

# Insights on the Upcoming Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness

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# Presenters

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# What Is USICH?

## **The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness:**

- Coordinates the federal response to homelessness
- Develops and implements the Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness
- Creates partnerships between national, state, local, and private stakeholders; and helps them use resources efficiently
- The *only* federal agency with the sole mission of preventing and ending homelessness



# USICH Council

## Council Leadership:

- Chair – HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge
- Vice Chair – VA Secretary Denis McDonough

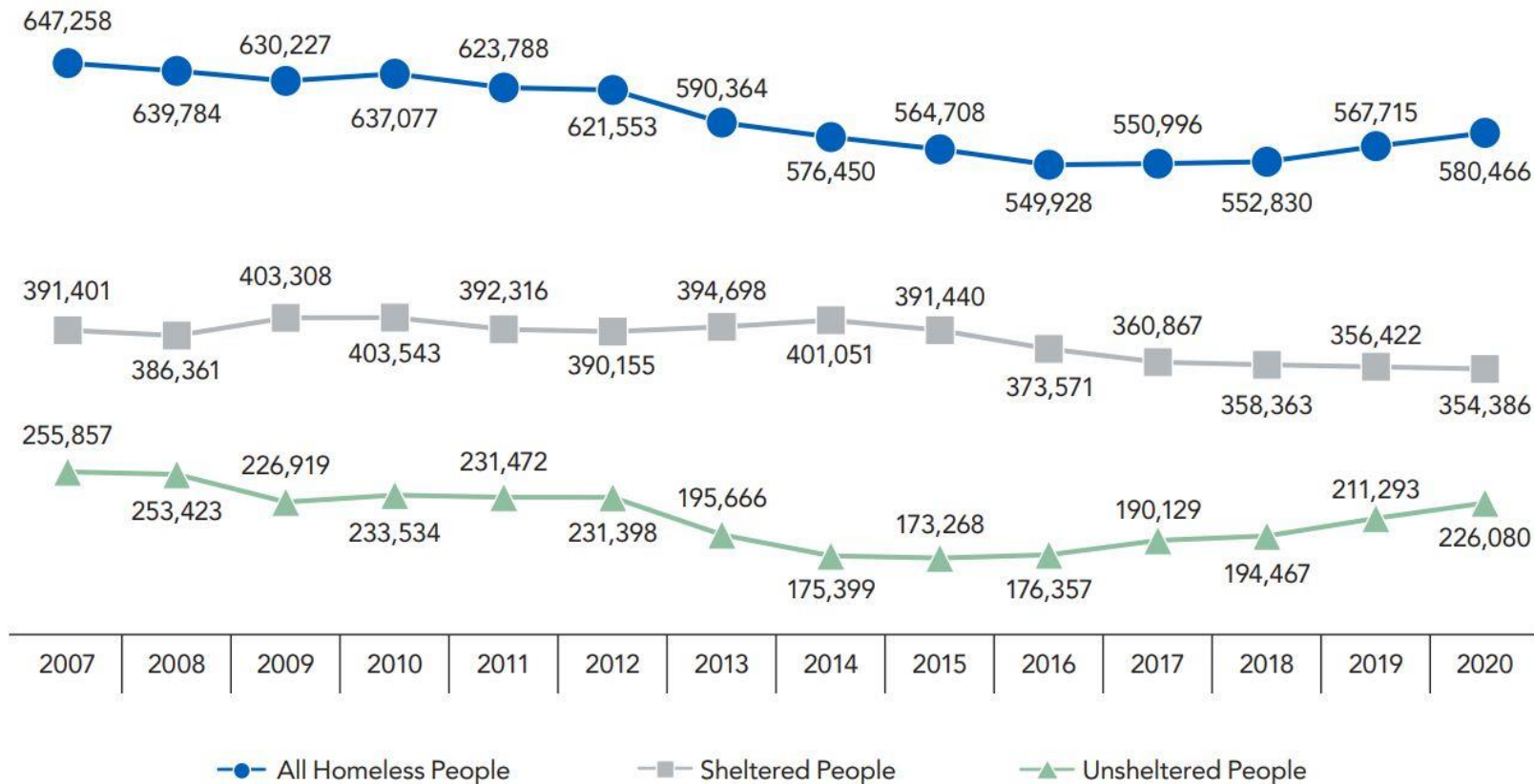
## Council members represent 19 federal agencies:





# Homelessness in the United States

**EXHIBIT 1.1: PIT Estimates of People Experiencing Homelessness**  
By Sheltered Status, 2007–2020



- 2.2% increase in overall homelessness between 2019 and 2020 (0.5% increase for Veterans)
- 0.6% decrease in sheltered homelessness (3.0% decrease for Veterans)
- 7.0% increase in unsheltered homelessness (6.0% increase for Veterans)



