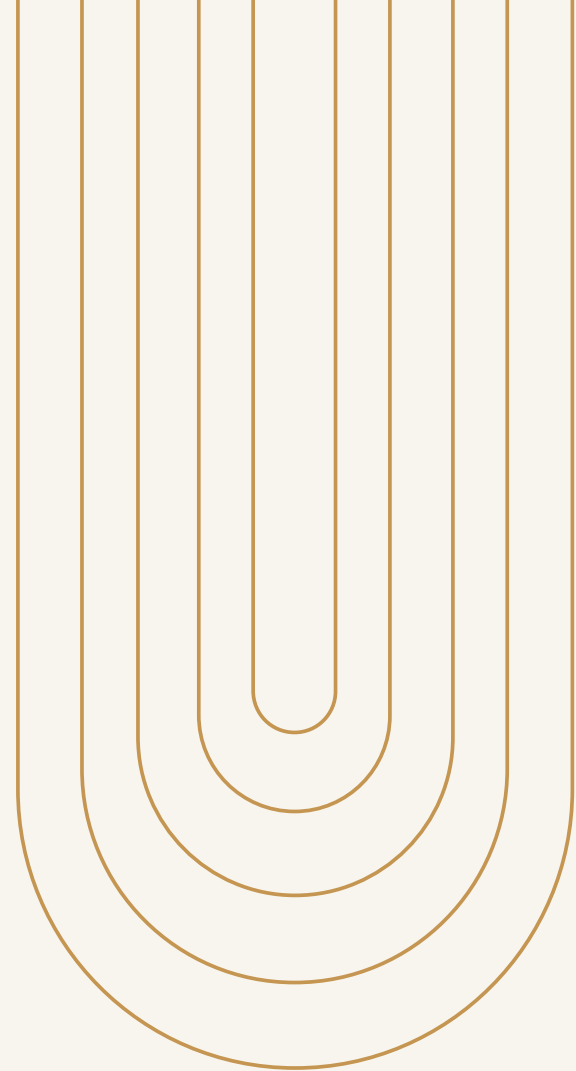




Bird's Eye View: Homelessness in Nevada

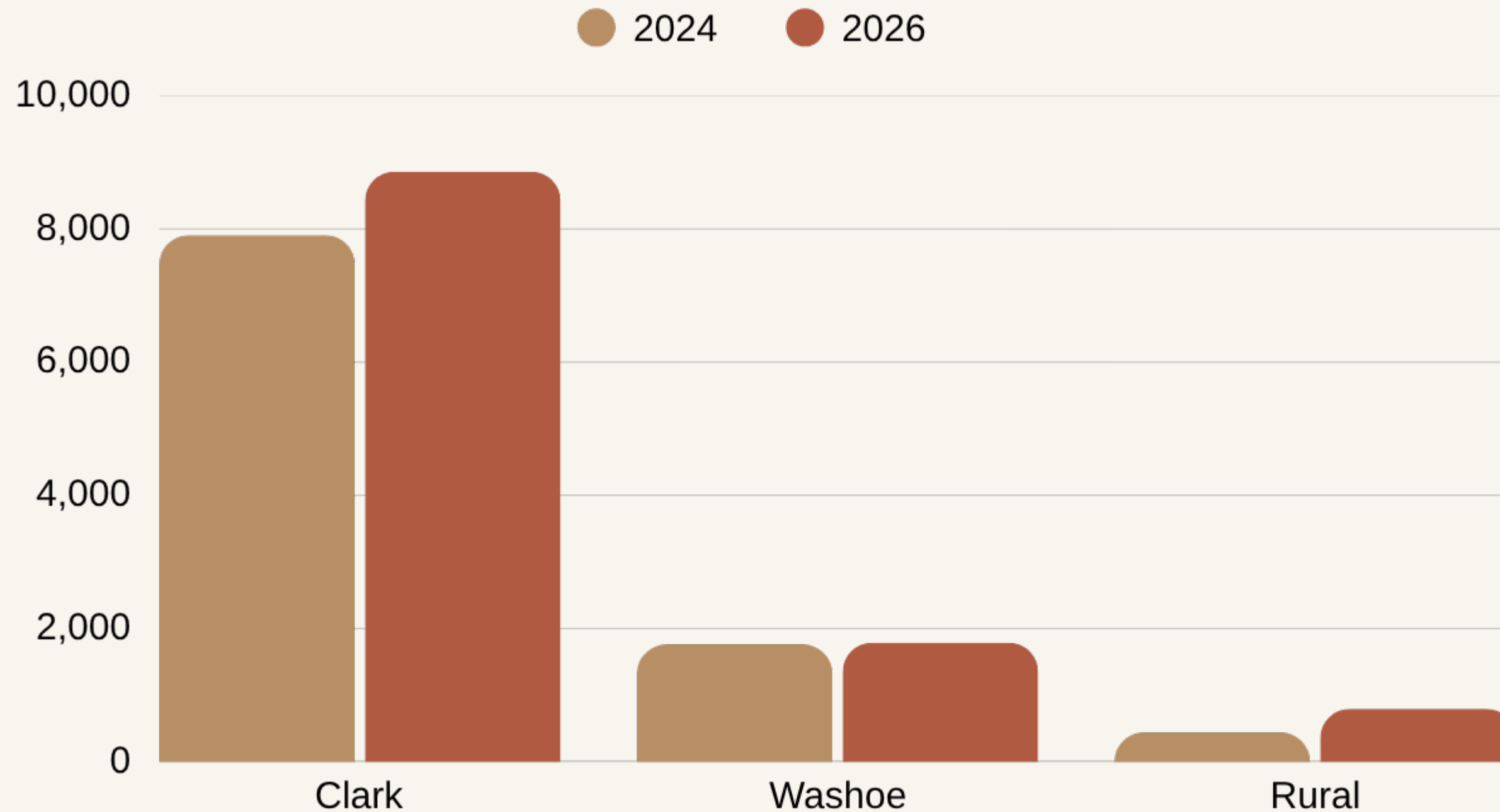
*Presented By: Dr. Catrina Grigsby-Thedford | Executive Director &
Taisacan Hall | Lived Experience Specialist*

