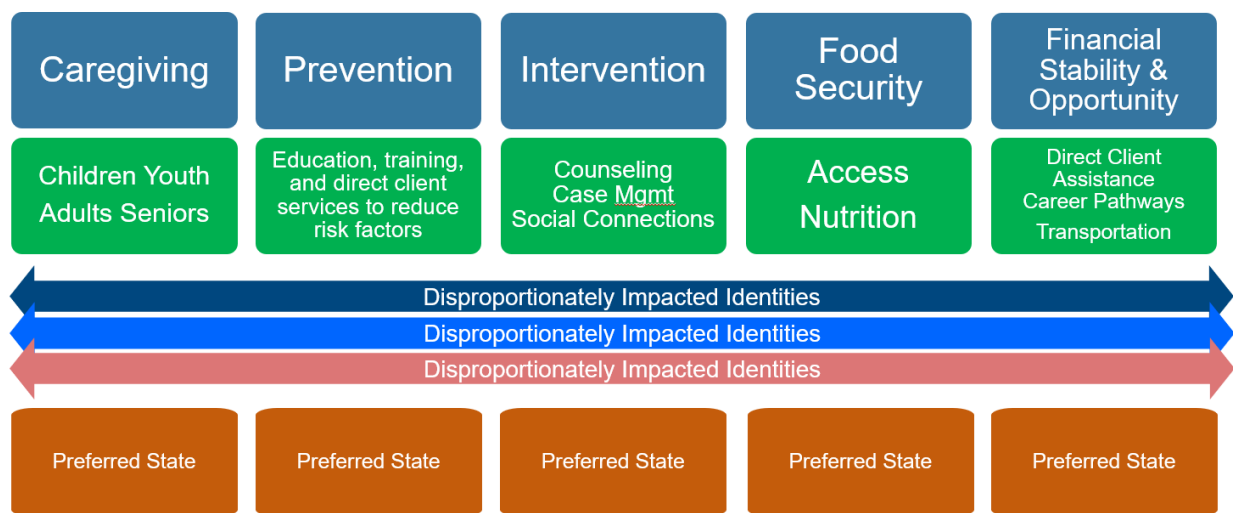# Human Services Priorities Platform

The Human Services Priorities Platform is an adaptable, role-clarifying blueprint for how the City's Social Sustainability Department delivers resources, programming and partnership toward human services in the community. The Platform profiles the human service issues of greatest significance to Social Sustainability and will form the basis for future work. Preserving the values of equity, diversity and inclusion are foundational in the Platform, and the adversities realized by residents with disproportionately impacted identities are recognized throughout this work.

The key priorities identified will inform staff activities and grant-making for the next five years, beginning in FY25. To ensure the Platform remains relevant and responsive, community conditions will be scanned annually to identify necessary updates.

Caregiving	Prevention	Intervention	Food Security	Financial Stability & Opportunity
Children Youth Adults Seniors	Education, training, and direct client services to reduce risk factors	Counseling Case Mgmt Social Connections	Access Nutrition	Direct Client Assistance Career Pathways Transportation

Disproportionately Impacted Identities
Disproportionately Impacted Identities
Disproportionately Impacted Identities

Preferred State	Preferred State	Preferred State	Preferred State	Preferred State

Caregiving

Scope
Programs that provide caregiving services to children, youth, adults and seniors.

Importance is placed on services that subsidize direct care costs for clients, develop or enhance quality caregiving sites and spaces, and/or invest in the training, retention and self-care of their workforce.

Preferred State
All residents have access to quality caregiving services that are affordable to them and meet their needs.

Prevention

Scope

Programs that provide education, training, or direct client services to reduce risk factors that may lead to further/future involvement in human services.

Preferred State

Prevention service models will be offered in the community that are evidence-informed to demonstrate program efficacy.

Intervention

Scope

Programs and local initiatives that increase accessibility to:
- *Counseling*: programs that create access to mental and behavioral health counseling services.
- *Social Connections*: programs that encourage social and multigenerational engagement.
- *Case Management*: programs that assess, plan, implement, coordinate, monitor, and evaluate care or assistance for a client.

Preferred State

All residents have access to quality intervention services that are affordable to them and meet their needs.

Food Security

Scope

Programs and local initiatives that increase accessibility to nutritious food, address food insecurity, and/or provide community education of food-related issues.

