

Executive Summary

The homeless crisis is at an all-time high, with an estimated 22,087 individuals experiencing homelessness throughout the year in Alameda County and at least 6,000 individuals in the City of Oakland. Of that population, many are unsheltered and living on the streets of Oakland in unsafe and unsanitary conditions, at risk of further displacement, disease, and violence; even more are living in precarious housing conditions—in their cars, on the couches of friends and family and in overcrowded apartments. The latter are among a growing population of newly homeless, working class individuals that have been displaced as a result of the Bay Area housing crisis.

The **Homes for All** working group—a diverse convening of advocates, organizers, and unhoused individuals—undertook a community planning process, held listening sessions with unhoused members of the community, and conducted research on the strategies used to address homelessness across six other cities. Our analysis of Oakland's unhoused community found that:

- 1) *Policymakers have overestimated the size of the chronically homeless and underestimated the size of the working class, newly homeless, by relying on the point-in-time-count and the narrow, federal definition of homelessness.*
- 2) *Working class, newly homeless households are underserved by traditional homeless service providers.*
- 3) *The unhoused community needs access to extremely low-income and no-income housing, in addition to workforce and personal development services.*
- 4) *Non-traditional housing development for extremely low-income and no-income households is within the reach of Oakland.*
- 5) *Policymakers must engage directly with the unhoused community and be responsive to their needs and priorities.*

Our Proposed Solution → A plan to house Oakland's unhoused that meets the need of the changing and growing unhoused population *at an appropriate scale* and a roadmap to overcome existing barriers to development.

- At least 1,000 housing units for 2,000 newly unhoused *and* high-need, chronically unhoused in tiny home villages, mobile homes, and conventional housing, costing an estimated \$61,500,000 to build.
- Existing barriers to development include a lack of: access to land, access to utilities infrastructure, human capital, funding for operations and construction, and support from housed community members.

To implement a housing plan that meets the financial and social needs of Oakland's unhoused community, we need the City's support of innovative housing solutions, exemptions from development restrictions, funding allocated towards extremely low-income and no-income households, the approval of the use of public land to develop these models, and community support. Actions we can take to overcome barriers to housing development are detailed on the next page.

Roadmap to Overcoming Barriers to Housing Development



ACCESS TO LAND

STRATEGY: Use public & private land for permanent housing

ACTION: Identify vacant plots of land, prioritize them based on community developed criteria and feasibility & advocate for approval



ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE

STRATEGY: Provide communities access to electricity and water infrastructure

ACTION: Allocate funding for installation and use emergency shelter ordinance to facilitate infrastructure access



HUMAN CAPITAL

STRATEGY: Support non-profit and grassroots organizations in serving unHoused community

ACTION: Allocate funding to build non-profit, service provider capacity & mobilize community groups



OVERCOME N.I.M.B.Y.

STRATEGY: Collaborate with housed neighbors and show how new housing will contribute to broader community

ACTION: Create opportunities for neighbors to donate & volunteer to build support among housed community



MONEY TO BUILD

STRATEGY: Seek funding for capital expenses for new housing

ACTION: Build partnerships with private investors and Bay Area business leaders for financial support



MONEY TO OPERATE

STRATEGY: Seek funding for operational expenses and supportive services in new housing

ACTION: Access County & City funding for supportive services for formerly incarcerated and mental health needs