

# Funders Together

FOR HOUSING JUSTICE



## Policy & Advocacy Post

### **What's Happening: White House Targets Unhoused People with Removal through Military Force**

Following the [recent Executive Order](#) that targets unhoused people by expanding the use of law enforcement, incarceration, and forced institutionalization as a response to homelessness, last week the Trump Administration announced a militarized takeover of Washington, D.C. Here's what we know:

- This is part of an authoritarian takeover aimed to further criminalize people experiencing homelessness by raiding encampments and forcing residents to choose between shelter, relocating, or being arrested.
- Late last week, [the Administration instructed federal and local law enforcement](#) to begin inhumane encampment raids across the District.
- While the District stood up additional emergency shelter beds without support from the federal government, there are still not enough beds for the nearly 900 people experiencing homelessness who live there.
- While these events are unfolding in D.C., the White House signaled it is exploring replicating similar takeovers and targeting of unhoused people in other cities, like Chicago, Los Angeles, Baltimore, and more.
- Advocates anticipate these actions in D.C. to continue and are encouraging communities across the country to begin planning now for if and when similar directives are given in other cities and jurisdictions.

We must remain clear: **this is about advancing an authoritarian agenda and the disappearing of unhoused people**, not humane and dignified solutions to homelessness. It is a concerted effort that builds on harmful, ongoing rhetoric and actions to intentionally target Black, Indigenous, Brown, queer, disabled, and migrant communities the most.

**Join Funders Together and Fund for Housing and Opportunity for our [next policy call on Wednesday, September 10 at 2:00pm ET / 11:00am PT](#)** as we continue our discussion around criminalization of unhoused people, its related implications for housing justice efforts and intersecting issues like disability and immigrant rights, and what philanthropy needs to do in this moment.

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## **Actions for Philanthropy**

### **Philanthropic Mobilization**

- Fund and participate in scenario planning among funder peers and community partners to create a proactive strategy for if and when federal directives on homelessness come to your community or state.
- Use your local funder networks to coordinate rapid response, create pooled funds, and amplify grassroots leadership in response to anticipated encampment raids. For example, in D.C., the Greater Washington Community Foundation's [The Partnership to End Homelessness fund](#) serves as a local model.
- Organize local philanthropy from across issue areas—such as immigration, disability justice, democracy, health justice, etc.—to coordinate how to move resources and other supports to community partners for meaningful cross-collaboration.

### **State & Local Resourcing**

- Work with community partners to identify and resource safe spaces and relocation plans for at-risk residents, while assessing the vulnerabilities on federal land.
- Contribute to or create a local response fund that supports legal support, communications strategy and implementation, and organizing infrastructure.
- Make the case to your foundation leadership to increase your grantmaking for the foreseeable future and make funds available through multi-year, unrestricted grants with minimal application and reporting processes. [Funders Together can provide assistance](#) in navigating these conversations with your leadership.

## Policy & Advocacy

- Encourage your foundation leadership, boards and trustees to use their personal influence with policy leaders to demand an immediate end to the militarized takeover of Washington, D.C.
- If you are a public foundation or United Way, identify and resource local organizers and activists to champion proactive legislation, such as the [Gloria Johnson Act template legislation](#), and demand that local and state policymakers protect unhoused community members.
- Educate local and state policymakers on the [impact harmful policies and ineffective practices](#) have on our communities. Lift up real solutions that government funding should prioritize, such as services and outreach rooted in harm reduction, housing that people can afford, and accessible healthcare.

## Communications

- Share [Know Your Right guidance](#) with your grantee partners who can reach unhoused neighbors.
- Support campaigns like [Housing Not Handcuffs](#) that counter harmful rhetoric and [provide resources](#) for service providers and unhoused people.
- Share communications guidance with grantee partners— for example, highlighting the cost of militarized takeovers compared to investing in housing—to push the press to start asking officials about the financial and moral costs of these attacks. This reframes the conversation around the choices elected leaders are making: spending on expensive, ineffective, and cruel raids instead of housing and healthcare.

## Litigation & Legal Strategy

- Fund integrated strategies that combine legal advocacy with community organizing.
- Invest in local and national capacity-building legal hubs that can train and mobilize attorneys quickly.
- Resource legal observers to be present at encampment raids to document for accountability and safety.

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## Policy & Advocacy Resources

### Funders Together for Housing Justice:

- [Federal Administration Action Resources for Philanthropy](#)
- [Funders Together for Housing Justice Condemns the Trump Administration Executive Order Criminalizing Homelessness and Mental Illness](#)
- [Learning Recap: Rapid Response Funder Call: White House Executive Order on Forced Treatment and Incarceration to Address Homelessness](#)

### **Alliance for Housing Justice:**

- [Trump's Attack on D.C.: Banishment is Not a Solution to Homelessness](#)

### **Greater Washington Community Foundation:**

- [Stand with DC: Defending Our Community's Right to Self-Governance](#)
- [The Partnership to End Homelessness](#)

### **iF, A Foundation for Radical Possibility**

- [D.C.'s Federal Takeover Is Not About Safety. It's Anti-Black Authoritarianism](#)

### **National Alliance to End Homelessness**

- [Statement on White House Announcement on Crime and Homelessness in the Nation's Capital](#)

### **National Homelessness Law Center:**

- [Homeless residents forcibly displaced and property destroyed as Trump increases control of D.C.](#)
- [Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign](#)

### **In the News:**

- [Federal agents gather in DC to enforce Trump-directed crackdown on homeless encampments](#) (CNN)
- [Encampment Updates: Encampment clearings begin after Trump orders federal takeover of MPD](#) (Street Sense Media)

Funders Together for Housing Justice is always here to answer questions or provide additional though-partnership as it relates to this or other

policy developments and opportunities. Please feel free to reach out at any time.

In Partnership,

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