Preferred State

All community members have access to food that meets their nutritional needs.
Knowledge expands within the community of the importance of food-related issues.

Financial Stability and Opportunity

Scope

Programs that ensure residents have equal access to tools and resources to develop their short-term and long-term capacity, including:
- Direct Client Assistance
- Career pathways that narrow skill gaps and remove barriers to employment
- Transportation to get to essential services, products and places

Preferred State

All community members have equal access to resources for stability and self-sufficiency.
Patterns that persist generational poverty are disrupted.

Disproportionately Impacted Identities

Fort Collins residents with disproportionately impacted identities, especially those with overlapping identities, may experience complex and compounding challenges affecting their daily lives. The Human Services Priority Platform underscores the importance of adapting and promoting programming to reduce these barriers and create greater access to human services for the following populations. [1]

Limited-Income Socioeconomic Status
Households with income between 0-80% of Area Median Income (AMI)

Communities of Historically Excluded Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds
Native American, Latinx/Latine/Hispanic, Black and African American, Middle Eastern, Asian or Pacific Islander

Immigration Status and National Origin [2]
Residents from low- and middle-income countries, with or without documented immigration status

Language
Persons with linguistic barriers from direct translation and understanding of words and phrases between languages and cultures

Age
Children | Youth and Young Adults | Seniors (62+)

Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation
LGBTQ+ and Women

Disability
Condition that substantially impairs a person's stamina, dexterity, mobility, physical capacity, executive functioning, adaptive behavior, and/or social development

Geographic Location
City-designated Opportunity Neighborhoods with the highest number of vulnerability indicators for historic marginalization

Survivor
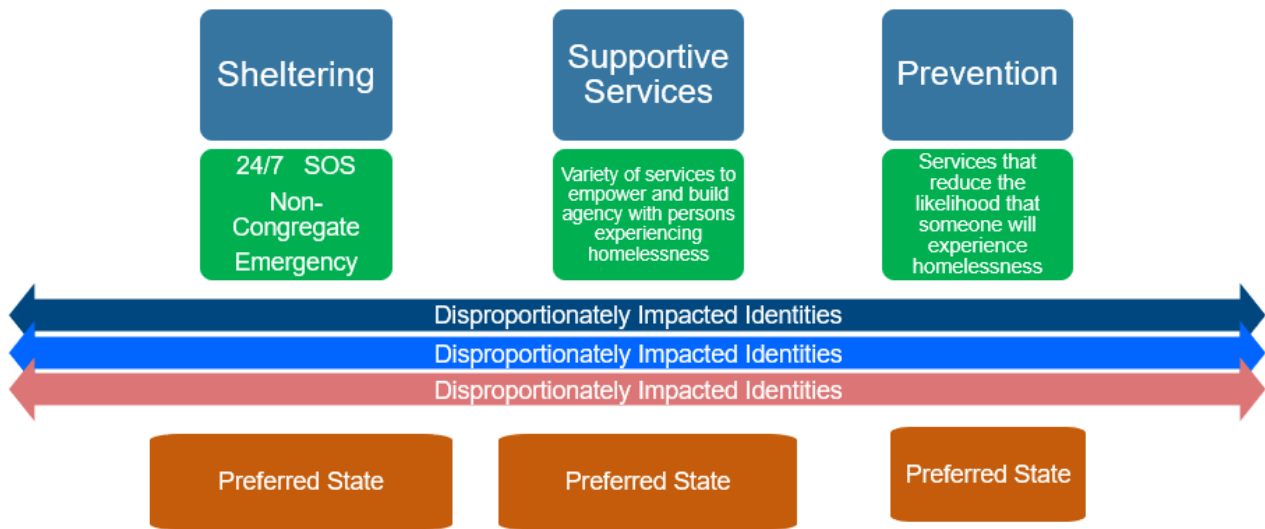Victims/Survivors of interpersonal violence

1 – the order of Disproportionately Impacted Identities is for easy referencing; the order does not imply priorities of any kind.

2 – as classified by the World Bank

Homelessness Priorities Platform

The City's goal for homelessness is to put systems in place so that when a person does experience homelessness, it is rare, brief, and non-recurring, and the number of people entering homelessness does not exceed the system's housing capacity. This is called "functionally ending homelessness" or "functional zero."

The Homelessness Priorities Platform will inform how Social Sustainability supports local systems with resources, programming and partnership towards achieving a functional zero community. The Platform will identify leverage points along the spectrum of intervention and prioritize programs of highest impact.

