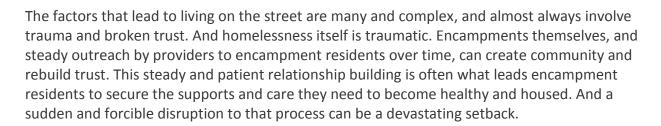
Forced Encampment Closures: They Don't Work and They Do Harm

We do not support or participate in the forced closure of encampments.

As a homeless services provider for more than 30 years, we know there are two essential elements to connecting people experiencing homelessness to housing and health care.

- We meet people where they are: We engage them on their terms and build relationships with them to earn their trust and make them full partners in their care.
- And because housing *is* health care, we work with them to secure permanent—and where needed, supportive—housing.



Homelessness is fundamentally a problem of the lack of affordable housing: People experience homelessness in Baltimore because they don't have access to housing they can afford. Yet, for too long, our response as a city to the homelessness problem has been a patchwork of temporary and longer-term shelter that is insufficient and ill-suited. Only permanent housing and the supports to help people stay housed will end homelessness for our neighbors and our city.

At Health Care for the Homeless, we will continue to connect people experiencing homelessness to housing and health care. And we will work with our many partners across the community to create the affordable housing our clients need.

Our porch and perimeter

Because we are a health care provider serving hundreds of people each day, it is critical that our front porch and building perimeter remain free and clear—accessible to our clients, contractors, staff and the general public—during hours of clinic operation: 7 a.m.-5 p.m. And there can be <u>no tents or structures</u> of any kind in these areas <u>at any time</u>.

We will ensure that our porch and building perimeter remain clear through communication with our clients and neighbors, <u>not</u> through gating the area or posting *No Trespassing* signs. We do not support illegal activity on our property. We also will do nothing to invite the citation or arrest of people who are simply seeking a safe place to stay because of their homelessness.

Everyone deserves to go home.

