Be advised that the Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting scheduled for tonight at 6 pm will be fully remote pursuant to the governor's continuation of the state disaster emergency as set forth in Executive Order 11, and its successors, through July 14, 2022. This was announced late yesterday afternoon and can be found at the following link:


** Please refer to the second page of this agenda to learn how to participate either by written comment or joining the meeting to speak **

Agenda Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Voting Item</th>
<th>Presenter</th>
<th>Time Start</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1) Call to Order/Agenda Review</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2) Public Comment *</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>6:05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3) Announcements, Updates, Reports</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a) City Economic Development – Update</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Tom Knipe, Deputy Director for Economic Development</td>
<td>20 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4) Review and Approval of Minutes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>a) May 2022</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>5 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6) Adjournment</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>All</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

If you have a disability and require accommodations in order to fully participate, please contact the City Clerk at 274-6570 by 12:00 noon on Tuesday, June 14, 2022.
To participate in or view the meeting:

**Register to Speak at the Meeting via Zoom**

A link will be opened on the [Committee Webpage](#) until 3:00 p.m. the day of the meeting for people to register to speak at the beginning of the meeting. After the link is closed, an e-mail will be distributed with the meeting link to the registered speakers. The first hour of the meeting will be dedicated to public speaking. Based on the total number of speakers, speaking times may be adjusted to fit within the public comment period. Remote speakers may use video or telephone to participate.

**Email Common Council Your Comments**

Written comments can be submitted to Common Council using this form: [PEDC Public Comment Form](#) Comments should be submitted no later than 5:00 pm the day before the meeting in order to give Committee members time to review them. Comments received after 5:00 pm will be saved for consideration at the next meeting.

**Watch the meeting Live**

A live stream of the meeting is available on the City’s YouTube Channel: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7RtJN1P_RFaFW2lVCnTrDg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7RtJN1P_RFaFW2lVCnTrDg)

Meetings are also archived on this site for on-demand viewings. The agenda and written materials will be posted on the [City’s Agenda Center](#) prior to the meeting. Following the meeting, a recording of the proceedings will be posted on the [City’s YouTube Channel](#)
Chair Laura Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1) Call to Order/Agenda Review

Chair Lewis read into the record a letter to which she sent to the Mayor of Buffalo.

No changes were made to the agenda.

2) Public Comment

Chair Lewis reminded all that comments are limited to three (3) minutes.

Zach Winn, 229 South Geneva Street, spoke on the proposed encampments. He had a chance to read over the plan for dealing with the illegal homeless encampments. He posed the questions: if drugs will be allowed on site, what options will be available to people who wish to get or remain clean and sober?
Will there be two separate camps? If so, how will that affect the viability of the project? If drugs are allowed on site, what will prevent drug dealers from competing to deal drugs to the occupants of the camps?

With crime surrounding drug addiction primarily involves property crime and the violence between rival drug dealers for the opportunity to deal those drugs. He is curious if the viability of providing free or low-cost drugs to drug addicts in a controlled environment, specifically ones not contaminated with fentanyl, could break the economic life cycle of drug addiction and rob the black market of the cash which fuels not only the day-to-day life of an addict but also is such a lucrative trade for drug dealers. We know there are federal laws that would prevent the distribution of some substances to people who do not have legitimate medical need. He believes it would be possible to classify long-term opiate addiction as a medical condition and treat it as such. Also consider the fact that there are meth addicts who are occupying these camps, and they are not particularly known for their rational thinking or ability to be corralled into a controlled environment.

He could see this project leading to other issues if not handled properly. He encouraged the committee to look at the work of a gentleman named Michael Shellenberger. He is running for governor of California and he's examined the similar situation in San Francisco. He suggested to be very cautious moving forward to make sure there aren't unintended side effects to this plan.

Alderman Brock thanked Zach for his comments and asked for a hard copy of his comments due to the amount that was spoken.

3) Special Order of Business

a) Public Hearing – 2022 HUD Action Plan

Alderman Mehler moved to open the public hearing; seconded by Alderman Gearhart. Carried Unanimously.

No one from the public was present to speak.

