



THE MONTANA COALITION TO
SOLVE HOMELESSNESS

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Mission

The Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness advocates for policies and resources to effectively and compassionately support people living without shelter in Montana. Everyone needs stable housing to be healthy and safe. Homeless service providers are a critical part of the plan to solve homelessness. Together we will continue to work with local programs, private partners, and the public sector to ensure that people living without housing in Montana are sheltered and on a path to housing stability.

Principles

The Montana Coalition to Solve Homelessness is a group of service providers, community partners, and other stakeholders working together to ensure that homeless services in Montana are robust, holistic, effective, and available statewide.

The following principles will guide this coalition:

Shelter Must Be Available

Everyone in Montana needs a home they can afford and keep, and safe temporary shelter is a critical part of moving people to permanent housing. With Montana's ever-growing housing crisis, the number of people living on the streets, in their cars, or on someone's couch is growing. This isn't the Montana we want. We can choose a different path by ensuring that everyone across the state who needs shelter has it.

Health is a Necessity for Stability

Homeless service providers are crucial in providing health care to those living unhoused in Montana. Once someone without permanent housing leaves a hospital or doctor, it falls to homeless providers and shelters to provide after-care and mental and emotional support. These services are often uncompensated and leave homeless providers searching for funding. This care is necessary to achieve even minimal stability. Public resources should help fund this care.

People Living Unhoused Deserve Dignity and Respect

Nearly 40% of people who are unhoused live with a mental health disorder, a substance use disorder, or both. As a state, we don't have enough addiction treatment or mental health care for those who need it, leading people into a cycle of crisis. It is essential that unhoused people suffering from trauma, mental illness, and addiction, all of which lead to erratic and sometimes unsafe behavior, have access to safe shelter and health care. Homeless providers do their best to treat their clients with respect, dignity, and compassion. To achieve our goal of solving homelessness, private and public partners must do the same.

Providers Know What Providers Need

Homeless service providers are the experts. They are on the ground, working with people living unhoused all day, addressing shelter, hunger, mental health, physical health, and safety needs. Providers act as case managers, housing navigators, and crisis response professionals. When policymakers make decisions about how and what services and resources are needed, providers should not only be at the table but should be leading the conversation.