Sheltering

Scope
Programs that provide 24/7 shelter, seasonal overflow shelter, non-congregate shelter, and emergency shelter.

Preferred State
Capacity is available to meet the shelter needs of all who are unhoused; no one is turned away due to space constraints.

Supportive Services

Scope
Variety of services to empower and build agency with persons experiencing homelessness, including wraparound models, mental and behavioral health, resource navigation, rapid rehousing, rental subsidies/affordable rent, case management, and permanent supportive services.

Preferred State

Supportive services are recognized as critical to move people experiencing homelessness into permanent housing and keep them there; permanent supportive services are available to people who need them.

Prevention

Scope

Services that reduce the likelihood that someone will experience homelessness; intervening to stabilize when someone is at-risk of becoming unhoused.

Preferred State

Prevention services, like rent assistance, employment search assistance, rapid rehousing and diversion lead to people at-risk of homelessness from becoming unhoused.

Disproportionately Impacted Identities ~ Homelessness

Fort Collins residents with disproportionately impacted identities, especially those with overlapping identities, may experience complex and compounding challenges affecting their daily lives. The Homelessness Priority Platform underscores the importance of adapting and promoting programming to reduce these barriers and create greater access to homelessness services for the following populations. [1]

Limited-Income Socioeconomic Status

Households with income between 0-80% of Area Median Income (AMI)

Housing Status

Unhoused or unstably housed

Communities of Historically Excluded Racial and Ethnic Backgrounds

Native American, Latinx/Latine/Hispanic, Black and African American, Middle Eastern, Asian or Pacific Islander

Immigration Status and National Origin [2]

Residents from low- and middle-income countries, with or without documented immigration status

Language

Persons with linguistic barriers from direct translation and understanding of words and phrases between languages and cultures

Age

Children | Youth and Young Adults | Seniors (62+)

Gender Identity/Expression and Sexual Orientation

LGBTQ+ and Women

Disability

Condition that substantially impairs a person's stamina, dexterity, mobility, physical capacity, executive functioning, adaptive behavior, and/or social development

Survivor

Victims/Survivors of interpersonal violence

1 – the order of Disproportionately Impacted Identities is for easy referencing; the order does not imply priorities of any kind.

2 – as classified by the World Bank

Expanding Roles for Social Sustainability

The core roles of the Social Sustainability Department are to provide funding, advance policy, and cultivate partnerships around the issues of housing, human services and homelessness. To remain responsive to community needs, expanding roles for SSD may involve:

- Promoting human services programs available to residents

- Convening nonprofit organizations for networking, capacity building and training

- Supporting efforts to nurture collaboration, improve client outcomes, and reduce service duplication

2025-2029 HUD Consolidated Plan Draft Goals

Increase the supply of affordable housing units
Increase both rental and ownership housing with the following priorities: mixed-income housing, permanent supportive housing, and/or housing with co-location of services (case management, childcare, etc.). Prioritize projects serving special populations including people experiencing homelessness, families, seniors, unaccompanied youth, people with disabilities, and people with very low incomes. Prioritize projects that have nearby access to transit, grocery, employment, and other community amenities/resources. May include construction, acquisition, adaptive re-use, etc.

Preserve existing affordable housing
Invest in preservation activities that maintain and/or improve affordable housing stock conditions and numbers. Includes rehabilitation of existing units and acquisition to prevent conversion to market rate. Rehabilitation efforts will extend the life of the preserved unit for a minimum of 15 years and prioritize healthy indoor and outdoor spaces for residents and energy efficiency upgrades.

Provide emergency sheltering and services
Support projects that provide services, emergency shelter, and/or residency programs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, including comprehensive case management for long-term stabilization. May include extreme weather emergency sheltering for people experiencing homelessness and other vulnerable populations.

Provide housing stabilization services
Includes displacement, eviction, and homelessness prevention services such as diversion, reunification, housing counseling, short- and long-term financial assistance (rent, utilities, etc.), comprehensive case management, service coordination, and supportive services. May also include ownership supports such as emergency repairs, energy efficiency upgrades, and accessibility modifications.

**All funding recommendations will include additional consideration for projects that serve historically underrepresented populations and disproportionately impacted identities, such as seniors, individuals with disabilities, unaccompanied youth, persons experiencing homelessness, LGBTQIA+, victims of abuse and persons of color.