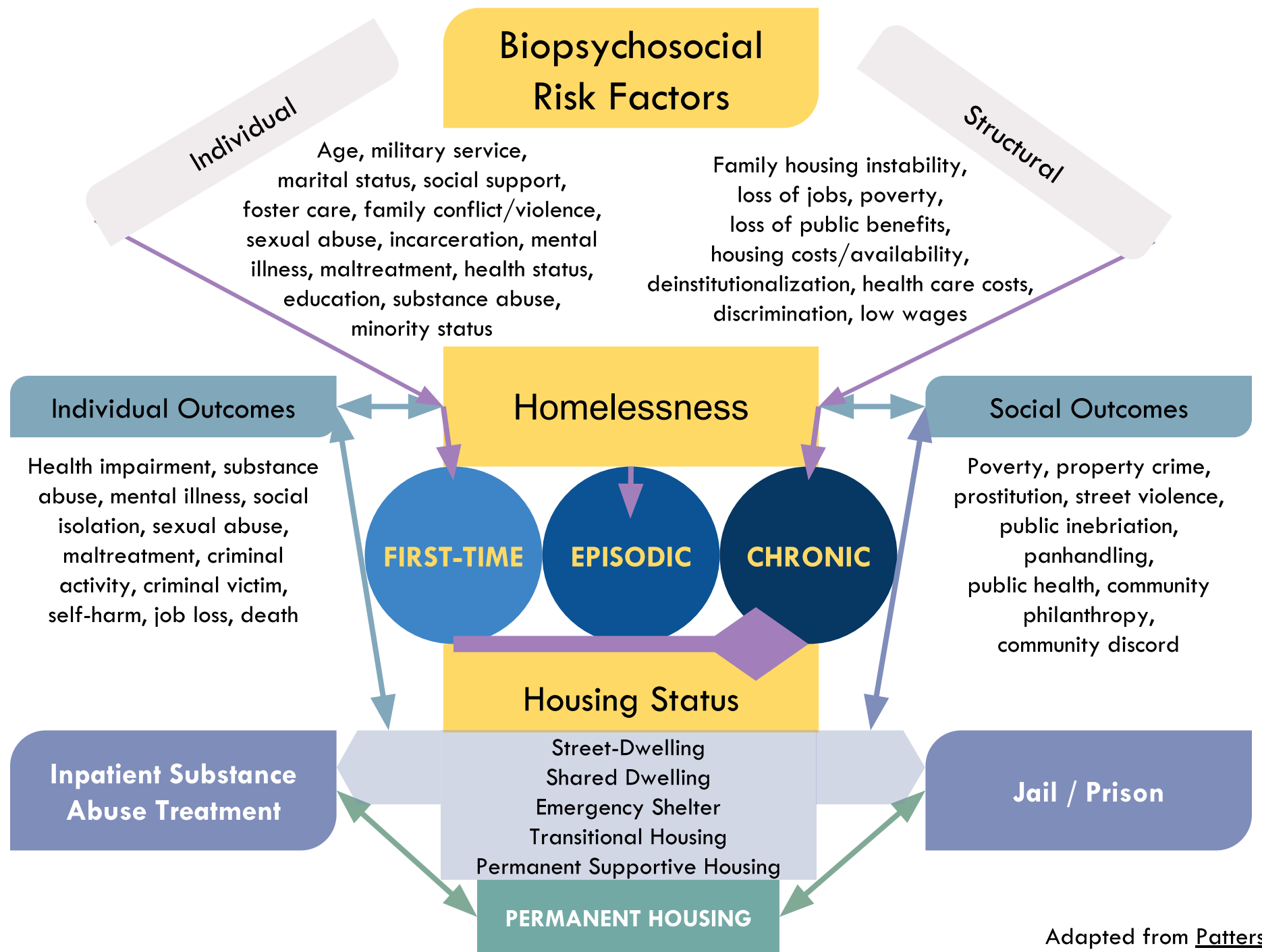
RAC & Program
Director work
together to
create
self-governance
& ownership in
the community

Human Costs: Things money cannot buy

- Lost relationships
- Unstable future when constantly forced to move
- Exposure & weather injury
 - Graphic Picture (Public Record)
- Demoralization & loss of belonging
- Internalized stigma
- Vigilante abuse
- Assaults
- Loss of privacy
- Trauma
- Deprivation of dignity
- Health: decreased life expectancy, chronic illness, mental illness, & co-occurring disorders



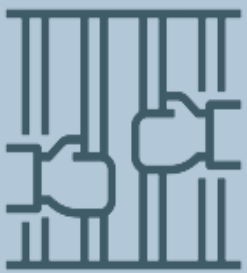
Cycle of Instability



By The Numbers

Per year in 2018, A person experiencing chronic homelessness costs the public around \$45,000

\$45,000



The cost of jail is estimated at \$180 for booking and around \$108 per day. (2016 data)

Hospital visits can cost around \$10,000 a year per person



Treatment costs:

Detox: \$250 to \$800 per day

28 day: \$3,000 to \$10,000

Suboxone: \$5,980 per year

Methadone: \$6,552 per year



A safe encampment would cost around \$10 a day per person. We would expect to serve, at minimum, 150 unique individuals each year.

