

Homeless Treatment and Accountability Act

The Problem

Conventional Housing First approaches to homelessness aren't addressing the root causes of the crisis.



80% of homeless individuals struggle with a mental health problem.



Two-thirds of homeless individuals have a substance use disorder.



One out of every three were incarcerated during the six months prior to becoming homeless.

The Solution: Homeless Court Diversion

Unsheltered homeless individuals and families need more than housing.

Much like a drug court, diversion programs offer mandatory treatment, transitional shelter, and other support services in place of conventional prison and probation sentences.

Studies show that diversion programs can reduce recidivism by 25 percent, and voters support them.



63% are in favor of legally compelling mental health treatment, and **76%** support increased funding for treatment programs. (AZ)



A majority see substance abuse and mental illness as the main causes of homelessness (OK)



More than **80%** support moving people out of street camps and into available shelters. (AZ, UT, OK)

How it Works

Each program participant...



...must move off the streets and into available short-term shelter options.



...must complete services and treatment outlined in their individual case plan.



...will have to serve out their original sentence if they fail the program or commit new crimes.

Once a program participant graduates, their case is vacated, and they can begin building a new life.

Bottom Line

Homeless court diversion programs balance much-needed treatment with accountability and public safety—and is supported by a strong majority of voters.