

# Capstone: 2025 Conference

## HARNESSING THE POWER OF PURPOSE

In 2025, the Regional Task Force on Homelessness convened its annual Conference on Homelessness under the theme Harnessing the Power of Purpose. The Conference served not as a standalone event, but as a strategic point of convergence – bringing together the leadership, data, partnerships, and practices that defined the year’s measurable momentum.

Held during a period marked by policy uncertainty, funding volatility, and public scrutiny, the Conference created space for the region to pause, reflect, and recommit – grounded in evidence, informed by lived experience, and oriented toward disciplined action.

### Why It Mattered in 2025

At a pivotal moment for homelessness response systems nationwide, the Conference provided clarity.

Rather than centering rhetoric or reactive solutions, discussions focused on what has been learned, what is working, and where system alignment must deepen to sustain progress. Leadership development, systemic coordination, data transparency, and belonging were not abstract concepts – they were applied lenses shaping real-world decision-making.

By anchoring conversations in measurable performance and shared accountability, the Conference reinforced a disciplined approach to problem-solving rooted in purpose rather than urgency alone.

### What It Brought Together

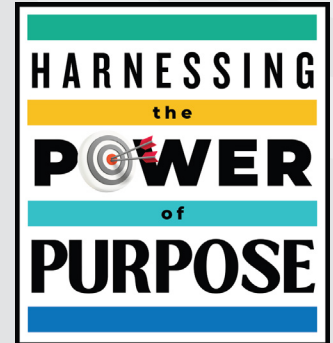
The Conference convened a diverse cross-section of the homelessness response ecosystem, including local and state leaders, service providers, funders, advocates, people with lived experience, and national experts.

This intentional integration of perspectives reinforced a common language across the system:

- Leadership and capacity development
- Systemic coordination and role clarity
- Trend-based data interpretation
- Belonging and inclusion in system design

By aligning these elements in one shared space, the Conference strengthened relationships and trust that extend beyond the event itself.

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### BY THE NUMBERS

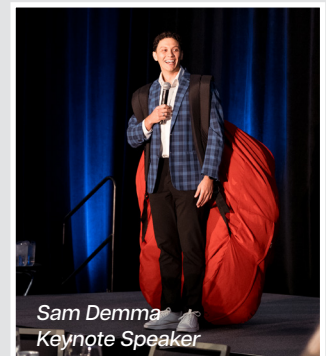
**1,358** attendees

**298** organizations represented

**145** speakers

**64** sessions

**43** lived experience scholarships



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### Strengthening Connection Across the System

Beyond the sessions and presentations, the Conference created space for something equally important: connection. Providers, advocates, policymakers, and people with lived experience connected with peers who understand both the urgency and the weight of this work.

Participants consistently shared that the Conference not only delivered meaningful learning, but also strengthened relationships, supported well-being, and renewed a shared sense of purpose across the region.

By aligning these elements in one shared space, the Conference strengthened relationships and trust that extend well beyond the event itself.

### From Purpose to Practice

More than a reflection of past work, the Conference functioned as a forward-looking alignment point.

Participants left with:

- Clearer understanding of system priorities
- Practical tools and shared frameworks
- Renewed alignment around outcomes and accountability

By bringing the community together in one space, the Conference reinforced that progress is sustained not by individuals alone, but by relationships, trust, and collective commitment. It also reflected RTFH's role as a regional convener – translating complexity into coordinated action and demonstrating that purpose, when paired with disciplined strategy and trusted data, can sustain momentum even in uncertain times.

“

**This conference doesn't just provide great content – it reconnects people to the purpose and community behind the work.”**

– Conference Attendee

