

# Steering & Oversight Committee

September 12, 2024  
Cultivate Initiatives



**Homelessness  
Response  
System**



# SOC Meeting Map

Agenda Highlights	Meeting Date	SOC Actions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Orientation to purpose, process and</li><li>• HRS committees relationship</li><li>• HRAP Progress Report</li></ul>	September 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Establish norms and processes to support inclusive discussion and decision making</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>KPI review</b></li><li>• <b>Data dashboard preview</b></li><li>• <b>Policy Discussion: Tents and Tarps</b></li></ul>	<b>September 12</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Input on Tent and Tarp Policy</b></li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Decision making approach</li><li>• Approve Community Advisory Committee appointments</li><li>• Proposed changes to HRAP</li></ul>	September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approve Community Advisory Committee Members</li><li>• Consider suggested HRAP changes</li></ul>



# HRS S&O - Parking Lot

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- Map which entities are involved in HRAP action items and the action items for which those entities are responsible
- Action items are related to the stated KPIs in the HRAP
- Core causes of homelessness
- Methodologies used to count the number of people experiencing homelessness and how KPIs in the HRAP are tracked
- Enforcement of ordinances and laws impacts homelessness, and if so what research shows about the impact
- Best practices that have been most successful in resolving homelessness in other communities, other information that may offer hope/promising solutions



# HRAP Metrics

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Baseline number of people experiencing unsheltered homelessness identified as of January 2024 (5,398 on by-name list)



2,699 people – equivalent to half those on the list – placed in shelter or housing by the end of 2025



15% increase in exits from shelter to permanent housing by the end of 2025



75% of people retain permanent supportive housing 24 months after placement



# Example HRAP Change Requests: Date Change

Action Item	Date	Responsible
4.3.2 Expand the Transition Services Unit to include CCOs and assign housing navigators to those exiting Corrections.	July 2024	Homelessness Response System, Department of Community Justice, Coordinated Care Organizations, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office



Action Item	Date	Responsible
4.3.2 Expand the Transition Services Unit to include CCOs and assign housing navigators to those exiting Corrections.	January 2025	Homelessness Response System, Department of Community Justice, Coordinated Care Organizations, Multnomah County Sheriff's Office



# Example HRAP Change Request: Reframe

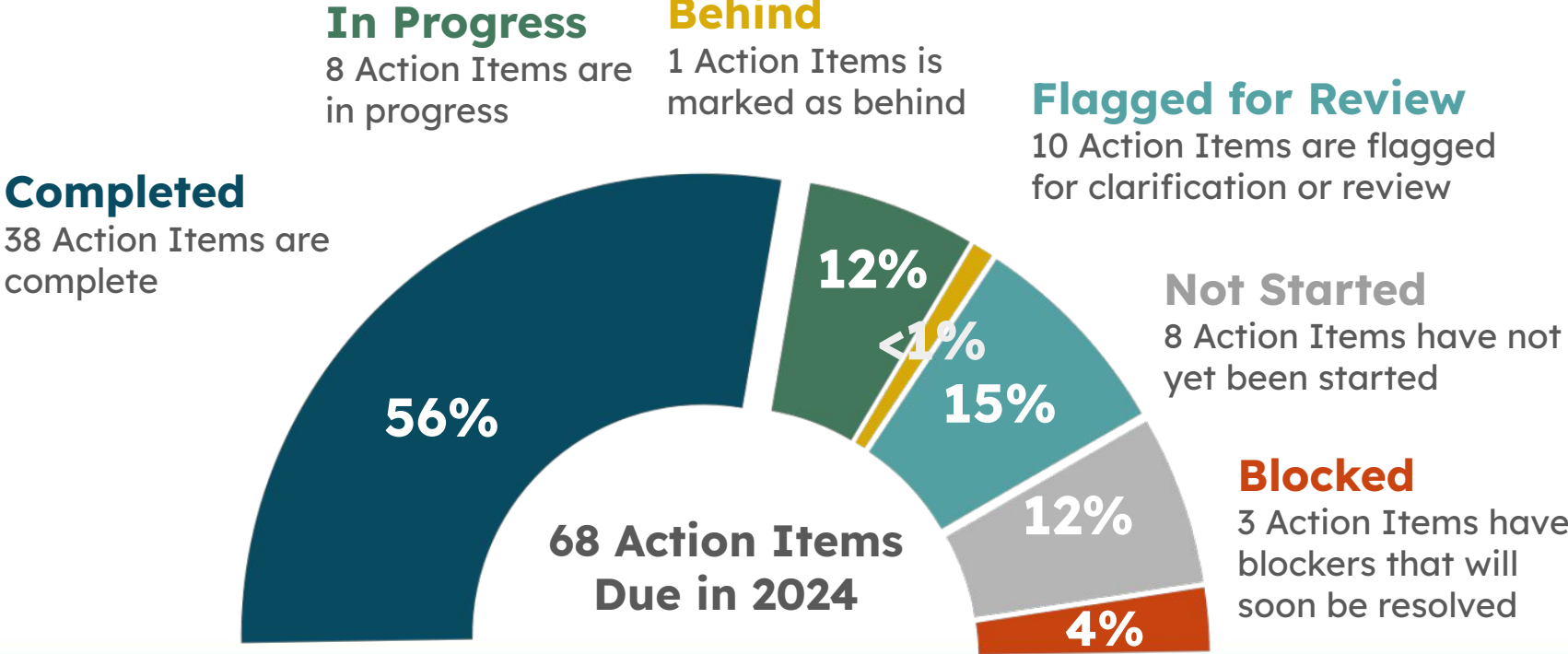
Action Item	Date	Responsible
2.1.3 Identify potential locations for the siting of potential affordable housing, congregate and alternative shelters, and behavioral health services, and regularly update based on estimated need, using best practices.	August 2024	City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro



