

Our City, Our Home Oversight Committee
Needs Assessment Reader/Discussion Questions

1. Structural racism is increasingly recognized as a driver of homelessness in all its forms. Where do you see the intersection of racism and homelessness most clearly? What could a racial equity frame add to the conversation about homelessness in San Francisco?
2. Homelessness prevention is an emerging field. What parts of homelessness prevention are most compelling to you? Why? What questions do you have about homelessness prevention?
3. People experiencing homelessness expressed needs and preferences for a variety of crisis interventions and shelter programs. Was this new information? What do you see as the greatest benefits and challenges of this type of variation?
4. Strained relationships and alienation emerged as common themes in the qualitative data. What does it tell us about homelessness as an experience? As a social problem?
5. What does the Needs Assessment analysis confirm that you already knew?
6. What did you learn from the Needs Assessment that you didn't know before?
7. After reading the Needs Assessment, what questions do you have?
8. Systems thinking involves considering how each part of the system relates to each other and to the whole. What systemic interrelationships stand out to you as key to the homelessness response?
9. Some people experiencing homelessness described needing a "temporary boost" to return to housing. What do you see as possible opportunities for this type of help? What components of the social safety net do you think would be necessary to make a "temporary boost" into a lasting housing solution?
10. What models of permanent housing do you think could be effective in resolving homelessness, and for whom?
- 11. What do you think is the biggest opportunity for San Francisco's response to homelessness? What do you see as the greatest challenge for San Francisco's response to homelessness?**