



November 2025 Newsletter

Explore new training and resources from HHRC and our partners!

Building Understanding and Support: Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week



[Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week](#) takes place from November 16 to 20, 2025, encouraging communities nationwide to raise awareness about hunger and homelessness through educational, service, fundraising, and advocacy events. This annual program brings people together to draw attention to the problems of hunger and homelessness, with activities designed to inspire action and support for those experiencing housing and food insecurity. Service providers, community organizations, and advocates are encouraged to participate by hosting local events, registering their activities at hhweek.org, and engaging their communities in meaningful conversations about solutions.

Supporting Youth and Young Adults Experiencing Homelessness

November marks [National Runaway Prevention Month](#), offering an important opportunity to highlight the unique needs of youth and young adults experiencing homelessness. Unhoused young people often face complex challenges, including heightened risks related to behavioral health, exploitation, and disconnection from supportive adults. Providers can strengthen engagement by building trusting, youth-centered relationships, offering flexible service options, and using trauma-informed, developmentally appropriate approaches. HHRC offers [resources](#), [training](#), and [best practices](#) to help communities better support youth on their path to safety, stability, and long-term well-being.

Updated HHRC Resources

We've recently updated and re-released the following resources to ensure that the HHRC Community has access to up-to-date guidance to support your work.

- [Overdose Prevention Vending Machines: Considerations for Implementation](#)
- [Low-Barrier Shelter: Policies into Practice](#)



Overdose Prevention Vending Machines: Considerations for Implementation

Updated in October 2025

Overdose prevention vending machines help reduce overdose deaths and promote better health and wellness for people experiencing homelessness who have substance use disorders or co-occurring disorders. This fact sheet introduces the evidence-based overdose prevention vending machine model, describes how it supports overdose prevention strategies, outlines the supplies to include, highlights key considerations for implementation, and shares examples of successful vending machine implementation.

Introduction

Though recent data shows improving progress, overdose deaths remain at historically high levels in the United States, driven in part by increasingly lethal and unpredictable opioids. Overdose prevention includes taking steps to reduce the risk of overdose in the first place, responding to an overdose, and referring the person to services and supports after the overdose reversal.¹

Overdose prevention vending machines are stocked with crucial supplies intended to promote public health and reduce overdose deaths. They allow individuals to access these supplies for free or at a very low cost and are one tool in the broader continuum of prevention, treatment, and recovery care.

Why vending machines?

Vending machines are an innovative method of distributing life-saving naloxone and other health and wellness supplies. Strategically placed machines can complement existing overdose prevention and substance use treatment programs by providing these supplies outside typical business hours and potentially reaching a broader population.



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Overdose Prevention Vending Machines: Considerations for Implementation | 1



Identifying and Supporting Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments: Tips for Nonclinical Staff

FEBRUARY 2025

Introduction: Encampments are temporary structures or enclosed areas where people seek shelter but are not intended for long-term continuous occupancy. They may look like groupings of people sleeping outside with minimal cover, tents, or even sanctioned sites with temporary structures. Encampments develop in communities where there are not enough adequate housing options or where available options do not meet the community's housing needs.

Encampments provide people with a sense of community and belonging because they often feel that the larger community isolates and shuns them. They can offer safety, security, and a feeling that others are looking out for them. Encampments can also give people a sense of autonomy that contrasts with the strict rules found in many shelter spaces, such as curfews or not being allowed to enter with a partner or a pet. Encampments also provide opportunities for individuals to engage with service providers who do outreach, and they are often in locations that provide easier access to necessary resources.

However, encampments do not typically offer access to clean water and bathrooms, nor do they offer adequate protection against severe weather. People cannot safeguard their belongings and must often choose between protecting their personal belongings and accessing services such as food and health care. Community members and businesses may oppose the presence of encampments. This opposition can set up community conflicts as well as encounters with law enforcement and sweeps, or the forced displacement of people from a particular location, often coupled with the destruction of their shelters and removal of their belongings.



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Identifying and Supporting Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments | 1

Resource Rewind

Identifying and Supporting Behavioral Health Needs in Encampments: Tips for Nonclinical Staff

Outreach teams observe a wide range of behavioral health conditions. [This guide](#) provides tips for nonclinical staff when engaging with individuals living in encampment settings to support their behavioral health needs.

HHRC Job Board

Is your agency currently hiring for a position serving people experiencing or at risk of homelessness? Are you looking for your next role? We invite agencies to submit open job listings to be advertised on the HHRC website!

Positions **must relate** to supporting people experiencing or at risk of homelessness who have SMI, SUD, or COD. HHRC staff will review incoming listings for appropriateness and contact agencies with any questions.

HHRC does not charge fees to advertise or view job listings.

[View and Submit Open Roles](#)

Partner Resources

Resources for Disaster Response, Recovery, and Resilience: A Toolkit for Advocates and Community-Based Organizations

National Low Income Housing Coalition

This [toolkit](#) provides advocacy resources and template letters for community-based organizations working with disaster-impacted communities across all phases of disaster recovery—from securing major disaster declarations and FEMA rental assistance to implementing long-term recovery programs and building community resilience through mitigation projects.

Improving Outcomes for Young Adults and the Systems that Serve Them: A Playbook of Best Practices

American Public Human Services Association, Foster Club, and Youth Villages

The [playbook](#) provides a framework for advancing outcomes across key domains, including housing, health, education, employment, and permanency. The voices of young people who participate in the National Collaborative for Transition-Age Youth are included in the playbook and have shaped its structure, themes, and recommendations.

Behavioral Health Services and Older Adults: Coordinating Care Across Systems and the Lifespan

SAMHSA

This [SAMHSA report](#) examines how state mental health agencies can better coordinate behavioral health services for older adults with serious mental illness through partnerships with aging services, with case studies from five states demonstrating innovative approaches to care coordination, crisis services, and supporting older adults aging in place.

Partner Events

- [Webinar](#): Opioid Use Disorder (OUD): The Era of High Potency Synthetic Opioids and Deadly Adulterants
November 18, 12:00pm ET. New York State Public Health Association.
- [Webinar](#): Make Your Program Work: The Value of Cultural Adaptations for Latino-serving Substance Use Treatment Organizations
November 20, 1:00pm ET. Hispanic and Latino Behavioral Health Center of Excellence.
- [Webinar](#): Overdose Prevention and Response in Crisis Care
December 4, 1:00pm ET. 988 Crisis Systems Response Training and Technical Assistance Center.

- [Webinar](#): FUSE 20th Anniversary Symposium: Breaking the Cycle of Homelessness
December 9, 1:30pm ET. Corporation for Supportive Housing.

Please direct questions or concerns about HHRC training events

to: info@hhrctraining.org



The Homeless and Housing Resource Center is a program developed under a grant from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement, by SAMHSA/HHS, or the U.S. Government

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