



2021 Legislative Policy Priorities

Expand and preserve Affordable Housing supply.

Housing is the solution to homelessness. Re-housing programs for people experiencing homelessness cannot be taken to scale without increased inventory of affordable housing. Additionally, when Nevadans are severely rent-burdened they are at greater risk of experiencing homelessness as a result of even minor financial crises.

Expand funding opportunities for homeless services.

In Southern NV alone (where there are the highest rates of homelessness in the state), there is a funding shortfall of over \$300 million with projections based on pre-pandemic community need. More funding is needed to take proven solutions to scale.

Remove inequitable barriers to housing that cause housing instability and prolong episodes of homelessness, by:

Improving and expanding eviction sealing processes.

A single eviction can cause long-term housing instability for households, and the process to seal evictions is complex, time consuming, and difficult for people to do while struggling to keep a roof over their heads.

Protecting renters from source-of-income discrimination, including Housing Choice Voucher holders.

Renters who are reliant on housing-choice vouchers, unemployment benefits, disability income or other legal sources of income may currently be denied housing based on their source of income, such as a Housing Choice Voucher. Source of income must be added as a protected class in NV Fair Housing Regulations to protect vulnerable populations from housing instability and homelessness, and to aid households with accessing housing opportunities when in receipt of rental assistance including vouchers.

Enacting Fair-Chance Housing policy by placing reasonable limitations on how conviction history is considered on rental applications.

A prior conviction should not be a life-sentence to experiencing housing instability. There are currently no limitations on what criminal background criteria landlords may use to deny rental housing in NV and there is limited transparency on the specific criteria landlords use to deny rental housing based on criminal background which can result in discrimination based on other factors. Criminal background is cited by people experiencing homelessness as a barrier to accessing housing in the annual homeless census.

Revise education policies which have disparate impact on students experiencing homelessness.

Homeless students do not have a home to go to for off-campus suspensions and school campuses provide important connections to safety-nets, such as meals. Establishing a requirement to assess the living situation of a student prior to assigning off-campus suspension will help with identifying students experiencing precarious housing situations so they may be referred to the social and educational service they need to achieve stability.

Open the door to workforce and education opportunities by expanding free internet access for low-income families.

Internet has become an essential utility required to access education at all levels; to apply for employment; and to access social services. Expanding internet access will be an important step to expanding the opportunities households need to be securely housed.