



Blueprint Council sets goal of reducing Black homelessness by 35% by 2025.

Black people make up 28.8% of Indianapolis 'population, yet 39% of Black people live in poverty, and over 54% of people experiencing homelessness are Black. This disparity is even more stark when you look at unhoused Black families (74%), Black youth and young adults (63%), and Black veterans (53%)¹. To say Black people experience homelessness in Indianapolis at disproportionate rates is an understatement. Year-over-year data shows that there is racial disparity in homelessness in Indianapolis in terms of who becomes homeless, how people experience homelessness, how people are assessed for vulnerability and resources, and how people are supported in housing. It is important to note that the historical and contemporary manifestations of structural racism are a core driving force and something must be done to address it.

As the governing body of the Indianapolis Continuum of Care (CoC), the Blueprint Council has established a bold and courageous goal to shift from talking about racial disparity year after year to being intentional about eliminating it. On April 25th, 2023, the Blueprint Council set a goal for the Indianapolis CoC to reduce Black homelessness by 35% by 2025. This goal requires a 35% reduction in overall Black homelessness and Black homelessness within all subpopulations- families, youth and young adults, veterans, and those experiencing chronic homelessness.

This goal advances a key strategic priority in the [Indianapolis Community Plan to End Homelessness](#) specifically around designing a homeless response system that reflects the communities being served and reduces the impact of homelessness on persons of color (Strategic Priority 6). This goal also aligns with the priorities in the [All In- The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness](#) which challenges communities to reduce homelessness by 25% by 2025 and to lead with equity by specifically addressing racial disparities among people experiencing homelessness. The federal plan recognizes and affirms the impacts of systemic racism and discrimination as contributing factors to the overrepresentation of Black Americans and charges communities with building an efficient and effective homeless service system that understands and addresses these racial disparities.

In Indianapolis, Black people become homeless at disproportionate rates, they primarily show up in shelters that have low placements back into permanent housing, they are assessed for vulnerability with lower scores that impact the types of housing and service choices available, and they return to homelessness after housing at higher rates. The Blueprint Council recognizes that if we are going to reduce homelessness in Indianapolis and do it with a commitment to equity, we must name the continued and persistent racial disparities and be intentional in our priorities and actions. By reducing Black homelessness and eliminating disparity, we will reduce overall homelessness and create a system that is more equitable for all.

To advance this goal, the Blueprint Council has prioritized the following key tactics:

- Relaunch a Housing Command Center model building off HomeNow Indy
- Design and implement an equitable coordinated entry tool and process
- Improve and scale housing stability supportive services

To implement this goal, the Blueprint Council's Racial Equity Committee has provided the following road map to ensure racial equity is practiced across all levels of this work:

- Hire a Racial Equity Officer to support alignment to and advancement of this goal across the CoC
- Shift power and decision-making to Black folks with lived experience of homelessness across the CoC
- Create greater opportunities to partner with Black organizations and organizations that have a history of serving Black populations

The Blueprint Council serves as the governing body for the Indianapolis Continuum of Care and is responsible for setting strategy, defining annual system implementation priorities and activities, and monitoring system performance and implementation progress. For more information about the Blueprint Council, current membership, and the CoC Governing Charter, follow this link: [Our Board - Indianapolis Continuum of Care \(indycoc.org\)](#)

¹ Data for this release is pulled from the CoC Racial Equity Analysis Tool (V.3.0). Data from the 2023 Point-in-Time Count will be incorporated to ensure the most updated and high-quality data to drive implementation and track progress.