Action Item	Date	Responsible
2.1.3 <b>Create a tool to</b> identify potential locations for the siting of potential affordable housing, congregate and alternative shelters, and behavioral health services, and regularly update based on estimated need, using best practices.	August 2024	City of Portland, Multnomah County, Metro



# 2024 Action Items Status Update Overall



# HRAP Action Items Updates

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## Common Ordinance / Resolution Language

2 / c. The Joint Office of Homeless Services will have launched a shelter availability application pilot to report available access and appropriate placement spots available, to be tracked in real time.

5 / f. The Joint Office of Homeless Services will launch a pilot to secure up to 200 block/primarily leased units to support rapid rehousing placement.

6 / g. Multnomah County will have completed an analysis of current supportive housing providers and develop a six-month plan to bill for Medicaid eligible services.

10 / i. The Joint Office of Homeless Services will finalize an outreach and engagement strategy workgroup and steering committee, that includes City of Portland participation, similar to the Community Sheltering Strategy.





# HRAP Action Items Updates

Portland City Council Ordinance	Multnomah County Board Resolution
<p>1. The Homelessness Response System (HRS) Steering and Oversight Committee (SOC) will approve a publicly accessible performance dashboard that shows quarterly updates and progress toward HRAP outcomes.</p>	<p>a. Creating and publishing publicly-facing dashboards to monitor progress towards goals and outcomes and investments.</p>
<p>3. The HRS SOC will approve a publicly accessible budget dashboard available detailing respective Program investments by Fiscal Year.</p>	
<p>4. The Joint Office of Homeless Services will provide a detailed plan - including costs and locations - on the 555 beds of additional adult shelter that is planned to open by December 2024.</p>	<p>d. The Joint Office of Homeless Services providing a detailed plan on the 555 beds of additional adult shelter that is planned to open by December 2024.</p> <p>e. The City of Portland will open TASS site #2 and #3 by September 30, 2024.</p>



# HRAP Action Items Updates

Portland City Council Ordinance	Multnomah County Board Resolution
<p>8. The HRS SOC will approve a policy that governs distribution of tents and tarps by Multnomah County and its service providers within the City of Portland.</p>	<p>h. The Homelessness Response System Steering and Oversight Committee will have a policy discussion regarding the distribution of tents and tarps by Multnomah County and its service providers within the City of Portland and inform the City of Portland of Multnomah County's policy.</p>
<p>9. The HRS SOC will approve a policy that governs distribution of syringes, drug kits and other harm reduction tools by Multnomah County and its service providers within the City of Portland.</p>	<p>m. Multnomah County will articulate and inform the City of Portland and the Homeless Oversight Committee of the County's harm reduction policies and implementation.</p>