The State of Homelessness in Nevada



Point-In-Time Count

The Point-in-Time Count is a snapshot of homelessness, capturing a likely undercount of how many people are experiencing homelessness on a given night. Nevada saw a **13.2%** increase in its unhoused population from **10,105** in 2024 to **11,437** in 2026.



How Does Homelessness Begin?

THE BROADER PICTURE

These pathways demonstrate that homelessness doesn't occur in isolation and that people can move into homelessness as a result of gaps across multiple systems. Our ability to respond to homelessness doesn't necessarily mean progress in the conditions that cause people to become homeless or contribute to prolonged homelessness.

CAUSES

People can enter homelessness with a combination of crisis events but the leading cause of homelessness is a lack of affordable

housing

CRISIS EVENT

- Loss of employment
- Eviction
- Rising rent
- Family conflict
- Death of family/friend
- Health challenges
- Unexpected financial emergencies

SYSTEMIC

- Poverty
- Systemic racism
- Lack of universal healthcare
- Criminal justice involvement
- Foster care involvement

Homelessness is Traumatic

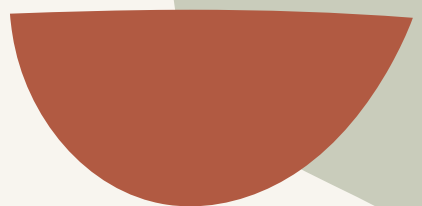
Lack of stable housing can expose people to:

- Violence
- Extreme weather
- Sleep deprivation
- Constant displacement
- Criminalization
- Constant uncertainty of the next moment

Leading to:

- Chronic homelessness
- Worsened physical and mental health
- Substance use
- Death





The Challenge

New people are entering homelessness faster than our system can help them exit.

Homelessness itself can create additional barriers as people may lose employment, vital documents, personal belongings, or connections to family and support networks. What began as a housing crisis can develop into a much more complicated set of challenges requiring assistance from multiple systems that becomes more complex the longer someone is experiencing homelessness. Expanding Nevada's homelessness response system without addressing underlying conditions will only continue to overwhelm the system. We must look beyond building a larger system for managing homelessness to addressing what leads to homelessness and how people are entering homelessness in the first place.

