



# Affinity Group: Serving Homeless Populations

Rue Mansour | 6/6/2024



# Indigenous Land Acknowledgement

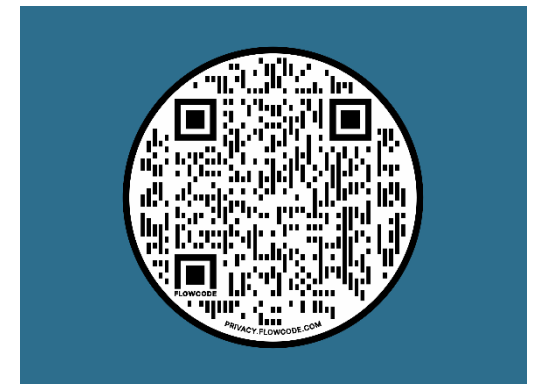
- We respectfully acknowledge that we live and work in territories where indigenous nations and tribal groups are traditional stewards of the land. Our California office resides in Tongva territory.
- Please join us in supporting efforts to affirm tribal sovereignty across what is now known as California and in displaying respect, honor, and gratitude for all indigenous people.

## Whose land are you on?

Option 1: Text your ZIP code to 1-907-312-5085

Option 2: Enter your location at <https://native-land.ca>

Option 3: Access Native Land website via QR Code



# Community Agreements

- Be present and be an active listener.
- One mic, one voice.
- Practice inclusivity.
- Honor pronouns and gender identity.
- Show respect (this may look different for each person).
- Allow conflicting perspectives to exist.
- Assume best intentions.
- Take space, make space.
- Share what you are comfortable sharing.
- Protect individual privacy.
- Practice self-care.
- Encourage growth of self and for others.
- Support resource sharing.



## Speaker Bio:

Rue Mansour, M.A., is a program associate for Advocates for Human Potential, Inc. (AHP). She has had a wide range of involvement in supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, including work in development, direct support, education, research, and policy.

She has partnered with several nonprofits focused on providing supports for individuals experiencing homelessness, including emergency shelters and educational services. She has written a curriculum on myths about homelessness as well as several research articles on homeless service systems and McKinney-Vento policy.





# Today's Agenda

- Introduction
- Community Agreements
- Discussion Topic 1: Background
- Discussion Topic 2: Special Populations
- Discussion Topic 3: Onward & Upward
- Wrap-Up
- Q&A



# What is homelessness?



- “People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation,” such as cars, parks, sidewalks, or abandoned buildings.
- People who are living in an emergency shelter or transitional housing.
- People who “are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided.”
- “People who are fleeing domestic violence” or other abuse and have no safe, alternative housing.

(National Alliance to End Homelessness, 2012)

# Consider what your day looks like?

Many of us wake up and begin our daily routines: brush our teeth, shower, have breakfast, etc. After we are ready, we then head off to school or work. We move through various tasks, and once we are all done with the day, we come home and settle in with dinner and go to sleep.

