

To fulfill our mission to build an equitable, high-quality health care system in the movement to end homelessness, the Council works with Congress and the Administration to advocate for policies that **achieve social, economic, and racial justice**. While we broadly support many issues together with our national partners, below are the four primary areas of our focus. These issues directly impact the HCH Community and offer an opportunity for the Council to make a unique and value-added contribution to the advocacy needed to improve public policy.

All of our work is directly informed by people with the lived experience of homelessness and the health care providers who care for them.



Improving Health Care Financing: Guaranteeing comprehensive, affordable health coverage for everyone would lower costs, improve outcomes, and increase quality of life. *Examples of this include...*

- Advocating for a single-payer, **Medicare-for-All system**.
- Advocating to **protect, strengthen and expand Medicaid**.



Advancing Medical Respite Care: Medical respite care programs provide safe space for people experiencing homelessness who are too ill to recover from an illness or injury on the streets or in shelter, but who do not require hospital-level care. *Examples of this include...*

- Advocating for **policies** that increase financing options, expand current programs, and create new ones.
- Advocating for effective state and local **partnerships** that support the growth of effective medical respite programs.



Increasing Access to Substance Use Treatment: Untreated behavioral health conditions perpetuate a deadly cycle of incarceration, poverty, poor health, and continued homelessness. *Examples of this include...*

- Advocating for **expanded access** to high-quality, low-barrier treatment services.
- Advocating for the **expansion of harm reduction programs** such as syringe services programs and overdose prevention sites.



Collecting Mortality Data: Homelessness causes premature mortality, yet death reports only sporadically include housing status. Better understanding the number of homeless deaths, as well as the causes of death, will allow a better understanding of the deadly impact of homelessness in the United States and improve public health responses. *Examples of this include...*

- Advocating for more local and state **death reports** to include housing status.
- Working with federal agencies to promote **homeless data collection**
- Advocating for **public health interventions** to increase access to housing and health care and prevent future deaths.