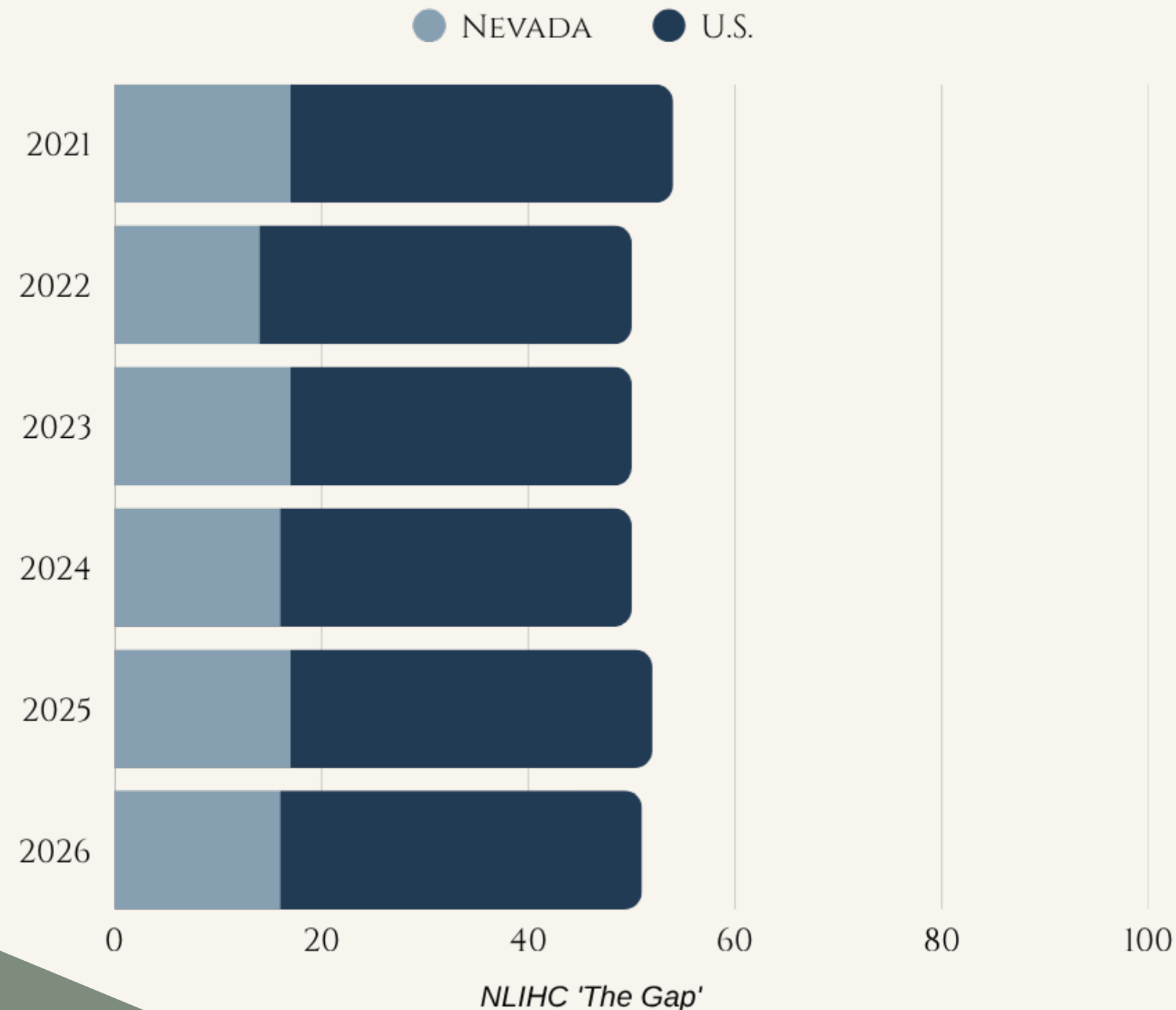




The Housing Problem We Can't Ignore

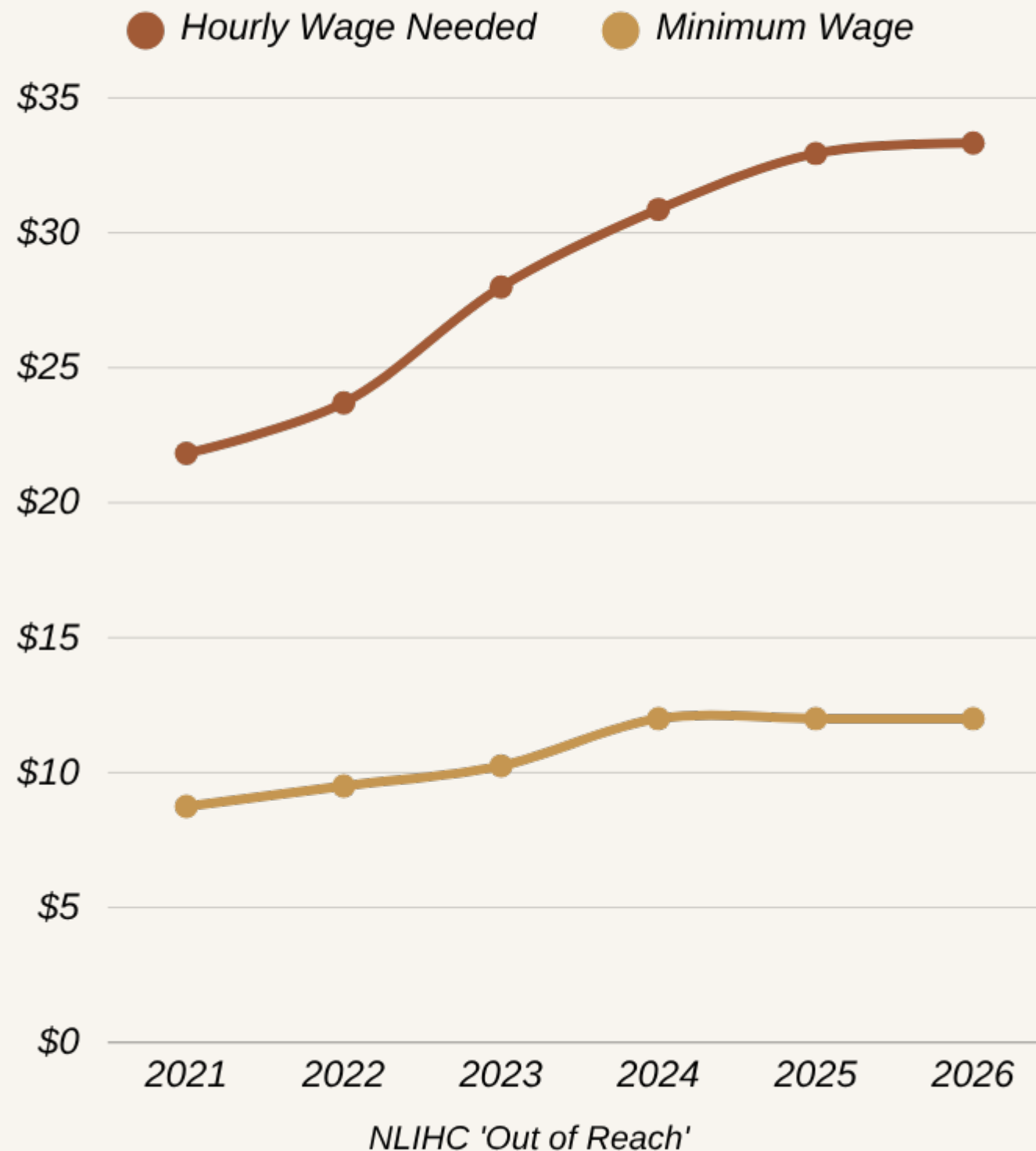
Unaffordable & Unavailable

Available Units per 100 ELI Household



Over the past six years, Nevada's had the lowest amount of available, affordable units in the country with a high percentage of ELI households spending **more than 50%** on housing costs. The most recent data shows only **16 units for every 100 households** and **88%** of ELI renters severely cost burdened. This deficiency of **over 78,000** homes demonstrates a persistent and worsening shortage of affordable housing for Nevada's most vulnerable renters.

