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WEARABLE TECHNOLOGY IN THE WORKPLACE

MODEL GUIDELINES FOR THE USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

CROSSING THE RUBICON

What the Proposed Rewrite of Uniform Guidance Means

CASE STUDY

End Street Homelessness Action Plan

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Interview with the City of Houston



Courtesy of Carlos Delgado

Please give us a brief overview of the program.

At the direction of Mayor John Whitmire and under the leadership of Michael C. Nichols, Director of City of Houston Housing and Community Development Department, Houston has launched and implemented an unprecedented collaboration to reach equilibrium and End Street Homelessness.

How long did it take to get the program up and running, from planning to completion?

The original homelessness response program called "The Way Home" was formed in 2012 and focused on providing permanent housing with wraparound services to individuals who were chronically homeless. More than 30,000 individuals who were experiencing homelessness were housed with that program. In 2024, newly elected Mayor John Whitmire launched the "End Street Homelessness Action Plan." This

Key Takeaways



Legal Strategy is Public Policy

Municipal attorneys are essential partners in designing and implementing lawful, effective homelessness interventions.



Ending Street Homelessness is Only One Step in Addressing the Larger Poverty Issues

- More than 40% of residents of Harris County do NOT have $400 available for an emergency
- Texas Refuses to Expand Medicaid
- Harris County Leads the Nation in Evictions



Cross-Sector Collaboration is Essential

City/County Housing Departments, Law Enforcement, Mental Health Providers, Philanthropy, and Nonprofits must work in lockstep to achieve lasting results.



Federal Policy Shapes Local Reality

The future of HUD funding, proposed federal legislation, and evolving regulatory frameworks will directly impact what cities can do, and how fast they can do it.

BOOT CAMP

ANATOMY OF A SHOOTING TRIAL: TRIAL PRACTICE 101

ETHICS 101

LAND USE 101

MUNICIPAL FINANCE 101

NEGOTIATIONS 101

ORDINANCE DRAFTING BEST PRACTICES: LAND USE

PERSONNEL 101

JOIN THE BOOTCAMP STUDY GROUP
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program focuses on helping people, especially those individuals with mental health and substance use disorders, who were living on the street, and established a facility where these individuals would be assessed, triaged, and obtain personalized treatment so that they can have independent and sustainable lives.

What obstacles did you run into along the way?

Houston faced three primary challenges:

(1) We never had a good answer for what to do with unsheltered people while they wait for housing placement, so they remain on the streets.

(2) We never had sufficient local, sustainable, flexible funding and have relied primarily on federal grants with pre-determined uses, some of them temporary, to fund the work.

(3) We didn't have good solutions for the severely mentally ill and those suffering from substance use disorders.

What solutions were you able to come to?

In meeting Challenge #1, we identified a need for expanded easy entry/ low barrier transitional/ temporary housing and recently purchased a building suitable for such purpose. We identified an operator with extensive service and housing capabilities for those suffering with mental health issues and substance use disorders to operate the facility.

How did you fund the project?

We met Challenge #2 by thinking more broadly about available funding sources and leveraging our existing relationships with a variety of partners. The initial operating funds for the Triage, Treatment and Transformation facility are from HUD Disaster Recovery funding and our partnership with our public transportation authority.

Do you have specific funding source targets?

The project to End Street Homelessness is funded with federal disaster funding, federal entitlement funds, partnerships with our public transit authority, our public hospital authority, our management districts and our tax increment district reinvestments zones. Our partners in ending street homelessness have invested in the process. Future investment will include new federal and state funding, and philanthropic and corporate funding.

The currently available funding sources are as follows:

- City of Houston
- Public Transit Authority
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- TIRZ
- Management Districts
- Houston First

Future Funding is anticipated from the following sources:

- Harris County
- Philanthropy
- Non-HUD Federal Funds (DOJ, DOL, HHS, etc.)
- New State Funds
- Opioid recovery Fund

What do you wish you knew when you started the project?

We wish we had known the timeline for approval to secure funds from our partners. Implementation has relied on the availability of reliable funding sources. ML

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