# HRAP Action Items Updates

Portland City Council Ordinance	Multnomah County Board Resolution
7. The HRS SOC will expand the SOC to include (1) business sector representative (1) behavioral health expert who is not a current service provider and (1) individual taxpayer who currently pays Supportive Housing Services tax.	[no corresponding Resolution language]
11. The HRS SOC will provide clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of the City and the County that are related, either directly or indirectly, to homelessness services.	[no corresponding Resolution language]
12. The HRS SOC will determine an agreed upon number of housing vouchers to be set aside for residents who are housed at a TASS or SRV site.	[no corresponding Resolution language]



# HRAP Action Items Updates

Portland City Council Ordinance	Multnomah County Board Resolution
[no corresponding Ordinance language]	j. The City of Portland will report on their identified ways to support the development and financing of affordable housing on faith-based and nonprofit owned properties.
[no corresponding Ordinance language]	k. The City of Portland will adopt and report on their Housing Production Strategy for the next five years.
[no corresponding Ordinance language]	l. The City of Portland will adopt and report on the identified new Tax Increment Financing Districts in the Central City and East Portland to fund new affordable and other housing development.





# Tent and Tarp Distribution Policy Overview & Input

Homelessness Response System  
Steering and Oversight Committee  
September 12, 2024

Dan Field, *Director*  
Doc Ramblings  
*Shelter, Outreach, Navigation Evaluation Analyst*  
Theo Latiolais  
*New Systems Project Manager*

Joint Office of Homeless Services  
Multnomah County

# Background

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- Revised policy by October (City and County Ordinances)
- Information gathering to inform policy
- Hard conversations with divergent views
- Full details in report

# Role of Supply Center in Homeless Service

1

Developed in response to needs that arose during the pandemic. Maintains direct support for on-street outreach.

3

Monthly appointments with 88 organizations. Most are non-profits and many have JOHS contracts. 38 currently seeking appointments.

2

Distributes clothing, medical, hygiene, tents, tarps, and other supplies. Set quantity available to each recipient per appointment.

4

Constantly seeking to improve. Substantially reduced cost per item in FY24 (50% for tents). Reviewing appointment policies in FY25.

# Sample Items Distributed

Top 15 items distributed  
(by quantity)

May 2023-May 2024 totals

Excluding tents & tarps.

Item Name	Regular	Severe Weather	Discretionary	Grand Total
Case of Water	25,509	22,430	504	48,443
Electrolyte Pack	0	43,200	0	43,200
Tampons	38,850	0	200	39,050
Hygiene Kit	37,326	0	540	37,866
Socks (Pair)	22,380	8,496	216	31,092
Bungee Cords	25,852	0	236	26,088
Flashlights	25,081	0	340	25,421
Sunscreen	0	21,250	0	21,250
Hand Sanitizer	18,716	0	388	19,104
Wool Blanket	10,746	7,218	204	18,168
Hand Warmers	10,640	6,700	300	17,640
Rain Ponchos	9,420	7,270	290	16,980
Cooling Towel	0	16,960	0	16,960
Warm Hats	5,702	4,272	168	10,142
Warm Gloves	5,400	4,236	168	9,804



# FY 24 Tent & Tarp Distribution

(7/1/2023 - 6/12/2024)

Top 10 tent distributions  
to organizations with  
monthly appointments



Organization Type	Organization Name	Tents	Tarps
Contract w/JOHS	Central City Concern	170	316
City Of Portland	Street Services Coordination Center City Street Outreach Team	100	394
Non-profit	Meals on Us PDX	90	352
Contract w/JOHS (Outreach)	Cascadia Behavioral Health	85	350
Contract w/JOHS (Outreach)	Janus Youth	85	332
Contract w/JOHS (Outreach)	MHAAO	85	332
Contract w/JOHS (Outreach)	Transition Projects (NAV)	85	332
Non-profit	Operation Nightwatch	85	218
Contract w/JOHS (Outreach)	4D Recovery	80	316
Contract w/JOHS	Salvation Army Outreach Team	80	313

FY 24 Totals: 5,680 Tents and 21,205 Tarps  
(includes severe weather distributions)

# Information

# n

# Gathering

Where did it come from?

