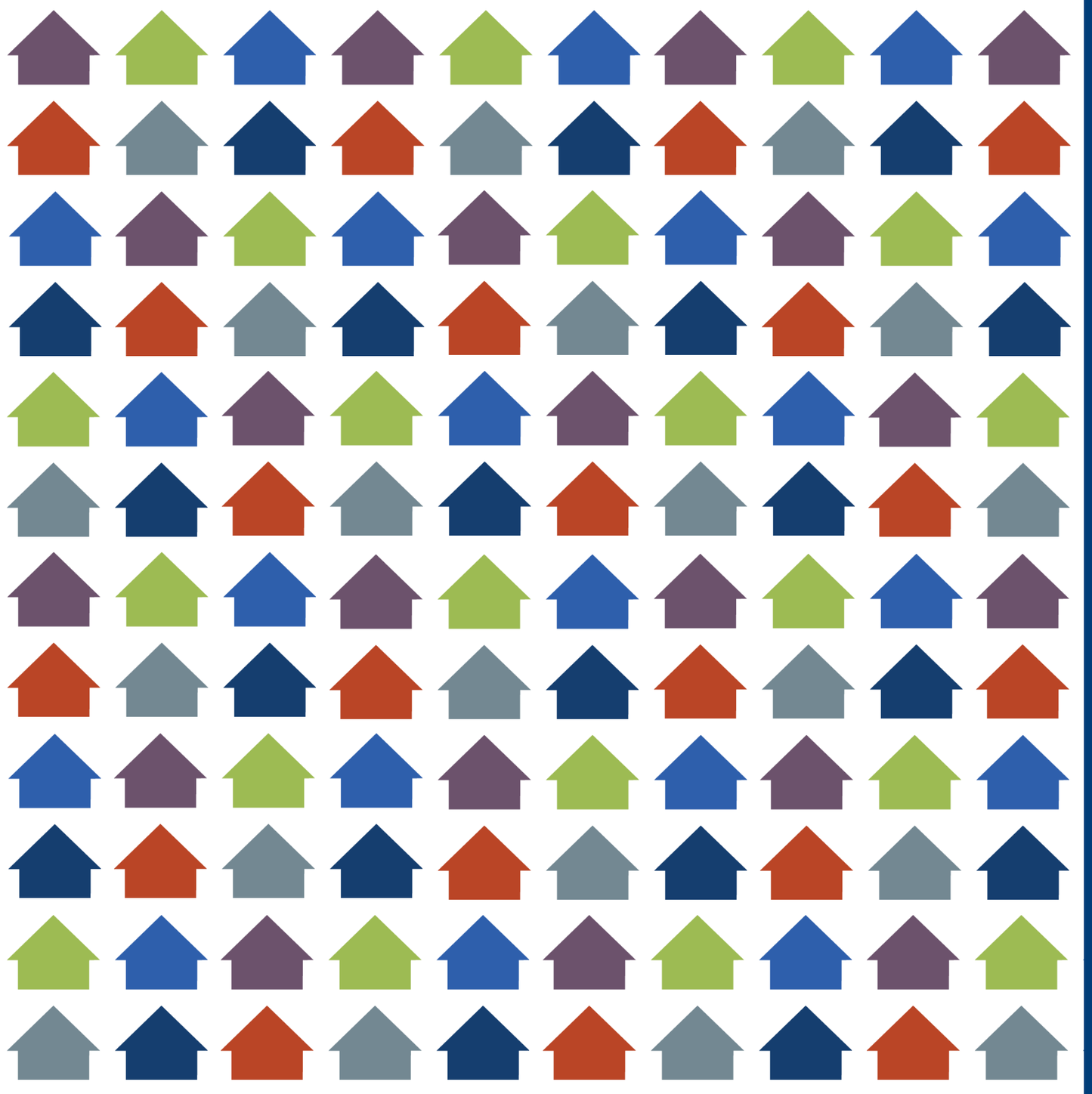

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TEXAS HOMELESS NETWORK

2021 Legislative Session briefing

Strategies For Change

thn.org

87th Legislative Session Outlook

What we know

- THN will support legislation that:
  - Strengthens Texas' Homeless Crisis response Systems
  - Expand Affordable, Accessible housing opportunities
  - Target Assistance to our most vulnerable Texans

What we don't know

- The 87th session is going to be like none other before
  - Number of bills
  - Hearings
  - Legislator meetings
- Virtual/in-person Homeless Awareness Day
- Senate & House composition, new leadership
- Committee chairs & members

Strengthen Texas' Homeless Crisis response Systems

Texas Data Sharing Network - HB 3180

The establishment of a centralized homelessness crisis response system)
Author: Representative Bowers (Dallas)

Unify Homeless Crisis Response systems across Texas

Plan and prepare for disaster response

In the aftermath of a disaster understand who has evacuated and to where

Understand long-term trends and outcomes

Understand frequent users on a statewide basis

Connect people to appropriate resources

Sharing data houses people

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Additional Legislation THN will support

- Legislation designed to divert people from correctional system and prevent recidivism
- Reinstating source of Income protections

And…

Play Defense

Expand Affordable, Accessible housing opportunities

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Reasons to support SB 1116 & Increase tax credits for supportive housing

Spurs investors to solve social need

Uses private investment to solve community problem.
Managed Care Organizations have an interest in housing their super-utilizers of expensive health care interventions.

Housing programs show a $1.20 return on every $1 spent

Permanent supportive housing is the most effective housing intervention for individuals experiencing homelessness to provide affordable, long-term housing.

Texas lacks deeply affordable housing

Our state needs tax credit projects that support deeply affordable housing for those that are 0-30% of AMIFI.
The majority of tax credit projects are for 31-50% of AMFI (very low income)or 51-80% of AMFI.

Additional Legislation THN will support

- Statewide disaster housing strategy for Texans as-risk and experiencing homelessness
- Ensure and address racial equity in housing, homelessness, and tenant protections
- Housing Tax Credit

Target Assistance to our most vulnerable Texas

Healthy Community Collaborative Program (HCCP)

Case Management | Housing Services | Substance Abuse Services | Mental Health

28,514 people received Mental Health Services*

21,572 people received Housing Services*

Due to strict matching guidelines, much of the HCCP funds go unused. Easing the rules around match would increase the scale and reach of the program improving outcomes for the target populations and communities

*data from 2014-2016

Additional Legislation THN will support

- Increase protections/opportunities for victims of domestic violence
- Support bills that expand service/opportunities for people with disabilities
- Support increased protections for unhoused Texans/Oppose criminalization and preemption efforts
- Trauma-informed training for law enforcement