

# Helping Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Obtain Identification Documents

February 3, 2022, 2:00 – 3:00 pm EST

People experiencing homelessness, loss of identifying documents creates a serious impediment to regaining self-sufficiency. Standard forms of ID are required for such common tasks as signing a lease, obtaining employment, accessing medical care, or enrolling children in school. Join us as we release the *Helping Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Obtain Identification Documents* toolkit (available in English and Spanish), which highlights practical tips designed to help providers assist program participants reclaim identification documents.

## Speakers:

1. **Sherri Downing**, Senior Program Manager, Advocates for Human Potential
2. **Rick Mitchell**, Executive Director, The Homeless ID Project
3. **Joel Weiss**, Volunteer, The Homeless ID Project

## Learning Objectives

1. Discuss the new *Helping Individuals Experiencing Homelessness Obtain Identification Documents* Toolkit.
2. Describe primary and secondary forms of identification needed to procure resources and support services.
3. Identify tools and best practices for accessing birth certificates, Social Security cards and state IDs.

## Presenter Bios

### Sherri Downing

**Sherri Downing**, a Senior Program Manager with Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP), has spent the past twenty years working on addressing issues of homelessness and housing. Prior to joining AHP, she served as the Coordinator of the Montana Governor's Council on Homelessness. With AHP, she served as the Deputy Director of SAMHSA's Homeless and Housing Resource Network (HHRN) contract. Currently she manages several projects for AHP, including providing technical assistance and training to nearly twenty state and territory PATH grantees, Virginia's statewide Permanent Supportive Housing Initiative, HUD Technical Assistance for Continuums of Care (CoCs) and ESG-CV, and with the National Institute for Medical Respite Centers under the National Health Care for the Homeless Coalition. She lives and works in Helena, Montana.

### Rick Mitchell

**Rick Mitchell**, Executive Director of the Homeless ID Project spent a career in the 'for profit' world, moving from one coast to the other and back again before settling in Phoenix. Following the lead of his wife, Sydney, Rick became involved with the work of the Homeless ID Project, first as a board member and later as Executive Director and CEO. Rick believes that lack a piece of paper or plastic should not be the thing that causes a person to remain in homelessness. He is committed to solving the problem in

Arizona and across America. Rick has a personal passion for this work based on values instilled in him long ago.

### Joel Weiss

**Joel Weiss**, a California native and a seeker of truth, has enjoyed a varied and colorful career including his current status as a real estate broker in Minnesota. His passion for helping those experiencing homelessness and solving the problems presented by lack of ability to prove one's identity, and the opportunity to do something about it, arose quite by accident. While attending a leadership seminar in Phoenix, Arizona, Joel met Chris Rich, a Homeless ID Project board member, who's explanation of the barriers existing for those lacking legal identification documents struck Joel as an urgent issue to be addressed. This led Joel to a tour of the Human Services Campus in Phoenix and a conversation with Homeless ID Project Executive Director Rick Mitchell and that conversation has grown into the National Conversation About IDs.