# A New Federal Strategic Plan to **Prevent** and **End** Homelessness



# What is a Federal Strategic Plan?

- Roadmap for **Federal action to prevent and end homelessness**
- Blueprint for **state and local action**





# How Did We Get Here?

- Listening to and learning **from you**
- Building upon **what's working**
- Addressing **areas in need of greater attention**







# Input Process: What did we ask?

- What should the federal government's top priorities be?
- What are the biggest barriers in your community?
- How can the federal government more effectively center racial equity and support equitable access and outcomes at the local level?
- What lessons have you learned during the COVID pandemic about how housing, health, and supportive services systems can best respond?
- Is there anything else you wish to add?



# Input Process: What did we hear?

- Lack of affordable housing
- Insufficient and mismatch of supports and services
- Need to focus on reducing inflow
- More guidance and flexibility
- Concern around false narratives and public perception, criminalization
- Impact of systemic racism, discrimination and caseworker bias
- More authentic and meaningful engagement



# Key Principle: Housing is a human right

*“If we are to fully achieve justice in housing, we must fully accept what that means. Justice in housing is everyone realizing the fundamental truth—housing is a human right.”*

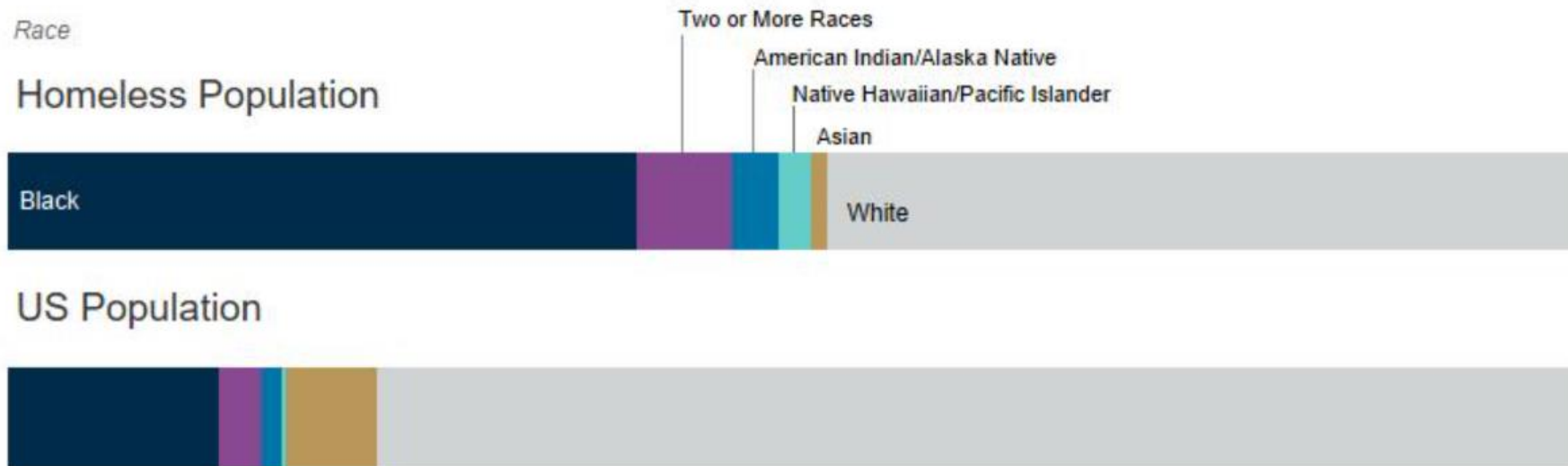
USICH Council Chair, Secretary Marcia Fudge



# Key Principle: Addressing Systemic Racism

## Most Minority Groups Make up a Larger Share of the Homeless Population than They Do of the General Population

Race and ethnicity of those experiencing homelessness compared with the general population







# Key Principle: Rely on the experts

For too long, we haven't had the right people at the right tables. For too long, people who have never experienced homelessness, including myself, have been in positions to make policy decisions "on behalf of" rather than "in partnership with" people who best understand the problem. **We need to create new, meaningful opportunities for people who have been homeless to design policies and programs, devise solutions, and allocate budgets at all levels of government.** And they should be paid for their expertise—not just with a gift card or a slice of pizza. We must move beyond tokenism to real power-sharing.

