



We have a crisis on our streets. Why aren't we acting like it?

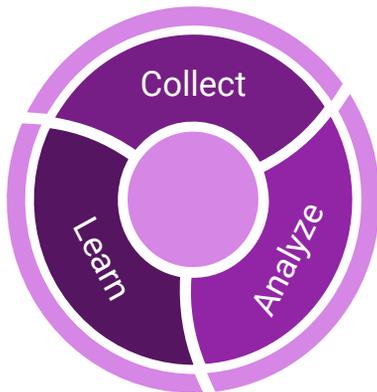
Homelessness continues to be San Francisco's most urgent problem. With San Francisco having already spent vast resources on homelessness for decades, it is clear that something is very broken in the City's response to this crisis. It is time for a new approach.

RescueSF is a citywide coalition of residents advocating for compassionate and effective solutions to homelessness in San Francisco. We are currently engaged with more than 45 neighborhood associations and community benefit districts across all eleven of the city's electoral districts. We are independent, non-ideological, and non-partisan.

We believe that if San Francisco's residents can unite their voices, we can break through the barriers that are unnecessarily prolonging the suffering of unhoused people on our streets. Homelessness is not just a problem of the Tenderloin, or the Bayview, or the Mission. It is a problem for all of San Francisco, and we need all residents to join together for our voices to be heard.

Interim Shelter

Permanent housing is the solution for homelessness, but the waiting line for housing cannot be on our streets. While ending homelessness will indeed take years, we can end street sleeping, today. We are promoting the use of cost-effective, interim shelter cabins to help people leave the streets when permanent housing is not available. As a result of our advocacy, the City has agreed to an interim shelter pilot site that will launch in early 2022. We are already working on next steps.



Data Management

The City needs to do a better job of collecting data, analyzing performance, and improving policy. RescueSF is organizing community workshops and providing input to the Department of Emergency Management on data management and organizational transformation. Improved data management practices will identify the City's data needs, facilitate program evaluation and learning, and achieve better results.



Substance Abuse

San Francisco's unhoused residents have significant behavioral health needs, but the city has a severe shortage of long-term treatment beds. To address this acute need for long-term residential treatment beds, the Salvation Army has proposed a project to build facilities with up to 1,700 beds on land that the Salvation Army already owns in San Francisco. RescueSF is organizing workshops and events to develop community support for the project.



Construction Costs

Adopting innovative approaches to building housing, such as flexible financing and modular construction, can significantly reduce the cost and duration of construction. To overcome political roadblocks to these innovations, we will collaborate with other stakeholders -- government representatives, business groups, and affordable housing developers -- to let City policy makers know that these proposed reforms have broad public support and should be adopted.

Regional Collaboration

San Francisco is not an island and cannot solve homelessness on its own. The City should actively collaborate with governments throughout the Bay Area to implement comprehensive regional solutions. RescueSF is working with other non-governmental groups to promote greater regional collaboration on solutions to homelessness.



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