- Review of practices in other communities
- Surveys of providers, City and County staff, and people with lived experience
- A listening session with Lived Experience Advisory Committee (LEAC)
- Listening sessions with staff, providers, and people experiencing homelessness (PEH)

# Tent Distribution in Other Communities

- Supply tents directly to people experiencing homelessness (Alameda)
- Provide funding to organizations that purchase/distribute tents (Clark)
- Distributed by independently funded organizations (Los Angeles)
- Limited to encourage shelter utilization (DC)
  - Approach requires adequate shelter supply
- Sanctioned campsites with tents provided in many communities



# *Impacts of Tent Distribution*

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- Saves lives
- Safety, security, & stability
- Mitigates poor health outcomes
- Opportunities for outreach and relationship-building

# *Impacts of Tent Distribution*

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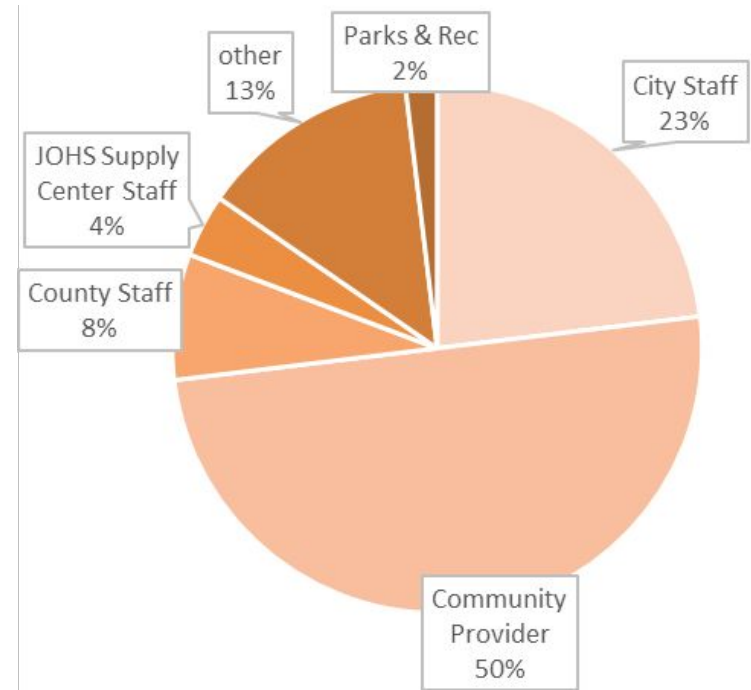
- Interim strategy without adequate housing and shelter
- Accessibility concerns
- Environmental impact
- High visibility
- Quality of life