*Jeff Olivet, USICH Executive Director*







# Key Principle: Prevent Homelessness



- Reduce housing instability for persons exiting jail/prison, foster care, hospitals, etc.
- Increase access to community-based health
- Rebuild the social safety net to prevent housing crisis *before* it occurs



# Key Principle: Housing *First*, Not Housing *Only*





# Key Principle: Housing /S Health Care



**HOUSING IS HEALTH CARE**





# Key Principle: Housing Not Handcuffs



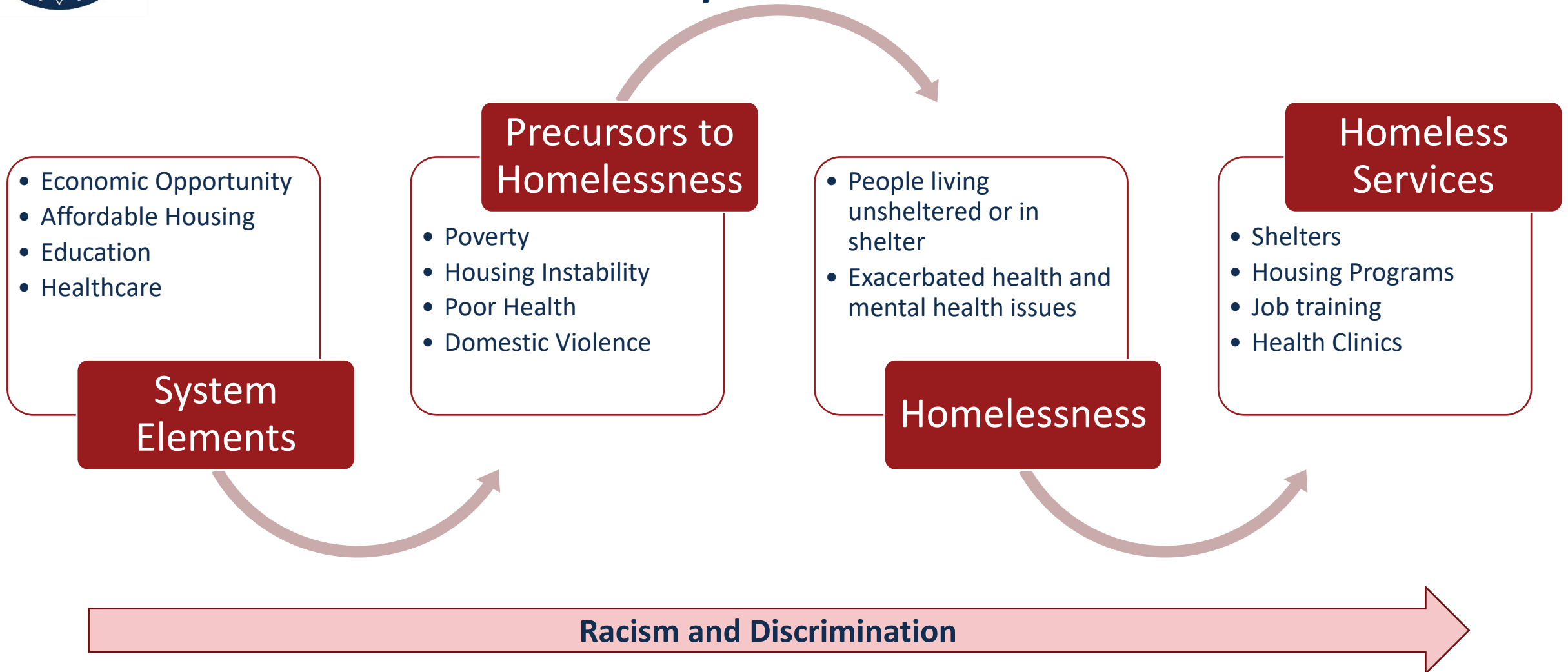


# Key Principle: No One-Size-Fits-All Approaches

- Each community is different: population, resources, context
- Different people have different needs: tailored approaches are needed
- Flexibility to support innovation



# Key Principle: Homelessness is a Systemic Problem







# What to Expect?

- The Plan will be comprised of key pillars and strategies that will lay groundwork for implementation
  - *Represents current and best thinking*
- Following release of plan:
  - USICH will work with key stakeholders—including persons with lived expertise—to develop tools and guidance
  - USICH Regional Coordinators will work with state and local leaders and organizations to support local and state adoption of the Plan
  - USICH will work with Federal partners to turn strategies into actions and will report on progress



# Anticipated Timeline

**Interagency Review**  
April to June 2022

**Plan Finalized**  
July 2022

**Council Adoption**  
August 2022

**Plan Released**  
September 2022



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