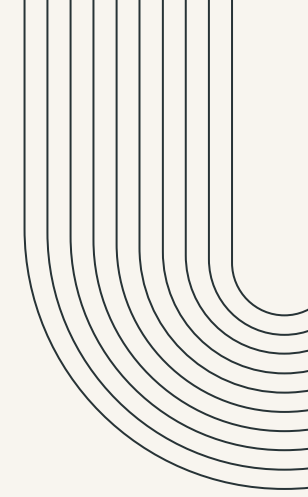
The Last Five Years



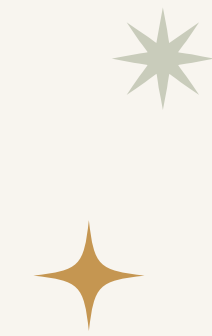
- The needed wage to afford a two-bedroom rental rose **over 50%** from **\$21.83 to \$33.33** an hour
- Nevada's national ranking climbed from the **22nd** highest housing wage to the **16th**
- Minimum wage workers need to work **111 hours** per week, nearly three full time jobs to afford a two-bedroom rental



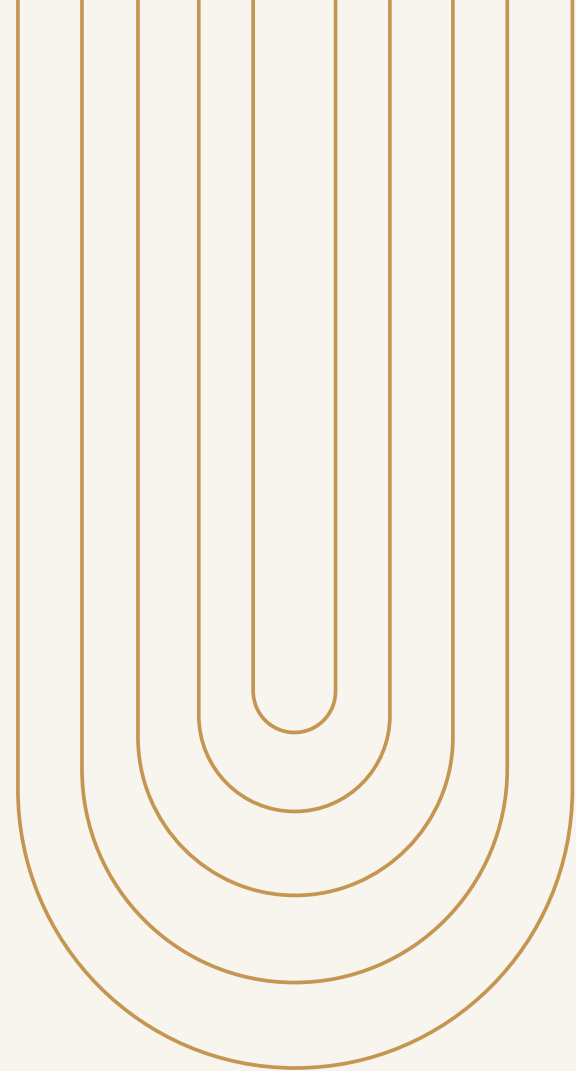
Shelter is **Not** Housing



