



**Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council (IVCCC)
Adoption of United States Interagency Council on
Homelessness (USICH) 7 Principles for Addressing
Encampments**



Adopted on May 1, 2024

Background

On June 2022, USICH established a set of principles to help communities as they develop and implement their response to encampments. Recognizing homelessness is a complex social problem, communities continue to build political and public will and mobilize the resources necessary to providing housing and services to end homelessness. Addressing encampments and ending unsheltered homelessness will require a system-wide, coordinated effort to promote healthy and safe communities where all can live in dignity. Effective practices have emerged from communities that successfully address unsheltered homelessness and move people from encampments into housing and support.

Policy Adoption for Region: CoC 613

IVCCC's regional response to homelessness is based on the unique needs of the population they serve. Based on these efforts, the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness' [7 Principles for Addressing Encampments](#) provides best practice guidance to support communities as we develop and implement a comprehensive response to encampments. On May 1, 2024, the Imperial Valley Continuum of Care Council (IVCCC) adopted the 7 Principles for Addressing Encampments by the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH). These 7 Principles for Addressing Encampments are:

- **Principle 1: Establish a Cross-Agency, Multi-Sector Response to Encampments**
Engaging various stakeholders in encampments takes great collaboration and coordination. Create a command center to establish goals, plans, and other helpful information. These collaborations will account for encampment residents and the neighborhood.
- **Principle 2: Engage Encampment Residents to Develop Solutions**
Encourage encampment residents engagement to ensure their needs are identified and addressed. Engaging those with lived experience results in better outcomes. Encampment closures should only be conducted after encampment outreach was conducted.
- **Principle 3: Conduct Comprehensive and Coordinated Outreach**
Effective outreach connects persons to housing services, mental health, and healthcare. Build trust within the encampment community. Outreach services should be person-centered, trauma-informed, low barrier, and voluntary.
- **Principle 4: Address Basic Needs and Provide Storage**
Continue providing the basic needs to a person in public settings. It is equally important to provide storage to persons who are unhoused.
- **Principle 5: Ensure Access to Shelter or Housing Options**
Encampments should not be closed unless there is access to low-barrier shelter or housing. Provide interim housing solutions for encampment residents.
- **Principle 6: Develop Pathways to Permanent Housing and Supports**
Persons experiencing homelessness should have equal access to permanent housing with the right level of services. This will ensure housing opportunities are effective and



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successful. Those who are collaborating in addressing encampments should have close coordination with the Coordinated Entry System (CES) to properly prioritize the encampment residents.

- **Principle 7: Create a Plan for What Will Happen to Encampment Sites After Closure**
Plan accordingly depending on the location of the site. Encourage stakeholders to invest in public spaces.