# Policy Suggestion

## S

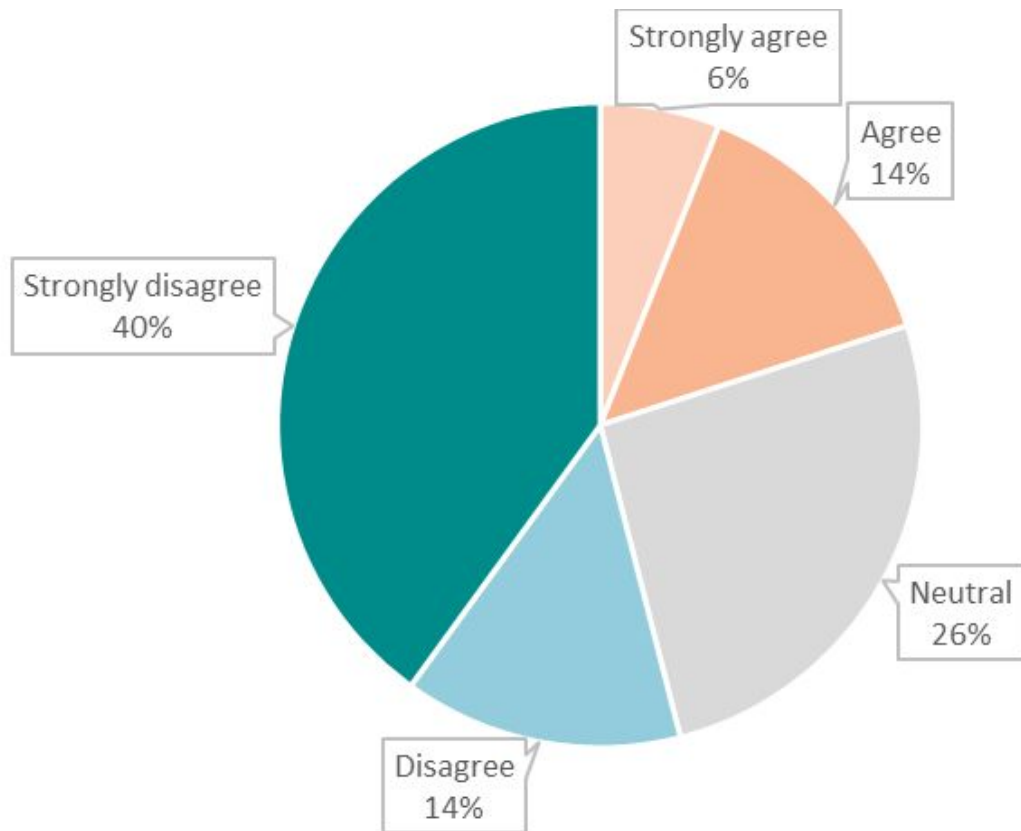
Charts represent survey results.

Pros and Cons are derived from survey and listening sessions.



- 52 total responses
  - 33 distribute tents/tarps to PEH
  - 18 distribute to provider groups
  - 6 remove tents/tarps

# JOHS should only distribute small (1-2 person) tents



# *Some Consequences of Distributing Small Tents*

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## Pros:

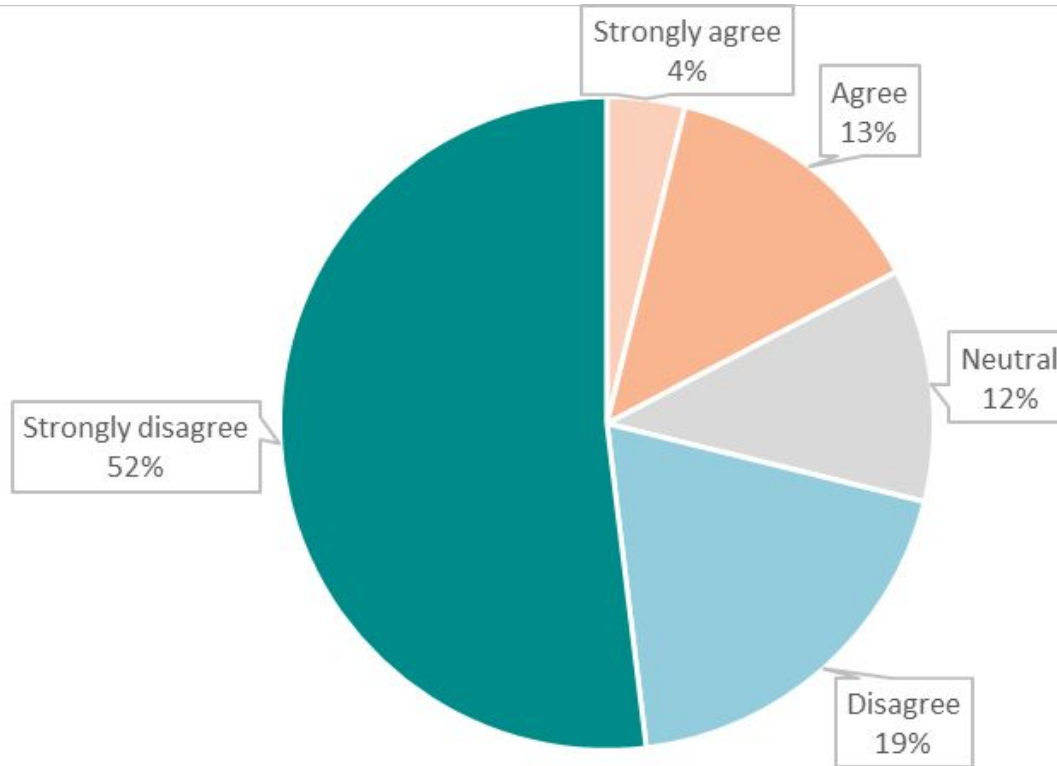
- Smaller encampments
- Easier to keep warm