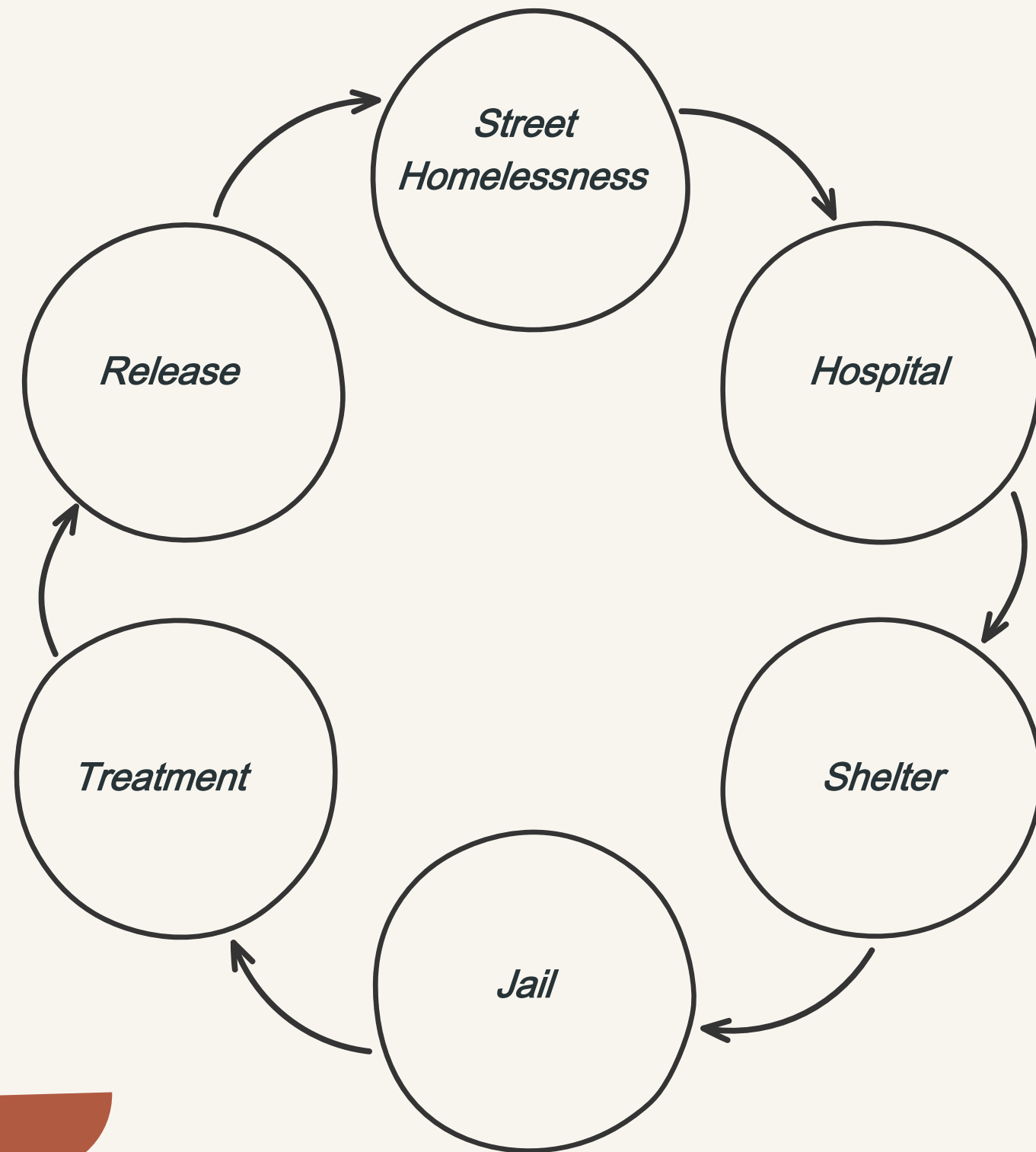
BENEFITS	CHALLENGES
• Relief from the dangers of sleeping outside • Access to meals & hygiene facilities • Connections to services • Reprieve from extreme weather • Can reduce the need for emergency medical services • Reduces reliance on police intervention	• Work schedules & curfews • Pet restrictions • Lack of privacy • Separation of couples or families • Negative past experiences • Trauma associated with institutional settings • Staffing shortages



