

Grant Information

Title: FY22 HUDRD Grants for University-Nonprofit Partnerships Supporting Community-Engaged Research Designed to Address Homelessness (FR-6700-N-29K)

Due: 7/13/23 23:59:59

Award Range: \$200,000 - \$1,000,000 (3 awards)

Funding Cycle: 36 months (10/2/23 – 10/2/26)

Funder: US Department of Housing & Urban Development

Proposed Partners

University of Vermont (UVM): Lead applicant, public land-grant research university

City of Burlington Community & Economic Development Office (CEDO): Public municipal entity partner

Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC): Planning partner, Chittenden County

Vermont Association of Planning & Development Agencies (VAPDA): Planning partner, statewide

Vermont Coalition to End Homelessness (VCEH): Collaborative applicant for the Balance of State CoC

Chittenden County Homeless Alliance (CCHA): Collaborative applicant for the Chittenden County CoC

Committee on Temporary Shelter (COTS): Vermont's largest homelessness services provider

Project Overview

Research Question: How does the participation of persons with lived experience of homelessness in municipal planning processes – particularly women, BIPOC, and migrant communities, and homeless-serving community-based agencies – affect system outcomes for sheltered and unsheltered populations?

Background: As of 2022, Vermont has the second highest statewide per capita count of total homelessness in the US. Homelessness in Chittenden County specifically is on the rise, with preliminary 2023 count data over triple Vermont's lowest recorded count in 2007 and a 13.5% increase over the preceding year. The number of individuals in emergency shelter has more than doubled since 2021, and this year's unsheltered counts are more than 2 ½ times the 2018 pre-pandemic count. With the state's housing vacancy rate at a 20-year low and the state-run motel program sheltering 2,800 individuals due to shut down at the end of June, Chittenden County is on the precipice of an historic crisis calling for innovative and immediate homelessness solutions.

Approach: UVM will collaborate with both HUD-funded CoCs to measure and systematically describe baseline placement outcomes, returns to homelessness, and neighborhood-level distributions of previously-unsheltered households served by homelessness services agencies for the calendar years 2017-2022. UVM will partner with COTS to engage people with lived experience to describe key barriers to placements in well-resourced, high-opportunity communities in alignment with HUD's priority of the affirmative furtherance of fair housing. UVM will simultaneously work with Vermont's statewide planners association, regional planning commissions, and municipal public entities to identify municipalities/townships to pilot new or strengthened integration strategies bringing people with lived experience into municipal planning processes. The CoCs, relevant homeless-serving agencies, and people with lived experience will partner with city, town, and regional planners to amplify the voices of people experiencing homelessness in comprehensive municipal planning during calendar years 2024 and 2025. UVM will then work with CoCs, municipal planners, and GIS specialists to evaluate the impact of the pilot on identified barrier remediation and placement outcomes at the neighborhood, municipality/township, regional, and statewide scales. Results will be published and shared with partners, broader community, study participants, and other interested people with lived experience.

Outcomes: (1) Changes to placement rates within participating municipalities, (2) Comparative returns to homelessness for households placed in participating municipalities versus comparable non-participating municipalities, (3) Geospatial distributions of placements within high-opportunity/well-resourced neighborhoods of participating versus non-participating municipalities, (4) Persistence, remediation, or removal of municipal barriers identified by persons with lived experience vis-à-vis integration strategies.

Key Personnel

Dr. Pablo Bose, Principal Investigator

Dr. Christopher Danforth, Co-Principal Investigator

Yoshi M. Bird, JD, Project Director

Project Costs Summary

The total ask will approximate the award ceiling of \$1,000,000 and will include:

- UVM personnel costs
- Subaward(s) to COTS to fund personnel costs
- Stipends for study participants
- Honoraria for staff of planning agencies and CoCs
- Indirect costs pursuant to UVM NICRA
- Non-personnel direct costs (e.g., technology, materials/equipment)

Selected References

Einstein, K. L., & Willison, C. E. (2023). Cities, Zoning, and the Fragmented Response to Homelessness.

Giamarino, C., Brozen, M., & Blumenberg, E. (2023). Planning for and Against Vehicular Homelessness: Spatial Trends and Determinants of Vehicular Dwelling in Los Angeles. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 89(1), 80–92. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944363.2022.2050936>

Law, R. (2001). 'Not in My City': Local Governments and Homelessness Policies in the Los Angeles Metropolitan Region. *Environment and Planning C: Government and Policy*, 19(6), 791–815. <https://doi.org/10.1068/c15c>

Levenson, J. S. (2016). Hidden challenges: Sex offenders legislated into homelessness. *Journal of Social Work*, 18(3). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1468017316654811>

Media, J. B. (2009). How Urban Planning Instruments Can Contribute in the Fight against Homelessness. An International Overview of Inclusionary Housing. *European Journal of Homelessness*, 3.

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (2019). "No Safe Place: The Criminalization of Homelessness in U.S. Cities." https://homelesslaw.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/02/No_Safe_Place.pdf

Ranasinghe, P., & Valverde, M. (2006). Governing Homelessness through Land-Use: A Sociolegal Study of the Toronto Shelter Zoning By-Law. *Canadian Journal of Sociology / Cahiers Canadiens de Sociologie*, 31(3), 325. <https://doi.org/10.2307/20058713>

Reeh, C. (2022). De facto zoning of non-residential residence: How Los Angeles's land-use laws regulate and exacerbate the urban homelessness crisis. *Columbia Human Rights Law*, 54(1), 421–468.

Wolch, J. R., Dear, M., & Akita, A. (1988). Explaining Homelessness. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 54(4), 443–453. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01944368808976671>