## Cons:

- Less durable and less waterproof
- Multiple tents needed
- Impacts families and people with disabilities
- Less privacy & safety



# JOHS supply center should only distribute tents and tarps during severe weather events



# *Some Consequences of Severe Weather-Only Distribution*

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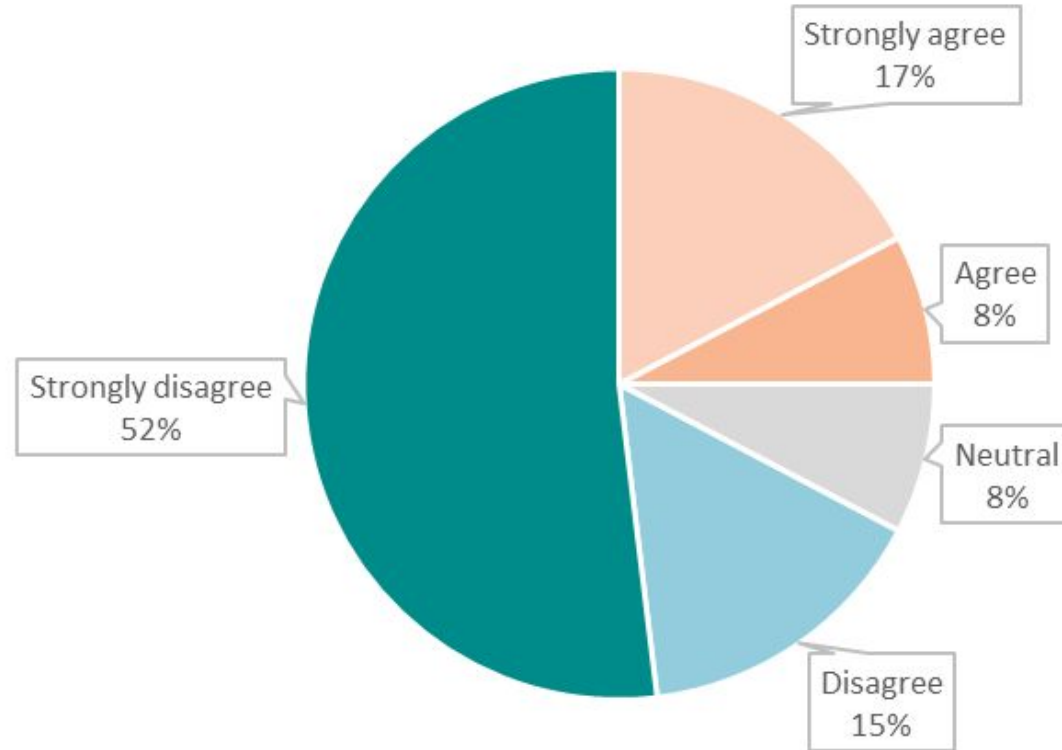
## Pros:

- Less waste
- Cost savings

## Cons:

- Poor health outcomes related to wet weather outside of severe weather
- Increased utilization of emergency health services
- Reduced safety for PEH
- Reduced outreach and relationship-building

