

2021 Public Policy Agenda

Central City Concern believes an effective response to ending homelessness, particularly long-term/ chronic homelessness, must prioritize systems alignment and restorative anti-racist practices. We must commit to equity-focused and data-driven investments. We need a system that intentionally connects access to housing, behavioral health and health care, economic resiliency, and social connectedness. This work requires investment in a knowledgeable and skilled workforce to deliver effective and high-quality services. Central City Concern has over 40 years of experience with integration and innovation to improve outcomes for people most impacted by homelessness and poverty.

Policy Focus – Integrated Approach to Ensuring Access to Housing, Health Care, Economic Resiliency and Social Connectedness

Work with local, state and federal governments and community partners to improve both short-term responsiveness and long-term foundational systems change to improve opportunities and health outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and poverty, centering disparities felt by Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other communities of color.

- Support policy changes that create financial incentives or remove regulatory barriers to delivering integrated physical and behavioral health services, especially as it benefits addressing health equity for Black, Indigenous, Latinx and other impacted communities .
- Seek increased funding in contracts and reimbursement rates for health and human services in order to grow and support a multilingual and multicultural workforce needed to deliver high quality social services that are culturally responsive.
- 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.
- Seek increased funding and support policy changes that ensure financial stability for culturally specific services, 340B pharmacy, Oregon Health Plan and other critical intervention services like behavioral health crisis response, recuperative care and palliative care.
- Support funding, policy reforms and strategic planning for integrating health care and supportive services in permanent housing, stabilization housing and recovery housing.
- Support effective strategies to increase housing development and the availability of long-term rental assistance for extremely low-income households (0-30% Area Median Income).
- Seek increased flexible funding for benefits acquisition, job training, supportive employment and social enterprise programs.
- Support policy changes that improve housing placement systems, especially to increase stable housing placements for those transitioning from hospital care, behavioral health treatment and incarceration.
- Support policy changes to reduce over-incarceration, reform reentry services and increase stabilizing interventions to support African Americans and others who have experienced historical over-incarceration.
- 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.
- Support policies and regulatory changes that dismantle historical criminalization and discrimination against people who experience homelessness and poverty.
- Support governance structures that align and leverage resources, key partners, incentives, and policy choices to creating housing stability and connection to social and economic supports across multiple systems for people experiencing homelessness.