

Appendix 5 Additional Policy Foundation from Planning & Building Housing Division

The County's Housing Element (6th Cycle) identifies reduction of unsheltered homelessness, expansion of permanent supportive housing, and coordinated service delivery as core objectives. The County's Homelessness Action Plan further establishes a Housing First framework emphasizing outreach, coordinated entry, and permanent housing pathways. Encampment response and post-closure planning are implemented consistent with these adopted policies.

Additionally, the County participates in the regional Continuum of Care through the Humboldt Housing & Homelessness Coalition, which administers the Coordinated Entry System and aligns local housing prioritization with federal and state requirements.

Alignment with Principles 2 and 3

Consistent with Principle 2, DHHS outreach teams engage encampment residents prior to closure using trauma-informed, Housing First practices. Outreach includes needs assessments, documentation assistance, and referrals to low-barrier shelter, behavioral health services, substance use disorder treatment, and income supports.

Under Principle 3, multidisciplinary coordination occurs among DHHS social workers, Behavioral Health staff, housing navigators, and law enforcement partners. Individuals are assessed and prioritized through the Coordinated Entry System to connect them to interim and permanent housing resources. Encampment closures do not proceed absent meaningful engagement and documented service offers, and personal property is handled in accordance with constitutional due process protections.

Post-Closure Site Planning and Stabilization

Following closure, the Planning & Building / Public Works Department conducts site-specific assessments to determine appropriate long-term stabilization strategies consistent with zoning, environmental protections, and public safety standards. Site treatment is tailored to context and may include:

- Potential Brown Fields site analysis Phases 1 & 2
- Environmental remediation, debris removal, and hazard mitigation.
- Restoration of environmentally sensitive lands or waterways.
- Installation or repair of fencing where necessary to protect sensitive areas.
- Enhanced lighting to improve safety and visibility.
- ADA-compliant upgrades such as curb cuts, accessible pathways, and improved pedestrian circulation in public rights-of-way.
- Vegetation management and drainage improvements to reduce health and safety risks.

- Activation of parcels for permissible community-serving uses consistent with land use designations.

These improvements are designed to eliminate hazardous conditions, improve infrastructure accessibility, and discourage re-encampment through thoughtful site activation rather than exclusionary design.

Ongoing Prevention and Monitoring

DHHS continues proactive outreach in areas where encampments have been resolved to ensure continued engagement with unsheltered individuals and prevent re-formation. Service teams maintain linkages to shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and behavioral health programs identified in the Housing Element and Homelessness Action Plan.

Law enforcement partners prioritize public safety while coordinating with DHHS to ensure that enforcement is secondary to service engagement and housing solutions. Former encampment sites are periodically monitored and maintained to prevent unsafe conditions from reoccurring.

Commitment to Safety, Accessibility, and Inclusivity

Humboldt County's encampment resolution framework emphasizes:

- Protection of constitutional rights and due process.
- Housing First and trauma-informed engagement.
- Coordinated Entry-based housing prioritization.
- Infrastructure improvements that enhance safety and ADA accessibility.
- Environmental restoration and public health safeguards.
- Cross-departmental accountability and policy alignment.

Through integration of adopted housing policy, coordinated outreach, and infrastructure reinvestment, the County ensures that former encampment sites are stabilized in a manner that promotes long-term community benefit while respecting the dignity and rights of persons experiencing homelessness.

Document References:

1. County Housing Element
2. County Housing First Action Plan /Homelessness Action Plan
3. Coordinated Entry Policy (Humboldt County Code 54.1)
4. Continuum of Care Standards
5. Sample outreach notice

Certification and Authorization:



Signature of Authorized Representative

03/02/26

Date