# JOHS should discontinue tarps as a supply item



# Some Consequences of Discontinuing Tarps

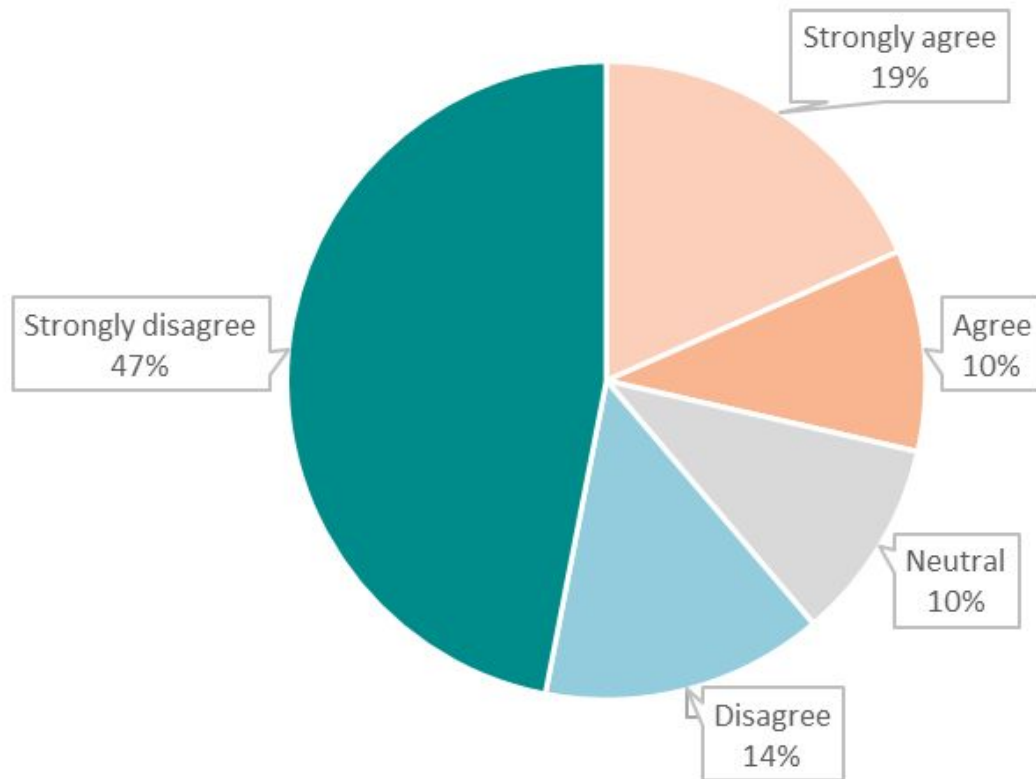
## Pros:

- Less waste
- Cost savings

## Cons:

- Negative health outcomes related to wet weather
- Increased theft and violence
- Increased wear and tear on tents
- More difficult outreach

# JOHS should require HMIS reporting with distribution



# Some Consequences of Requiring HMIS Reporting

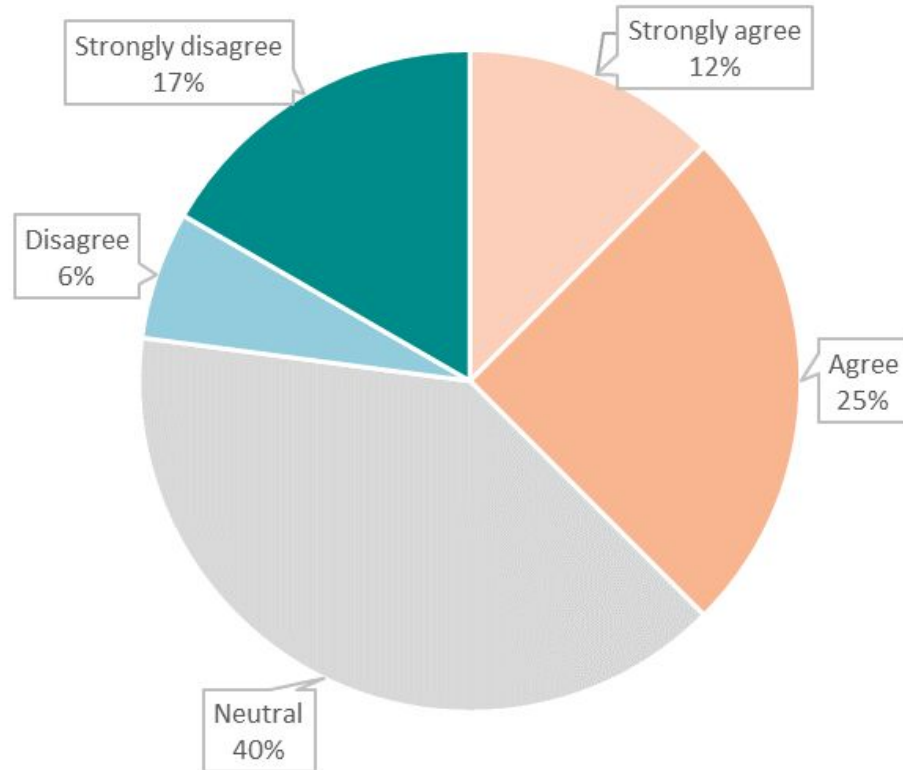
## Pros:

- Accountability & transparency
- Opportunity to add people to Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

## Cons:

- Undue administrative burden on outreach workers
- Impeded outreach and relationship-building
- Data accuracy and privacy

# Comprehensive outreach zone coverage should be incorporated into the tent and tarp policy



# *Some Consequences of including Outreach Zones*

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## Pros:

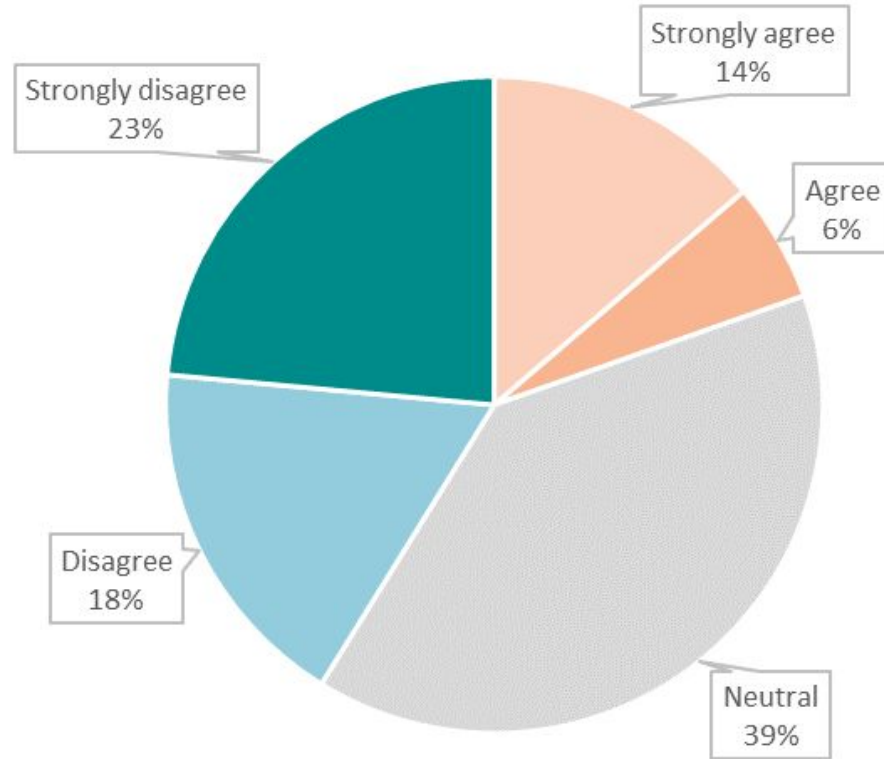
- Geographic coverage, especially for underserved areas
- Improved equitable distribution
- Might help to identify trends

## Cons:

- Won't capture fluid movement of people experiencing homelessness
- Reduced provider flexibility
- Data concerns - privacy and enforcement



# JOHS should label tents and tarps to distinguish them from non-County supplies



# Some Consequences of Labeling

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Pros:

- Accountability and transparency
- Fraud prevention

Cons:

- Waste of time and resources
- Increased stigma
- Increased community tension

# *Additional Policy Considerations*

- Supply Center
  - Waitlist for all supplies including tents
  - Provider applications include zone coverage and mission
  - Active outreach
- Gaps in data and knowledge
  - Relationship between distribution and camp location
  - Relationship between tents and shelter entry
  - Distribution/camp removal relationship



Joint Office of  
**Homeless Services**