Alderman Mehler moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Alderman Gearhart. Carried Unanimously.

b) Public Hearing – East Hill Fire Station

Alderman Mehler moved to open the public hearing; seconded by Alderman Gearhart. Carried 4-0.

No one from the public was present to speak.
Alderperson Mehler moved to close the public hearing; seconded by Alderperson Gearhart. Carried 4-0.

4) Announcements, Updates, Reports

a) Presentation – West End Update – Eric Hathaway

The PowerPoint presentation is included with these minutes in addition to the discussion below.

Eric stated he was here several months ago regarding the West End. There were a lot of concerns presented at that time. He provided the developments since then. The project must have the approval from the Department of Transportation (DOT) as well as the City. Currently there is two-way access on Buffalo Street. DOT would like to make the block between Fulton and Meadow Streets one way. More analysis was done, and it was found that by making Buffalo Street one way in that above mentioned block would just move the problem elsewhere. DOT also proposed a change to in the intersection of Buffalo Street and Taughannock Boulevard. The City along with their consultant, Stantec, came up with a recommended summary.

Three things were considered of high importance. DOT is currently reviewing the recommendations. Eric continued with their recommendations near the Purity site area.

Mayor Lewis asked whether there is a timeline that is being followed.

Eric responded that the DOT wants to finish their projects. He does not think the DOT will take too long.

b) Presentation – Tompkins County Homeless Needs Assessment – Liddy Bargar

Liddy Bargar handed off the presentation to Simone Gatson who went through the slides provided in the agenda packet and included with these minutes.

Simone then passed it back to Liddy Bargar to present their recommendations also outlined in the agenda packet and included with these minutes.

The full report is also available at the following link which was also provided on the agenda:
Mayor Lewis thanked both Liddy and Simone for their thorough presentation. She asked if there are any new units in the pipeline.

Liddy responded that there are a few projects being worked on currently.

Mayor Lewis asked for information on the vouchers.

Liddy stated that there are more people who are available to receive these vouchers.

Mayor Lewis stated that what is needed is a navigator to guide people through the process and all the red tape.

Alderperson Brown thanked Liddy and Simone for their informational presentation. It is clear how homelessness hits some individuals in our community. Housing costs are very high in Ithaca. How do we get people to a place that they can afford? She doesn’t want people to just survive but thrive.

Simone responded about the wrap around services that are available and are seeing great success in this program.

Mayor Lewis stated that the presentation was very valuable and thanked both Liddy and Simone for the work they continue to do.

5) Action Items (Voting to send onto Council

a) 2022 HUD Action Plan

Mayor Lewis read the revised resolution provided late to the group.

Anisa Mendizabal explained that text and number changes in the resolution were changed since the resolution was created.

Alderperson Brown stated she is unclear about this process. After listening to Liddy and Simone and HUD, it’s unclear why there is still the number of homeless individuals and yet the amount of funds available by HUD.

Alderperson Gearhart spoke as the new liaison for the IURA. This is a very heavy lift to do what they do. It is important for us to know what their needs are and what else can be done to fund.
WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca (City) is eligible to receive an annual formula allocation of funds to address community development needs through the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Entitlement program from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program and the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) program funding sources, and

WHEREAS, the City has contracted with the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (IURA) to administer, implement and monitor the City’s HUD Entitlement program in compliance with all applicable regulations, and

WHEREAS, on an annual basis an Action Plan must be submitted to HUD to access HUD Entitlement program funding allocated to the City, and

WHEREAS, the 2022 Action Plan identifies a specific list of budgeted community development activities to be funded from the 2022 HUD Entitlement program allocation and associated funds administered by the IURA, and

WHEREAS, as of May 12, 2022, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) had not officially notified Entitlement Communities of 2022 CDBG or HOME allocations, and

WHEREAS, funding available to be allocated through the 2022 Action Plan funding process was anticipated to include the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$668,000.00</td>
<td>CDBG 2022 allocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$120,000.00</td>
<td>CDBG 2022 projected Program Income</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$601.96</td>
<td>CDBG recaptured/unallocated funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$330,000.00</td>
<td>HOME 2022 allocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$13,515.40</td>
<td>HOME recaptured/unallocated funds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>$1,132,117.36</strong></td>
<td>Total, and</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