Unintended Consequences



The Revolving Door



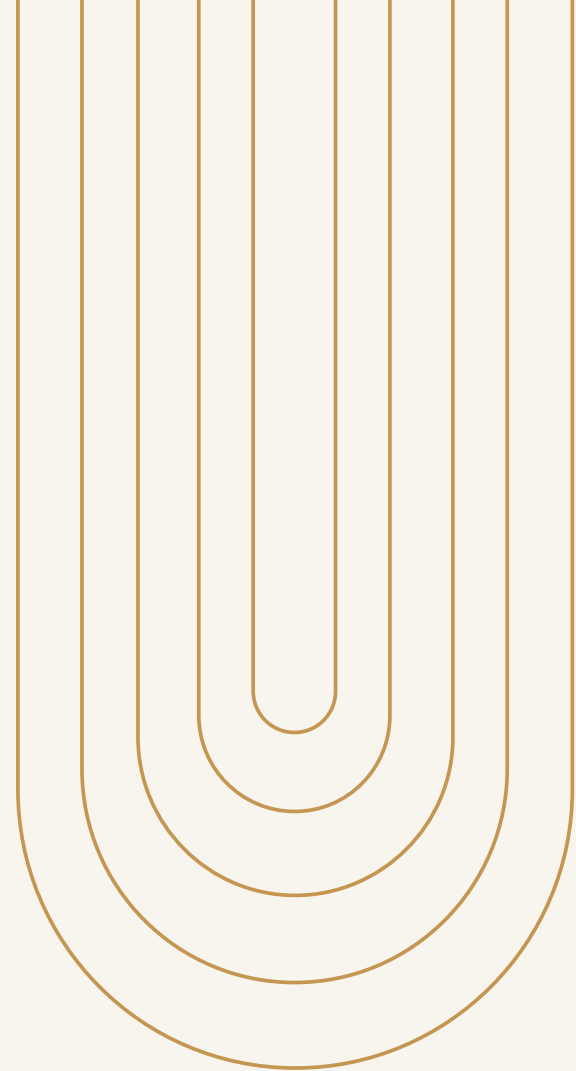
Without an effective pathway back to stable housing, people can move from one crisis to another increasing the risk of chronic homelessness. In practice, system fragmentation can mean that progress made in one setting is undermined by the absence of sufficient coordination in the next.

Breaking the Cycle

- Developing pathways between systems
- Stronger collaboration across agencies
- Clearer transition processes
- Shared accountability of outcomes
- Reducing administrative burdens



Moving Nevada Forward



Policy Recommendations

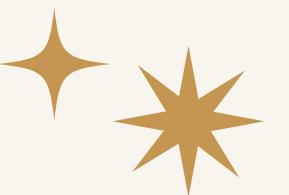
In 2023, Nevada proposed SB142, a proposed Homeless Persons' Bill of Rights, with Senator Edgar Flores among the primary sponsors. That legislation recognized that people experiencing homelessness remain members of their communities and should be protected from discrimination, intimidation, harassment, and unequal treatment. An updated consideration of this effort can preserve SB142's core civil rights principles while addressing areas where people experiencing homelessness remain particularly vulnerable.

<i>Housing</i>	<i>Behavioral Health</i>	<i>Healthcare</i>	<i>Economic Stability</i>	<i>Justice System</i>
Distinguish between attainable housing for moderate income and affordable housing for extremely low income households	Establish measurable statewide access standards and require annual public reporting by county and population	Prohibit discharge to unsheltered homelessness when a patient cannot safely complete medical recovery	Increase Nevada's minimum wage and require annual cost of living adjustments	Establish reentry housing vouchers and landlord mitigation funds
Require landlords to initiate evictions through the court and allow time for approved rental assistance to be processed	Require public real time bed availability information and establish minimum regional detoxification capacity	Require discharge planning teams to include homeless service providers, community health workers, and people with lived experience	Remove unnecessary employment and occupational licensing barriers related to criminal records	Automatically seal records after completed statutory waiting periods, when charges are dismissed, or the person is acquitted

Abandoning the Vacuum



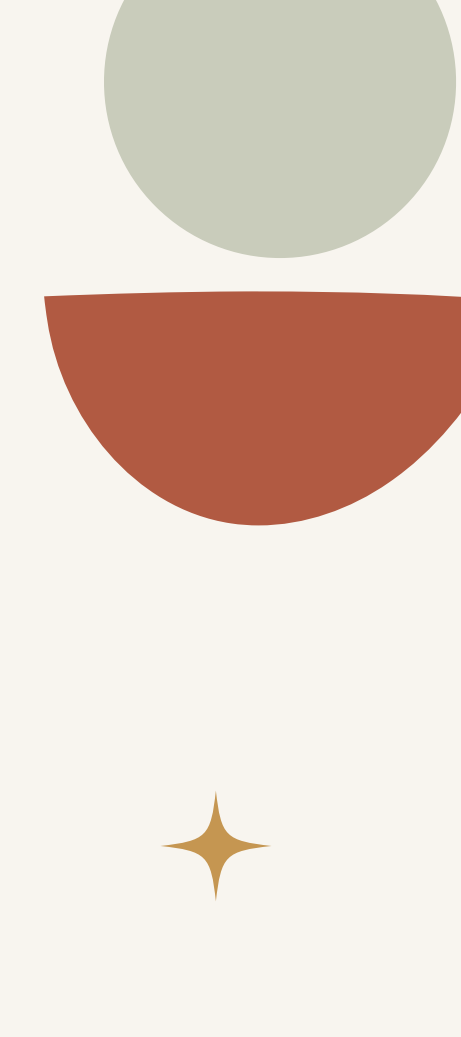
Homelessness exists within a much larger policy landscape and is often the result of multiple systems failing to intervene early enough. Homeless services are designed to provide critical support and address particular needs but they can't control whether a person can afford their next place to call home, whether hospitals have appropriate discharge planning, whether treatment has a recovery destination, or whether someone leaving incarceration has the resources needed to start over.



