



HEALTH FUNDERS *for* HOUSING JUSTICE

Welcome to the quarterly digest of **Health Funders for Housing Justice**, a network of Funders Together to End Homelessness representing the intersection of healthcare and housing justice. With questions and suggestions for future editions, [email Michael Durham](#).



Health and Housing Spotlight

The U.S. Playbook to Address Social Determinants of Health



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Released late last year, the White House's [Social Determinants of Health playbook](#) names housing security as the first "health-related social need." This corresponds with Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' departure from its historical prohibition of covering "room and board," [approving 1115 waivers](#) from several states to use Medicaid dollars to cover rent and related expenses (with varying state-specific stipulations), in addition to [expanded coverage of recuperative/medical respite care](#).

In February of this year, HHS and HUD [announced](#) supplemental technical assistance to nine "accelerator" states (including DC), joining the localities prioritized in the [ALL INside Initiative](#), to help communities make best use of new federal funding. While incremental progress, this inches closer to a dream scenario for philanthropy: government funding taking over where private dollars once filled the gap. With the arrival of new public funding and technical assistance, how should philanthropy pivot?

We have already witnessed that Medicaid waivers like CalAIM have radically altered the services landscape but not without adverse consequences. Homelessness service providers struggle to learn the language of health care and vice versa. Philanthropy can help make space to ensure that providers and people with lived experience of homelessness meaningfully influence how everything is implemented and that power resides with people at the sharpest intersections of oppression.

- Read this [Explainer](#).
- [Let us know](#) how you're responding to Medicaid waiver implementation.
- Keep tabs on federal policy changes' effects on providers through the [National Health Care for the Homeless Council Mobilizer](#).

Featured Programming

Funder Call: [Harm Reduction in Housing Justice: Values, Policy, and Services](#)

Monday, April 8, 2024 | 2:00pm ET, 1:00pm CT, 12:00pm MT, 11:00am PT



Funders Together
TO END HOMELESSNESS

**Funder Call: Harm Reduction in Housing Justice:
Values, Policy, and Services**
Monday, April 8 | 2pm ET / 11am PT

Melissa Moore
*Director, Civil Systems Reform
Drug Policy Alliance*

Tanagra Melgarejo Pulido
*National Director of Capacity
Building and Engagement,
National Harm Reduction Coalition*

Harm reduction means reducing the harmful consequences of risky behaviors like substance use. It also means prioritizing non-punitive, housing-first policies and the preservation of human lives. How do harm reduction principles fit into housing justice?

On Monday, April 8, join Health Funders for Housing Justice in conversation with the [National Harm Reduction Coalition](#) and the [Drug Policy Alliance](#) about the intersection of housing justice and harm reduction values, policy, and services. [Register here](#).



Local Luncheon: [Health Funders for Housing Justice in Phoenix](#)

Phoenix, AZ | Monday, May 13, 2024 | 11:30am – 2:30pm MT

Health Funders for Housing Justice (HFHJ) will convene over lunch on May 13, 2024, in conjunction with the [National Health Care for the Homeless Conference and Policy Symposium](#). In addition to HFHJ members, all local funders and those in attendance at the conference are encouraged to attend. Registration for the NHCH conference is not required to attend the funder luncheon. [Learn more](#).



Webinar Recordings

[Aging, Health, & Homelessness](#) | UCSF Benioff Homelessness and Housing Initiative | Presenters discussed findings from the HOPE HOME Project—a longitudinal cohort study following older adults experiencing homelessness in Oakland, and the California Statewide Study of People Experiencing Homelessness—the largest representative study of U.S. homelessness since the 90s, supported by HFHJ members.

[Building Relationships with Hospitals](#) | National Health Care for the Homeless Council | In partnership with America's Essential Hospitals, this presentation showcased partnerships between health systems and service providers, focusing on recuperative care.

[Expanding Harm Reduction through Increased Syringe Access](#) | Homelessness & Housing Resource Center | This webinar discussed the ways in which health centers and other community-based organizations can expand harm reduction services by offering syringe access to participants through direct service delivery and partnership.



Imagination Corner

People with disabilities are far more likely to experience housing insecurity and homelessness than nondisabled people. In fact, a disability diagnosis is a key component of the [definition of chronic homelessness](#), which relies on medical providers' assessment of impairment. Systemic ableism especially harms Black people and other people of color, making anti-Black [racism and ableism deeply intertwined](#). Our vision for housing and racial justice, therefore, is incomplete absent a deep commitment to disability justice.

The [Medical-Industrial Complex](#) exacts profound harm on disabled people. It is a system that upholds the highly criticized "medical model" of disability, which considers disability to be an error in one's body rather than dismantling the social and political structures that deny people with disabilities full access to society. If dismantling ableism within the health care system is necessary for realizing housing justice, surely health funders can have a major impact. But even associating disability with health is problematic.

- As a community of health-focused philanthropy pursuing housing and racial justice, what are our unique levers?

- How does the definition of chronic homelessness that includes disability diagnoses facilitate or inhibit the movement for housing justice? What role might health funders play in affecting that?
- How can health funders adopt [principles of disability justice](#) at the intersection of housing and racial justice?



Recent Resources

[Housing & Health](#) | February 2024 | Health Affairs | The entire February issue of Health Affairs was dedicated to the intersection of housing and health, including articles on mortality, structural racism, and mental health.

[Medicaid Renewals & Homelessness](#) | January 2024 | Homebase | Funded by HFHJ member [California Health Care Foundation](#), this suite of tools is meant to equip service providers, people experiencing homelessness, Medicaid experts and partners, and communities to keep current Medicaid members covered.

[CalAIM Implementation of Recuperative Care Services: Lessons Learned](#) | January 2024 | National Institute for Medical Respite Care | This issue brief documents what is working well with the implementation of the CalAIM recuperative care service, what remains a challenge, action steps California should consider moving forward, and advice for other states looking to add a statewide Medicaid benefit for recuperative care.

[Protecting Our Communities: All Neighborhood Need Health-Centered Approaches to Be Safe and Justice](#) | December 2023 | Drug Policy Alliance | This toolkit from the Drug Policy Alliance describes policy and service recommendations at the intersection of health, homelessness, and public safety.

[Eviction Prevention and Mental Health: A New Paradigm for Civil Justice Reform](#) | December 2021 | Center for Justice Innovation | This paper reviews housing settings and specific risks of eviction for individuals with mental illness, as well as focuses on housing court and the challenges these individuals and court personnel face therein.



In the News

[Why Reparations Can Counter the Legacy of a 50-Year “War on Drugs”](#)

February 21, 2024 | Nonprofit Quarterly

[Addicted to punishment: Jails and prisons punish drug use more than they treat it](#)

January 30, 2024 | Prison Policy Initiative

[Why treatment for severe mental illness looks radically different for rich and poor people](#)

December 29, 2023 | Vox

[Improving health outcomes while combating homelessness](#)

November 20, 2023 | Healthcare Financial Management Association

Thank you to our Sponsors!



Learn more about and consider joining [Health Funders for Housing Justice!](#)

Funders Together to End Homelessness

This email was sent to jack@funderstogether.org. To stop receiving emails, [click here](#).

Created with [NationBuilder](#), software for leaders.