WHEREAS, on May 17, 2022, HUD notified the City of Ithaca of its 2022 HUD Entitlement Awards, as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Amount</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$633,333.00</td>
<td>CDBG 2022 actual allocation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$316,825.00</td>
<td>HOME 2022 actual allocation,</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

resulting in a revised total amount available of **$1,084,275.36**, and
WHEREAS, the IURA Recommended Action Plan includes contingencies to accommodate the possibility that actual HUD allocations may differ than the anticipated allocations, specifically:

Should the City’s 2022 HOME allocation be greater than anticipated, funding for the following recommended activities will be increased:

1. Homeowner Rehabilitation Project, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS);
2. Sears Street Development Project, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS).

Should the City’s 2022 HOME allocation be less than anticipated, funding for the following recommended activities will be decreased according to two priorities, in the following order:

1. Homeowner Rehabilitation Project, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS) — Deduct up to $24,375.00; and any remaining HOME allocation decrease would be deducted from:
2. Sears Street Development Project, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services (INHS).

Should the City’s 2022 CDBG allocation be greater than anticipated, funding for the following recommended activities will be increased:

1. Bus Stops & Shelters, Tompkins Consolidated Area Transit, Inc. (TCAT) — Funding for fully functional component(s); but not less than $10,000.00;
2. GIAC Computer Lab, Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Inc. (GIAC, Inc.) — Full funding for additional computer station (subject to Public Services cap);

Should the City’s 2022 CDBG allocation be less than anticipated, funding for the following recommended activities will be decreased according to three priorities, in the following order:

1. Catholic Charities Building, Ithaca Neighborhood Housing Services, Inc. (INHS) — Deduct 85% of the project funding decrease from this project;
2. Latino Multicultural Center, No Más Lágrimas — Deduct up to $1,400.00 of the project funding decrease from this project;
3. GIAC Computer Lab, Greater Ithaca Activities Center, Inc. (GIAC) — $1,896.00/station — Deduct any further project funding decrease from this project.
WHEREAS, the IURA used an open and competitive project selection process for development of the 2022 Action Plan in accordance with the City of Ithaca’s Citizen Participation Plan, and

WHEREAS, a Public Hearing on the draft Action Plan was held on May 18, 2022; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the Common Council hereby adopts City’s 2022 HUD Entitlement Annual Action Plan, including the attached summary table titled “IURA Recommended Draft 2022 Action Plan, City of Ithaca, NY,” dated March 24th, 2022, and revised on May 18th, 2022, for allocation of the City’s 2022 HUD Entitlement Program award along with associated funds listed above, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Urban Renewal Plan shall be amended to include activities funded in the adopted 2022 Action Plan.

b) East Hill Fire Station Relocation – Authorize Transfer of Property and Assignment of Option to IURA

East Hill Fire Station Relocation - Authorize Transfer of Property and Assignment of Option to IURA

Moved by Mayor Lewis; seconded by Alderperson Gearhart. Carried unanimously. WHEREAS, the City of Ithaca Common Council (“Common Council”) desires to relocate the East Hill Fire Station, also known as Fire Station #2, currently located at 309 College Avenue, and

WHEREAS, in connection with the relocation and to raise funds for the construction of the new station, the City intends to sell the existing 309 College Avenue parcel, which will be decommissioned as a fire station following the relocation, and

WHEREAS, the City issued Requests For Expressions of Interest (“RFEI”) regarding the 309 College Avenue site on July 12, 2018, and February 5, 2021, and

WHEREAS, the City received and reviewed responses submitted to the RFEIs, and

WHEREAS, 311 CA Associates, LLC (“Developer”) expressed interest through the RFEI process in acquiring the existing 309 College Avenue site in exchange for cash consideration and an alternative site for the East Hill Fire Station, and
WHEREAS, the City entered into an option agreement with Developer dated February 22, 2022 (“Option Agreement”) that permits, but does not require, the City to sell 309 College Avenue to Developer in exchange for two parcels located at 403 Elmwood Avenue and 408 Dryden Road in addition to cash consideration of $5.1 million dollars to be paid to the City on the terms contained within the Option Agreement, and