Sweeps

\$4,000+

Sweeps cost more than \$4,000 in personnel alone for each occurrence.

- COIT, \$240.38/day
- Law enforcement, \$2,500/day
- Public works, \$1,400/day

Housing is Healthcare



People who experience homelessness have an average life expectancy of around 50 years of age, almost 20 years lower than housed people. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) states that people experiencing homelessness are at a greater risk of infectious and chronic illness, poor mental health, and substance misuse

The Housing Continuum



SAFE Camp Budget

1. Salaries	FTE	Hourly	Annual	Subtotal	3. Supplies	#	Unit/ Month	Annual/ Unit	Subtotal
Camp Site Administrator	1.0	\$ 28.00	\$ 58,240.00	\$ 58,240.00	Hygiene items \$500/month x 12 months	1.0	\$ 500.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00
Peer Recovery Support Specialist	4.0	\$ 20.00	\$ 41,600.00	\$ 166,400.00	Long range radios: purchase price +2-year protection	4.0	\$ 35.26	\$ 423.12	\$ 1,692.48
Peer Supervisor	1.0	\$ 24.00	\$ 49,920.00	\$ 49,920.00	Laptop (at least one workstation)				\$ 700.00
Salaries Subtotal				\$ 274,560.00	Shower/Privacy Tents	10.0		\$ 100.00	\$ 1,000.00
2. Fringe benefits @ 16%				\$ 43,929.60	Solar Camp Shower Bags	40.0		\$ 40.00	\$ 1,600.00
3. Contractual	FTE	Hourly	Annual	Subtotal	Camp Repair items (duct tape, tarps, pallets, winterizing materials, etc) \$300/month x 12 months	1.0	\$ 300.00	\$ 3,600.00	\$ 3,600.00
Internship Supervisor	0.1	\$ 45.00	\$ 93,600.00	\$ 9,360.00	Barbecue Grills - propane	5.0		\$ 500.00	\$ 2,500.00
Liability & Workman's Comp				\$ 60,000.00	Canopy for Barbecue Grill area	1.0		\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00
3. Contractual Continued	#	per Month	Annual/Unit	Subtotal	Supplementary Camping Supplies	1.0	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 12,240.00	\$ 12,240.00
Toilets including service - 13 billing cycles	10.0	\$ 91.32	\$ 1,187.16	\$ 11,871.60	Supplies Subtotal				\$ 30,432.48
Handwashing station w/ service - 13 billing cycles	5.0	\$ 132.20	\$ 1,718.60	\$ 8,593.00	4. Administrative				
Staff Training/Professional Development*				\$ 5,000.00	Administrative Costs @15%				\$ 70,222.42
Garbage 6 yard dumpster serviced twice per week	1.0	\$ 630.40	\$ 7,564.80	\$ 7,564.80	Total Cost**				\$ 538,371.90
16' storage container rental (\$198 delivery & removal)	1.0	\$ 120.00	\$ 1,638.00	\$ 1,638.00	* Training: CEU's, Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), Ethics, Confidentiality, De-Escalation, First Aid, Food Safety, Good Grid, etc.)				
Mobile Office - (\$200 delivery & removal)	1.0	\$ 200.00	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,600.00	** This conservative budget does not include cost-savings from donations and available partner supplies				
Utilities Electricity, Water, & Internet to support regional GoodGrid intake	1.0	\$ 400.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,800.00	COVID may impact supply availability and estimates				
Propane Service every other week	10.0	\$ 30.00	\$ 780.00	\$ 7,800.00					
Contractual Subtotal				\$ 110,227.40					

Budget Discussion



As we have shown, this budget vastly outperforms the financial outcomes of sweeps, hospitalizations, incarceration, and other current costs.

But we are fiscally conservative and believe that regional partners can reduce this total with current resources, selecting a site with some of the requirements in place, and inviting community support.

SAFE Camp Staff will maintain safety, build trust, and facilitate site ownership so that fewer responsibilities fall on the shoulders of public funds.

\$aving Money & Sa♥ing Lives

PROJECTED REGIONAL SAVINGS

per year of more
than

\$6,212,000

Current

\$45,000 per
person per year x
150 people =
\$6,750,000

Safe Camp

\$3,589 per person
per year x 150
people =
\$538,000

Human savings:

- Restored relationships
- Stability
- No loss of life or limb to the elements
- Belonging and connectedness
- Empowerment
- Healing
- Privacy
- Dignity
- Self-efficacy
- Wellness

Location & Staff

Like other communities around the nation, we humbly ask our community to stand behind a Safe Camp as part of the solution to end homelessness.

We ask that you support a spectrum of solutions for people experiencing homelessness by recruiting regional financial partners to fill gaps on the housing-options continuum.

We ask that the community support this pilot project by providing a piece of land that is accessible by guests and service providers.





The Reno Initiative

FOR SHELTER & EQUALITY

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