



***What Works: Using Housing
to Increase Emergency
Response Outcomes***

February 19, 2026

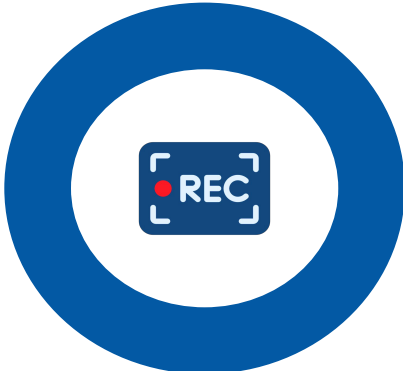
Housekeeping



You are muted upon entry.



Add your questions to the chat box.



This is being recorded.

Today's Schedule



- ❑ Welcome!
- ❑ Where Homelessness and Emergency Systems Overlap
 - ❑ Police Departments and Co-responders
 - ❑ Re-entry & Crisis Support
 - ❑ Engaging with Healthcare Systems
- ❑ Q&A
- ❑ Coming Up



Where Homelessness and Emergency Systems Overlap

Meet the Presenters



**Aspen Police
Department**



**Loaves & Fishes
Ministries**



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Working with Police and Co-responders



1) What types of calls involving people experiencing homelessness are most common? Which of those do you believe law enforcement is least equipped to resolve on its own (aka what are the win-win scenarios that homeless service providers can create to bring their law enforcement partners to the table)?

2) How many of your calls originate, in some way, because of a lack of stable housing? Are there any pain points or negative impacts on your department because those calls come to you?

3) What are the most common points of overlap between police response and homeless response?

4) What would an effective handoff from law enforcement to homeless service providers look like in real time? How do we partner and when should PD show up versus Co-response?

5) Where should people start? How do you know who are the decision makers at the local level? How can providers align their mission with PD?



Braulio Jerez
Human Services Officer
Aspen Police Department

Walking the Path Together: Re-entry & Crisis Support



At Loaves and Fishes, we believe no one should have to navigate their hardest moments alone. Whether a neighbor is currently incarcerated or facing a mental health crisis on the street, we meet them exactly where they are.

By partnering closely with our local **Co-Response Team** and the **Jail-Based Behavioral Services (JBBS) Coordinator**, we combine clinical expertise with a simple, human promise: **we won't let you fall through the cracks.**



Danette Love
Loaves & Fishes
Ministries



Tim Mcfarland
Loaves & Fishes
Ministries



Support in the Storm

When a mental health or substance use crisis hits, our partnership with the Co-Response Team ensures the answer is **care, not just handcuffs**. We step in to stabilize the situation and protect the dignity of our neighbors.



Case Study: Preserving Belongings

When an elderly woman facing early dementia was evicted following a crisis, our outreach team, myself, and men from our WAGGES program stepped in to pack her belongings and secure them in storage while we successfully reunited her with her family.



Case Study: Finding Safety

A young man was found in the midst of a severe psychotic break in the street, we worked to provide him a safe harbor at our shelter until he could be placed in specialized care.

Start the Conversation Early

We don't wait for someone to be released to start helping. Our team goes into the jails to sit down with folks, listen to their stories, and build a plan for "Day One" before they even walk out the doors.

For example, when a father reached out because his daughter was turning herself in while struggling with addiction and homelessness, we didn't wait. We met her right there in jail to begin her assessment, working immediately to secure the sobriety resources, job training, and housing she needs for a fresh start.

Building a Bridge Home

Transitioning back into society is overwhelming. We work hand-in-hand with JBBS to secure the essentials—whether that's a spot in a sober living home, a rehab facility, or a specialized youth program. We are there to ensure the transition is a warm hand-off, not a drop-off.

Our Heart: Breaking the Cycle



Our goal is simple but vital: to ensure that the "exit" from a jail cell or a crisis center doesn't lead straight back to the sidewalk. By building deep roots with our justice and behavioral health partners, we create a safety net of housing, sobriety, and community.

We aren't just managing cases; we're helping our neighbors find their way back to themselves.

Engaging with Healthcare Ecosystems



Sameer Sood
CEO
FwdSlash

Questions



Evaluation

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LIFTVAEmergency>



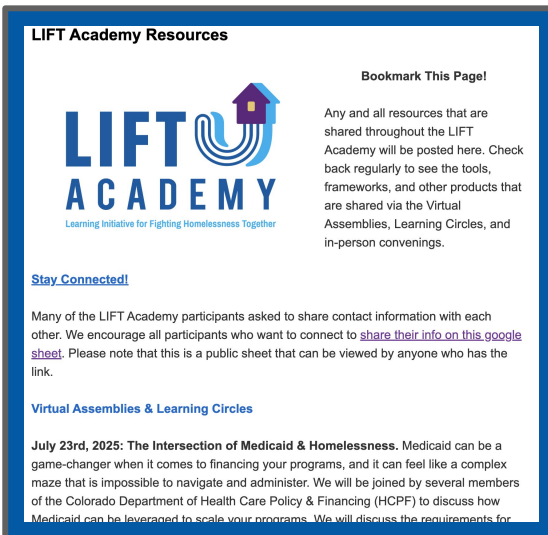
Complete the Zoom poll **OR** SurveyMonkey evaluation for the chance to win a \$5 gift card!

Coming Up



<https://shgadvisors.com/lift-academy-resources/>

- **From Today:**
 - Slides and Recording posted on LIFT Academy Resource Page
- **Going Forward:**
 - Panel Discussion: How to Increase Staff Stability. Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 11am-12:30pm
 - Leveraging Treatment Systems to Increase Housing Stability. Thursday, March 12th, 2026, 11:00am – 12:30pm
 - Panel Discussion: Best Practices in Emergency Shelter. Thursday, March 26th, 2026, 10-11:30am



The image features four incandescent light bulbs arranged in a row on a dark, textured surface. The central bulb is illuminated, casting a warm yellow glow, and is framed by a purple circular border. Inside this circle, the text "Believe in YOUR POTENTIAL" is written in a bold, blue, sans-serif font. The other three bulbs are unlit and appear dark against the background.

**Believe in
YOUR
POTENTIAL**

Let's do this!