WHEREAS, Section 507 of General Municipal Law authorizes disposition of real property without auction or sealed bid via an urban renewal process, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council requests the Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency (“IURA”) review the terms of the proposed Option Agreement and structure a proposed disposition agreement to relocate the East Hill Fire Station; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Acting Mayor, subject to review by the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to (1) transfer the 309 College Avenue site to IURA via a City/IURA option agreement, (2) assign the Option Agreement to IURA, and (3) execute any other such documents as may be necessary to enable IURA to undertake an urban renewal procedure that authorizes a negotiated acquisition and sales agreement, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the option with the Developer shall not be exercised by IURA on behalf of the City, nor shall IURA authorize the transfer of the 309 College Avenue parcel, without further approval of the Common Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that IURA is authorized and requested to act on behalf of the City with respect to negotiating and structuring the acquisition and sale processes contemplated above, subject to final approval of the Common Council, and be it further

RESOLVED, that IURA shall be reimbursed for all reasonable costs incurred to structure the proposed acquisition and sale agreement.
c) Proposed Policy Regarding Encampments on City Property

Proposed Policy Regarding Encampments on City Property

Moved by Chair Lewis; seconded by Alderperson Mehler. Carried unanimously.

WHEREAS, former Mayor Myrick requested Ithaca Urban Renewal Agency staff develop a draft policy regarding encampments on city property for consideration by Common Council, and

WHEREAS, an initial draft was developed and presented for input from the Ithaca/Tompkins County Continuum of Care, community outreach workers, and the TIDES working group, and

WHEREAS, several modifications have been incorporated into the final proposed policy, and

WHEREAS, Common Council procedures allow for reports to be “accepted,” “endorsed,” or “adopted,” now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council for the City of Ithaca hereby accepts the “Proposed Policy Regarding Encampments on City Property,” dated May 2022.

6) Review and Approval of Minutes

a) No minutes to approve

7) Adjournment

Moved by Alderperson Mehler; seconded by Alderperson Gearhart. Carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.
Ithaca West End Analysis Status Update
May 18, 2022
Development Sites and Study Area
Considerations:
1. DOT Ownership/Standards
2. Impact of Development on Safety/Operation
3. City Goals
4. Break In Access
5. DOT Striping Project
Existing Configuration
(Buffalo Street, Fulton to Meadow)
DOT Proposed Configuration
(Buffalo Street, Fulton to Meadow)
Buffalo St EB Traffic Pattern Changes
PM – Alt 1

- EB One-Way limits
- Impacted Intersection
- Not Studied
PM – ALT 1: 95th Percentile Queueing (Buffalo Street One-Way EB Conversion)

95th Percentile Queue (FT)

Available Link Distance (FT)

260 (240)
460 (360)
660 (545)
• Buffalo and Taughannock – Existing Configuration
• Buffalo and Taughannock – DOT Proposed Configuration
Safety Recommendations Summary

- Improve Signal Head Visibility
- Improve RR warning/signage and pre-empt (Fulton)
- Provide adequate and consistent signal head offset
- Improve Advanced Lane Use Signage
- Improve Wayfinding (State Routes/destinations)
- Reinforce trail connections
- Increase pedestrian visibility/presence at intersections
- Improve speed transition for SB Meadow-Fulton
Homeless and Housing Needs Assessment: Findings and Recommendations
Agenda

Our discussion points for today

01 Definitions and Methodology

02 Data

03 Recommendations

04 Questions?
The **Mission** of our Continuum of Care

Ithaca/Tompkins CoC NY-510 is a local community planning network of public, private, and non-profit partners with the mission of making homelessness rare, brief, and one-time in Tompkins County.

Through this work, we:

**Organize a community-wide effort to prevent and end homelessness**

**Provide funding and support to non-profit agencies**

**Promote access to supportive services and housing**
How do we define homelessness?

In our Continuum of Care, we follow HUD’s definition of literal homeless which when an individual is sleeping in a place not meant for human habitation (outside, in a car, etc.) or in our emergency shelter through DSS. Individuals who are fleeing domestic violence are also considered homeless.

How do we define chronic homelessness?