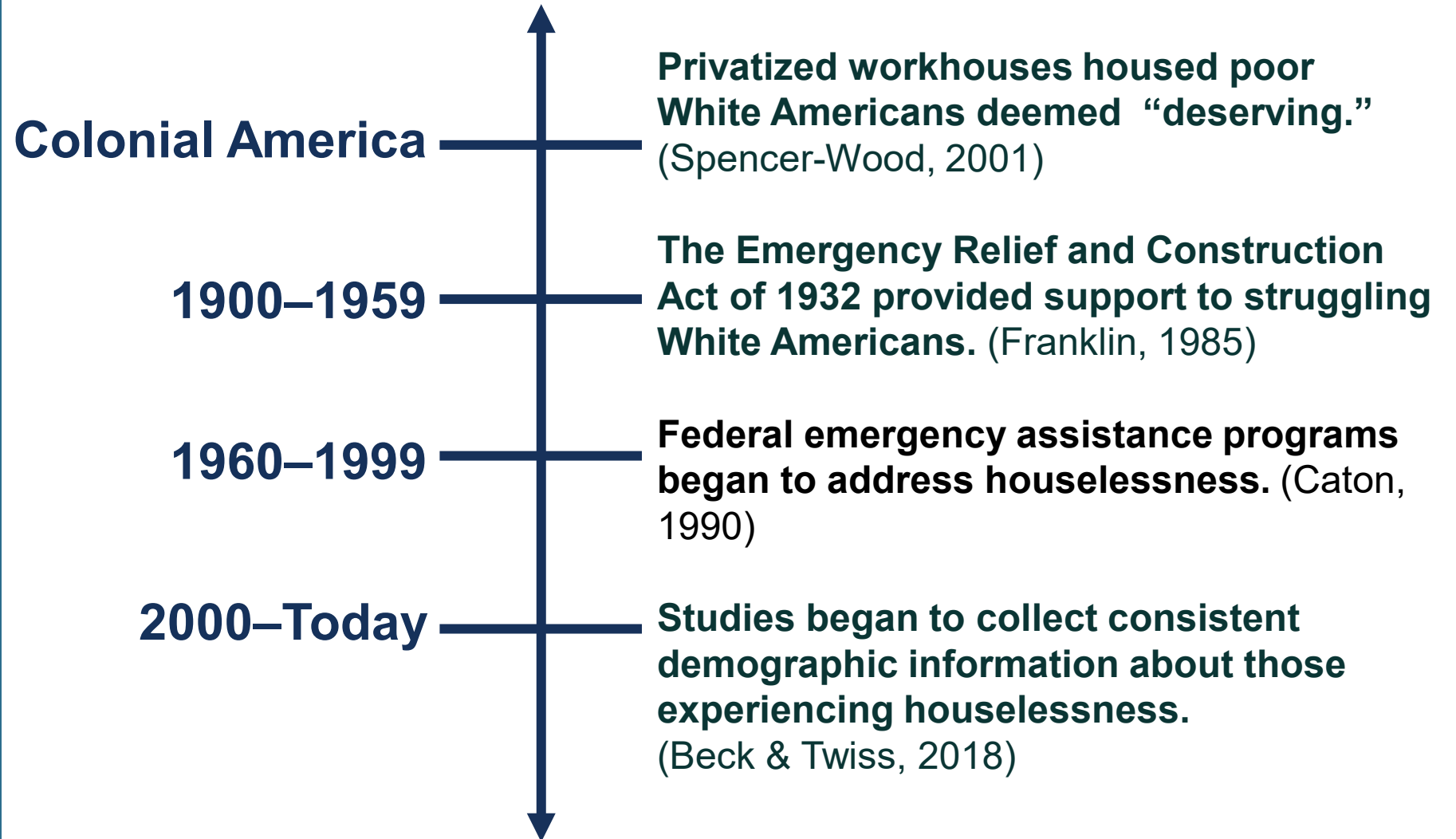
Being houseless can create a great deal of obstacles in those simple tasks, obstructing someone's ability to perform their best at school or work.

## Discussion Topic 1: Background

# Understanding Homelessness:

Definitions and Historical Context to  
Homelessness in America





# Root Causes

- Poverty
- Inequity
- Housing scarcity
- Systematic failures
- Illness & disability
- Domestic violence
- Chronic houselessness
- Public perception





How might understanding policy and historical context influence services today?



How might the causation of someone's experience with homelessness impact the kinds of supports to connect them with?

## Discussion Questions

# Discussion Topic 2: Special Populations

- **Age: Youth & seniors**
- **Families/parenting/young parents**
- **Domestic violence**
- **LGBTQ**
- **Chronic homelessness**
- **People of color (POC)**
- **Rural/urban**
- **Tribal**
- **Veterans**

# Discussion Topic 3: Onward and Upward

## California-Based Policies

**“The California Interagency Council on Homelessness** oversees the implementation of Housing First guidelines and regulations, and identify resources, benefits, and services to prevent and end homelessness in California.”

(BCSH, n.d.)

[Data Tools and Resources - California Interagency Council on Homelessness](#)

[Guiding Principles and Strategic Priorities - California Health and Human Services](#)

[CallCH Action Plan](#)



# Discussion Topic 3: Onward and Upward

## How to Be an Ally

- **Advocacy**
- **Be informed**
- **Mindfulness**
- **Self-care**



# Organizational Reflections

How might you in your organization support individuals experiencing homelessness?

What challenges have you faced trying to provide services for people experiencing homelessness?

# Q&A



# References

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**Thank You**