



## Preferred Language Guide

### Person First

This document will serve as the preferred language guide for Unity Shelter as we engage in our work with people experiencing homelessness. We will use language recommendations noted here in our communications, in our speaking engagements, and in our work with and alongside people experiencing homelessness and when engaging with our housed neighbors and the community at large.

We will use person-first language which identifies a person first and their experience second. Examples include:

- folks experiencing homelessness (or) houselessness
- people/persons experiencing homelessness (or) houselessness
- A person who has mental health challenges
- A person who has addictions or behavioral challenges

We will utilize language that references camping and living outside as 'sanctioned' or 'unsanctioned' camping rather than using language that references legal or illegal. Using language that references legal or illegal can quickly turn to the existence of human beings as legal or illegal and we believe that no human being is illegal.

We will never use the following when referring to people or their experience: the mentally ill; addicts, or illegal campers.