An individual who has a disabling condition and has been continuously homeless for 1) at least 12 months or 2) had at least 4 occasions of homelessness totaling 12 months.

How do we define permanent housing?

Private or supportive housing where tenants can live indefinitely.

How do we define supportive housing?

Affordable housing where the tenants have access to support services in addition to housing.
Methodology

Where did we find this data?

Deep data dive

- Point in Time Count (PIT Count)
- Housing Inventory Count (HIC)
- Annual Performance Report (APR)
- System Performance Measures (SPM)
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)
- Other assessments

Compared data to 9 CoCs: those surrounding Tompkins County, those with similar population sizes, and those with similar geographic make up.

Qualitative interviews with stakeholders (N=11) and people with lived experience (N=18)
# Primary Data Observations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Measure 1</th>
<th>Length of Stay</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Average length of stay in our emergency shelter has increased.</strong> For FY2020, the average length of stay for all households was 91 days.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Measure 2</th>
<th>Returns to homelessness</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Returns to homelessness in NY-510 are the highest of our comparable CoCs.</strong> 32% of individuals who exited to permanent destinations returned to homelessness within 24 months.</td>
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<tr>
<th>Measure 3</th>
<th>First Time Homeless and Chronic Homelessness</th>
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<td><strong>Fewer first-time homeless, more chronically homeless.</strong> 45.1% of our homeless population in 2020 were chronically homeless individuals.</td>
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</table>
We are seeing a bottleneck effect across our supportive housing programs, and low-cost housing in Tompkins County generally.

Low vacancy rates across all levels of affordable housing and high rent costs are a fundamental barrier in moving people from homelessness to housing.

Interviews with providers across our CoC reveal that even with increased access to subsidies, individuals experiencing homelessness can't find housing to move into.

2021 SNAPSHOT: 122 PEOPLE, 22 BEDS
Returns to Homelessness

Percent of returns to homelessness in 24 months, 2019 and 2020
What is causing these trends?

Our low-cost housing stock is critically low.

Individuals experiencing homelessness are having trouble both accessing and maintaining housing and services.

Projects funded through our CoC are constrained in their capacity to adequately serve our homeless population.
Other data observations

**Considerations for couch-surfers**

Couch surfers represent a sizeable population at high risk for homelessness and are not served or counted by our CoC despite the likelihood that they will experience continued homelessness.

Diversion efforts in our CoC require individuals to double up if they have somewhere to do so, but there are no targeted outreach efforts to serve this population before they need emergency shelter.

**Racial Disparities**

Black and African-American and Hispanic/Latino households are disproportionately represented in our homeless population.

Black and African-American adults in particular were more likely to return to homelessness than households led by white adults.

**Considerations for youth**

Interviewed youth indicated that they have a lack of knowledge of resources and are resistant to utilizing the emergency shelter, leading them to double up with friends or other non-relatives.
## Recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Recommendations</th>
<th>Reason</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>01</td>
<td>Create more Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)</td>
<td>PSH has proven effective at disrupting the cycle of homelessness.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>02</td>
<td>Build more affordable housing facilities, especially SRO (single room occupancy) units.</td>
<td>More low-cost housing and supportive housing units are essential for us to have a functioning Continuum of Care.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>03</td>
<td>Fund enhanced housing navigation support.</td>
<td>The process for accessing and keeping subsidies, as well as navigating DSS requirements, can be difficult for some individuals to manage.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>04</td>
<td>Heighten outreach to homeless youth, people of color, and couch surfers.</td>
<td>Each population has specific needs that are not adequately supported by our current safety net.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>05</td>
<td>Expand the capacity of our Emergency Shelter.</td>
<td>The emergency shelter in Tompkins County is insufficiently sized for the volume of need.</td>
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Recommendation 1: Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

What is PSH and how does it work?

Permanent Supportive Housing is subsidized housing with no end date that supports formerly homeless individuals with monthly case management.

PSH disrupts the cycle of homelessness by introducing beds into our CoC and offering people the supports they need to reunify with loved ones and find gainful employment.

What does the data say?

Households leaving to temporary destinations were much more likely to return to homelessness (35%) than those exiting to permanent destinations.

While this trend held true across every group, it was most pronounced for Black and African-American Households.

