

RECEIVED

OCT 28 2025

NEVADA COUNTY
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

TO: Nevada County Board of Supervisors, Town of Truckee Council Members, and
Tahoe Forest Hospital District Board Members
FROM: Rev. Clare C. Novak, United for Action and Tahoe Truckee Homeless Action
Coalition (TTHAC)
Date: October 28, 2025
RE: THAC Recommendations for Proposed One Year Navigation Center Pilot (Pilot),
Shelter Beds, Interim Beds, Day Services and Funding Source

Hello, I'm Rev. Clare Novak, a TTHAC member representing United for Action, a North Tahoe-Truckee coalition of faith-based organizations and community activists. UFA's focus is on meeting our neighbors' basic needs: shelter, food, clothing, health. Our key focus for over ten years has been on homelessness and housing. And I'm here to remind you of the depth of community backing for our unhoused neighbors.

Ten years ago, to this day, I was in the basement of Church of the Mountains in Truckee in a neighbor meeting to discuss a proposed pilot program for an Emergency Warming Center. This was a grassroots effort by UFA, the church, and a coalition of other faith groups, agencies, and nonprofits. A grassroots effort, built on best practices and hope.

We listened to housed and unhoused neighbors, we researched operations, we adapted them to our unique mountain region. We collaborated, we raised money, we volunteered. So that we could end deaths from weather exposure and neglect.

Here we are again, ten years later, for another collaborative pilot. A Navigation Center. We're still here with the same hope and humanity, but greater experience and tools and allies. I want to lift up the strong work of the Tahoe Truckee Homeless Action Council. Two dozen members of our community came together to give vision and direction to a regional homeless action plan.

This plan is *local wisdom from locals*--grounded in best practices and professional expertise, but suited to us. To Tahoe-Truckee realities and resources. To our mountain weather and values.

Let's start to carry forward this sound action plan. We know from the success of North Tahoe-Truckee Homeless Services that grew from our grassroots, that we have committed, concerned community members who will give their know-how, their dollars, their efforts to make this Navigation Center succeed. They will approve of the funding you'll contribute and will add more. I will be here, with the over 100 members of UFA who backed our letter of support, to gather more allies. Together, we'll make the Navigation Center a life-changing space for those still out in the cold and still part of us.

I say this. I've now been to many neighbor meetings and local forums on homelessness over this past ten years. Never once did I hear that we don't care about our unhoused neighbors. Never once that they don't, or shouldn't, exist among us. The questions have always been about the how: How can we make an effective difference? We have a clear How in front of us. Please fund this Navigation Center. Please back it. And this community will too. Thank you.