

RESEARCH SUMMARY

Cicero's Groundwork for a Better Homelessness Strategy

President Trump's 2025 Executive Order marks a long-overdue course correction in federal homelessness policy. For years, Cicero has warned that "housing first" mandates reward failure, weaken public safety, and ignore public demand for accountability. Our research—across states, populations, and policy frameworks—provides the evidence base behind this policy shift.

Policy Solutions: Treatment, Not Tolerance

- Drug-Free Homeless Service Zones
- Mandated Diversion Programs
- Involuntary Civil Commitment
- Inpatient Care for the Seriously Mentally Ill
- Public Camping Ban Toolkit

KEY FINDING: States don't need to wait. Model policies exist that balance civil liberties with enforcement and recovery.

Housing First: Expensive, Ineffective, Unaccountable

- Why Housing First Failed
- States Can Reject Housing First
- HUD Oversight Failures
- Ending Drug Dens
- Reform HUD's Continuum of Care

KEY FINDING: The federal government's funding structure punishes accountability and rewards ideology. The EO dismantles that dynamic.

Sex Offenders in Encampments: A Public Safety Crisis

Encampments aren't just unsanitary—they're dangerous. Cicero's original research uncovered alarming concentrations of convicted sex offenders among unsheltered homeless populations:

- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- National overview

KEY FINDING: These individuals often reside near schools, transit hubs, and shelters with no consistent oversight.

Public Demands Change—And Fast

- 2024 National Poll
- Wisconsin
- Iowa
- Indiana

KEY FINDING: Across states, 3 out of 4 voters support encampment bans, treatment requirements, and enforcement-driven policy.

THE BOTTOM LINE:

Cicero's research exposes the risks, measures the failures, and points toward a better way. This EO gives states the legal, political, and funding flexibility to act—and our research shows they should.