Why do we recommend building more PSH?

Building more PSH addresses all three primary findings as it is creating available beds that are accessible and adequate to meet the needs of our homeless population. It also helps us to meet our racial equity goals by providing a solution that works for Black and African-American households.
Recommendation 2: Other low-cost housing, especially SROs.

What is low-cost housing and how will it impact homelessness?

Low-cost housing adds beds into our housing market where people can use the subsidies they acquire through Rapid Rehousing programs.

SROs, or Single Room Occupancy units are especially important in addressing both affordability and housing needs for homeless individuals, specifically adult-only households who have poorer outcomes in our CoC.

What does the data say?

The 2016 Housing Strategy for Tompkins County proposed the development of 100 Single Room Only (SRO) beds reserved for households earning under 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI). As of the 2020 Housing Snapshot, only 4 SRO beds had been developed.

Why do we recommend building more low-cost housing?

Low-cost housing addresses the bottleneck effect, and increases the availability of housing. SRO units also address this need and specifically target the unique needs of our adult-only households.
Recommendation 3: Enhanced Housing Navigation

What is "enhanced housing navigation"?

Enhanced housing navigators would provide intensive case management, helping homeless individuals navigate the process of getting into shelter, seeking out services, and ultimately entering and sustaining permanent housing.

What does the data say?

Both stakeholders and interview participants mentioned agency rules and requirements, and the difficulty of navigating the social services system, as key reasons people live in the encampment instead of going to the emergency shelter.

All of the interviewed individuals said they wanted to get into housing, but felt they did not have the options and support necessary, or they were unable or unwilling to navigate the rules and requirements to do so.

Why do we recommend having more enhanced housing navigators?

Based on qualitative interviews, navigating the system to attain housing support is challenging, especially for homeless individuals. Having intentional, funded navigator positions may help to address chronic homelessness in our community.
One stakeholder said,

“I see Tompkins County as being very service rich. There are a lot of opportunities to get services. The barrier is more a fear or reluctance to access services because of distrust with the system. There is a difficulty of accessing services without an advocate. It’s so decentralized. You have to go to a different place for different things - clothing, food, health care, to apply for services, and you’re constantly jumping through hoops. It causes frustration and people give up. It’s easy for services to say ‘they didn’t follow through,’ but it’s literally impossible. Either have one location where service providers can be in one space, or have a case manager that can either transport and do everything from A to Z to help someone through whole process. Doing it alone is completely overwhelming and next to impossible.”
Recommendation 4: Heighten outreach to homeless youth, people of color, and couch-surfers.

What does targeted outreach accomplish?

There is potentially a large population of people who are not being effectively served by the current homeless and housing system.

Homeless youth and people of color are more likely to double up or couch-surf than utilize the emergency shelter. Targeted outreach could help us divert people from homelessness into permanent housing and other supportive resources before they enter our shelter.

What does the data say?

Stakeholders frequently remarked on the group of homeless people relying on couch-surfing for shelter and suggested that the group is typically young and/or people of color.

Why do we recommend targeted outreach?

Although our current system implicitly requires couch-surfing, there are little to no funded diversion efforts to keep this population from becoming homeless. Targeted outreach addresses the accessibility of services for a large and growing number of people at-risk of homelessness.
Recommendation 5: Expand the capacity of our Emergency Shelter

What does the data say?

St. John’s Community Services provides 20 beds in their facility, and the Advocacy Center has 9 emergency beds. Both facilities are constantly at or past capacity, requiring the use of about 60 overflow beds in local hotels and motels.
Recommendation 5: Expand the capacity of our Emergency Shelter
(continued)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>What does expanding shelter capacity do?</th>
<th>Why do we recommend expanding shelter capacity?</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Increasing the number of beds in our emergency shelter as well as the number of staff would help to increase client contact, enhancing service delivery and case management. This would help mitigate the increased length of stay that we have seen in recent years and allow more focused movement into permanent housing.</td>
<td>The emergency shelter in Tompkins County is insufficiently sized to meet the needs of our unhoused population. Increasing capacity allows for more consistent, site-based case management and could contribute to better outcomes for individuals utilizing the shelter.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Thank you!