

# 2020 Public Policy Agenda

***Central City Concern believes that ending homelessness requires a coordinated approach to address housing access, health and well-being, economic resiliency and social connectedness. Our policy advocacy work prioritizes an integrated approach across systems, funders and delivery points. We support policy initiatives that center people with lived experience and recognize a sustainable and skilled workforce is the foundation of successful interventions. We seek to support solution-oriented advocacy efforts that adequately fund the programs and solutions that are effective in ending homelessness and addressing poverty.***

## **Policy Focus #1 – Supportive and Affordable Housing**

Work with local, state and federal governments and community partners to address racial disparities in access to supportive housing and long-term rental assistance to end experiences of homelessness and avoid future exposure to homelessness

- A. Seek long-term funding for supportive services including health and social service programs in permanent supportive housing, stabilization housing and recovery housing
- B. Support funding and policy proposals to increase housing development and the availability of long-term rental assistance for extremely low and moderately low-income households (0-60% Area Median Income)
- C. Support policy changes that refocus housing placement systems to center access for Black, Indigenous people of color (BIPOC), especially those transitioning from hospital care, behavioral health treatment and incarceration

## **Policy Focus #2 – Integrated Health Care**

Work with local, state and federal governments and community partners to ensure financial stability of fully integrated primary care and behavioral health services that prioritize BIPOC and people with complex health needs on Medicaid, Medicare and those who are uninsured

- A. Support policy changes that create financial incentives or remove regulatory barriers to delivering integrated primary care and behavioral health services, especially as it benefits addressing health equity for BIPOC communities
- B. Seek increased funding for behavioral health and wrap around services, especially specialty mental health, substance use disorder treatment, peer support and long-term recovery programs
- C. Seek increased funding and support policy changes that ensure financial stability for culturally specific services, 340B pharmacy and other critical intervention services like behavioral health crisis response, recuperative care and palliative care

## **Policy Focus #3 – Economic Opportunity**

Work with local, state and federal governments and community partners to address income inequity and racial disparities to increase access to living wage jobs and long-term financial stability for health and human service consumers and workforce

- A. Seek increased flexible funding for job training, supportive employment and social enterprise programs
- B. Seek increased funding in contracts and reimbursement rates for health and human services in order to grow and support a bilingual and bicultural workforce needed to deliver high quality social services that are culturally responsive
- C. Support policies and regulatory changes that dismantle historical criminalization and discrimination against people who experience homelessness and poverty, especially policies that disproportionately impact BIPOC communities

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## **Policy Focus #4 – Race and Social Justice**

Work with local, state and federal governments and community partners to identify policy and funding issues that perpetuate systemic oppression and discrimination against BIPOC communities and work towards making long-term, foundational systems change

- A. Support policy changes to remove barriers and increase access to financial stability and social goods like housing, health care, transportation and education opportunities
- B. Support policy changes to reduce over incarceration and reduce barriers to housing, health care, employment and other social goods for African Americans and others who have experienced incarceration
- C. Support policy and funding changes that focus on appropriately scaling up community-based programs through health and human services and away from criminal justice dependent interventions to address community needs