



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **ALL NEIGHBORS COALITION ANNOUNCE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY TO KEEP PUBLIC SPACES VIBRANT AND SAFE DURING AND AFTER FIFA**

*2026 State of Homelessness Address Convenes Local Leaders to Unveil Long-Term Roadmap for Resolving Street Homelessness and Present Updates on Local Homeless Data*

**DALLAS (MAY 13, 2025)** - The [Housing Forward](#)-led All Neighbors Coalition hosted its annual State of Homelessness Address at the Winspear Opera House this morning. During the event, Coalition leadership highlighted the community's specialized strategy to prevent people from sleeping outside by creating real pathways off the streets — an effort that is ramping up as Dallas prepares to welcome millions of visitors for the FIFA World Cup.

“The World Cup will come and go, but what will remain is the best-in-class homeless response system this community has spent the last five years building — one that has bucked national trends through a relentless focus on innovation, action, and results,” said Sarah Kahn, President and CEO of Housing Forward. “Our commitment to ensure no one is forced to sleep outside began long before Dallas was selected as a host city.”

This effort will build upon strategies developed as part of the All Neighbors Coalition Street to Home initiative, which contributed to a reduction in daily street counts of downtown homeless by 87%, according to our partners at Downtown Dallas, Inc. These strategies include:

- Coordinated street response team deployed in real-time to engage neighbors and make immediate connections to shelter, treatment, and housing options
- Shelters equipped to resolve homelessness through accelerated pathways toward recovery and self-sufficiency; and
- Specialized response for people with most severe mental health and substance use issues.

“We have to make sure our system has the right place and the right treatment for each individual,” said Jennifer Erasime, Executive Director of the Meadows Institute, Dallas. “Sometimes that might be out-patient, sometimes that’s in-patient. But we have to make sure that our system is equipped to receive individuals, provide the right treatment at the right time, and then help them exit back out into the community.”

The address concluded with Coalition leaders highlighting a Dallas County tax measure proposal that would scale this proven model to every corner of Dallas County. This was followed by a panel moderated by Collen McCain Nelson, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and executive editor and vice president of *The Dallas Morning News*. Panelists included Erasime, Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins, and Austin Street Center CEO Daniel Roby.

“It’s critical that people move out of shelter quickly, because more people are going to become homeless,” said Dallas County Judge Clay Jenkins. “If you don’t get the people in your shelters now into some sort of housing, then you fill up your shelter beds and people sleep outside. When they sleep outside, they become nine times more likely to be arrested... [and] come to our jail. That is a very inefficient and not-very-helpful place for them... And so finding a way to get people the intervention they need, that’s critical.”

### **About Housing Forward**

Housing Forward is the federally designated lead agency for the 150+ member All Neighbors Coalition, working collaboratively to solve homelessness in Dallas and Collin counties. We unite government, nonprofit, and private partners to resolve homelessness through coordinated action and strategic problem solving. Since 2021, the Coalition has end homelessness for more than 23,000 people. To learn more, visit <https://housingforwardntx.org/>.