NVICHH Role

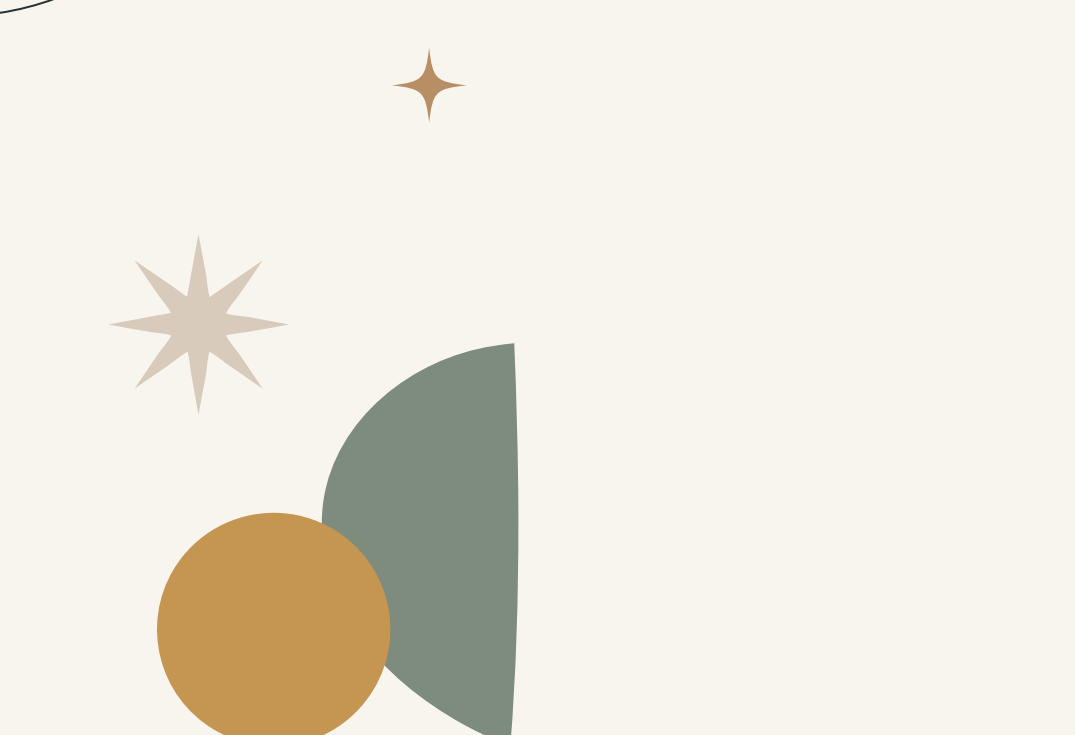
The Nevada Interagency Council on Homelessness to Housing has statutory authority to request information, develop recommendations, identify legislative needs, and hold agencies accountable for coordinated action. This policy discussion can guide the next strategic plan before the 2027 legislative session. **The Council is authorized to:**

- Collaborate with state and local agencies on their responses to homelessness
- Promote cooperation among federal, state, and local agencies
- Develop Nevada's statewide strategic plan on homelessness
- Include recommendations for state and local agency action and legislation
- Update the strategic plan at least once every five years
- Establish a technical assistance committee
- Increase awareness of homelessness
- Submit annual reports to the Governor
- Submit biennial reports to the Legislature



Thank You!

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