

Anchorage's  
**COORDINATED  
RESPONSE  
SUMMIT**



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# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION TOOLKIT ON HOMELESSNESS

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**Date:** Revised January 3, 2025

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Goal:** Generate momentum for community-led initiatives that support community members in crisis and reflect our neighborhood's values.

**Purpose:** Establish common ground, foster understanding, and build community.

## Pre-Workshop Preparation

### Supplies

- Water for facilitators.
- Flip chart with markers and a designated scribe.
- Markers and pens for participant use.
- 3x5 cards or sheets of paper.
- Agenda outline (optional).
- Sign-up sheets for those interested in attending the Homeless Summit.

### Roles

1. Assign a timekeeper.
2. Assign a notetaker to capture ideas on flip chart

# Workshop Guide

## 1. Intention Setting

*(Facilitator, 5 minutes)*

### Workshop Goals

- Host an action-oriented conversation focused on solutions that address homelessness in our community.
- Discuss homelessness to foster understanding of the issue and the community members experiencing it.
- Generate solutions that neighborhoods and communities can champion to address homelessness in their area.

## 2. Introductions

*(Facilitator, 10 minutes)*

**Goal:** Each participant introduces themselves and connects with someone they don't know.

**Question to Answer:** What are three words or phrases that come to mind when you think about our community and our values? Example: The three words that come to mind for our neighborhood are: warm, safe, and growing.

## 3. Safe Space and Setting Agreements

*(Facilitator, 5 minutes)*

**Goal:** Importance of creating a safe space for sharing opinions and perspectives.

### Proposed Agreements:

- Be respectful when others are speaking.
- Ensure everyone has an opportunity to speak.
- Avoid side conversations or cross-talking.

Invite participants to suggest additional agreements (3-5 total).

## 4. Large Group Activity: Exploring Interest in Homelessness

*(Facilitator leads and manages time, support person takes notes on flip chart of main ideas/themes, 25 minutes) (arrange chairs in a circle if possible)*

**Goal:** Give each person a time to share inspiration, insights, and personal perspectives on what they see working.

**Question:** What initiatives to address homelessness have you engaged with or heard of that reflect our community's values? What would you want to see implemented here in our neighborhood?

## Round Robin

- The first person speaks for up to 2 minutes.
- Go to the next person in the circle without discussion, they get up to 2 minutes, they can pass if preferred.
- Continue until everyone has spoken.

**Digest:** Identify overlapping themes while individuals are speaking. Facilitator reviews the ideas and themes following the Round Robin.

## 5. Questions to Reflect

*(10 minutes)*

- Which one or two of these solutions for our neighborhood could you see yourself working with others to start?
- What could some next steps be for you? What could some next steps be for your community leaders?

Support person records key points and solutions on the flip chart.

## 6. Closing Activity

*(5 minutes)*

Turn to a neighbor and share **one possibility you see as a direct positive impact** to your community from implementing one of these initiatives in your neighborhood.

## Get Involved

Your participation doesn't end tonight! Here are opportunities to be involved this spring:

- Attend **Anchorage's Coordinated Response Summit** at the Southcentral Foundation Nuka Learning Institute on March 20-21, 2025.
- Stay actively involved and engaged on the issues through the Housing and Homelessness Neighborhood Development Commission (**HHAND Commission**). [ancgov.info/hhand](http://ancgov.info/hhand)