

AO 2021-76, Houseless Lived Experience Advisory Board

WHAT IS A LEAB AND WHY DO WE NEED ONE?

BY FELIX RIVERA

What are LEABs or CABs?

Main considerations when forming a LEAB or CAB

Examples from other jurisdictions

Discussion

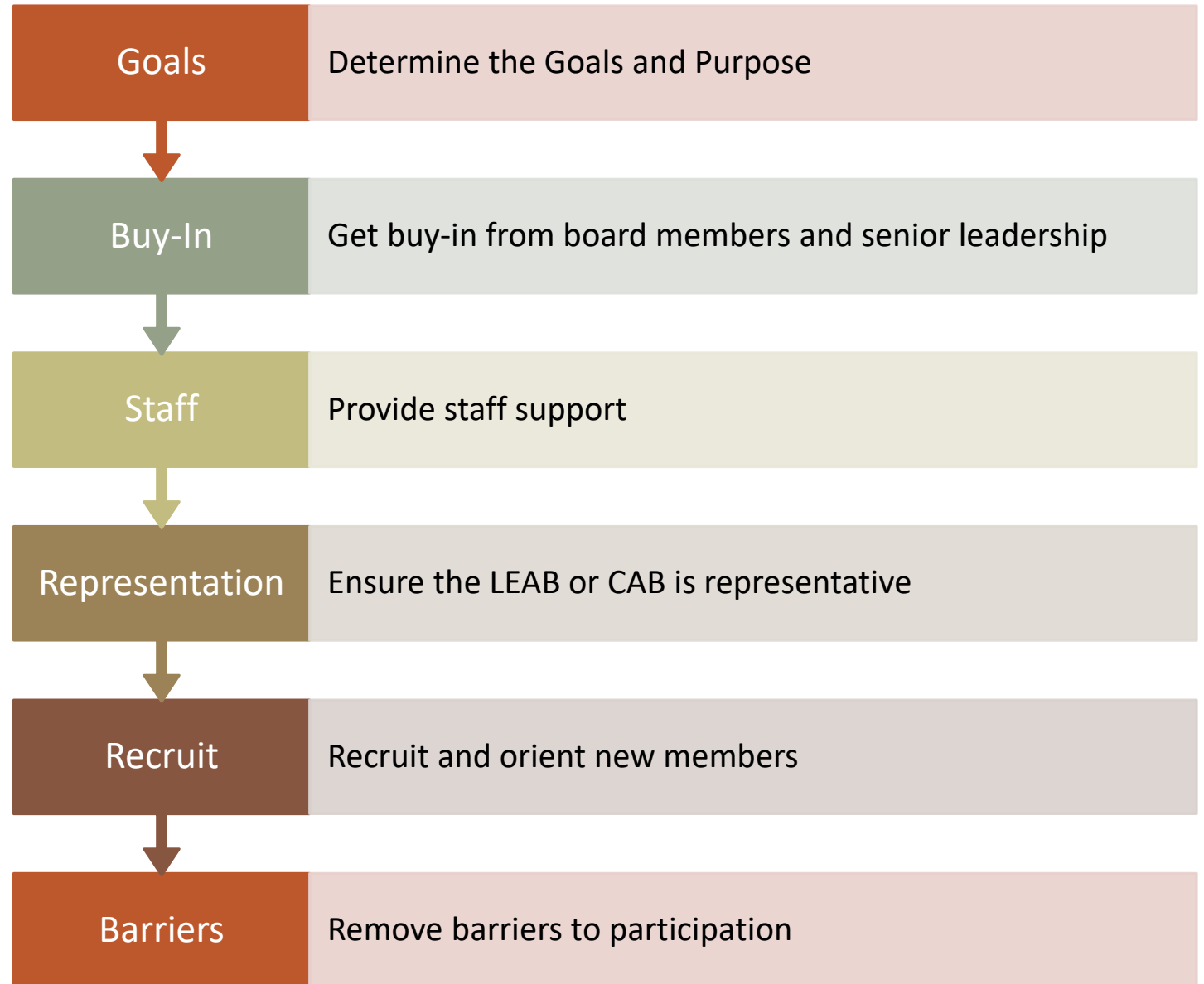


What are LEABs or CABs?

A Lived Experience Advisory Board or a Consumer Advisory Board have the following benefits:

- Obtaining feedback on and recommendations on the efforts to end homelessness
- Fostering development of self-determination, leadership skills, and a sense of empowerment
- Creating working partnership between consumers and providers or policy makers

Main Considerations when Forming a LEAB or CAB



Goals and Purpose

- C. The board shall have the following powers and duties:
1. Advise the assembly and mayor on issues, services and programs regarding homelessness, housing, and related matters from the perspective of those with lived experience in our community.
 2. Assist the assembly and mayor in conducting educational and public relations programs designed to create public awareness of the needs of those with lived experience in our community.
 3. Make recommendations to the assembly and mayor regarding policies, practices, and legislation from the perspective of those with lived experience.
 4. Act as a liaison between those with lived experience and policy makers.
 5. Conduct regular reviews of the current community plan to end homelessness from the perspective of those with lived experience.
 6. To review budget allocations addressing homelessness and support services from the perspective of those with lived experience.

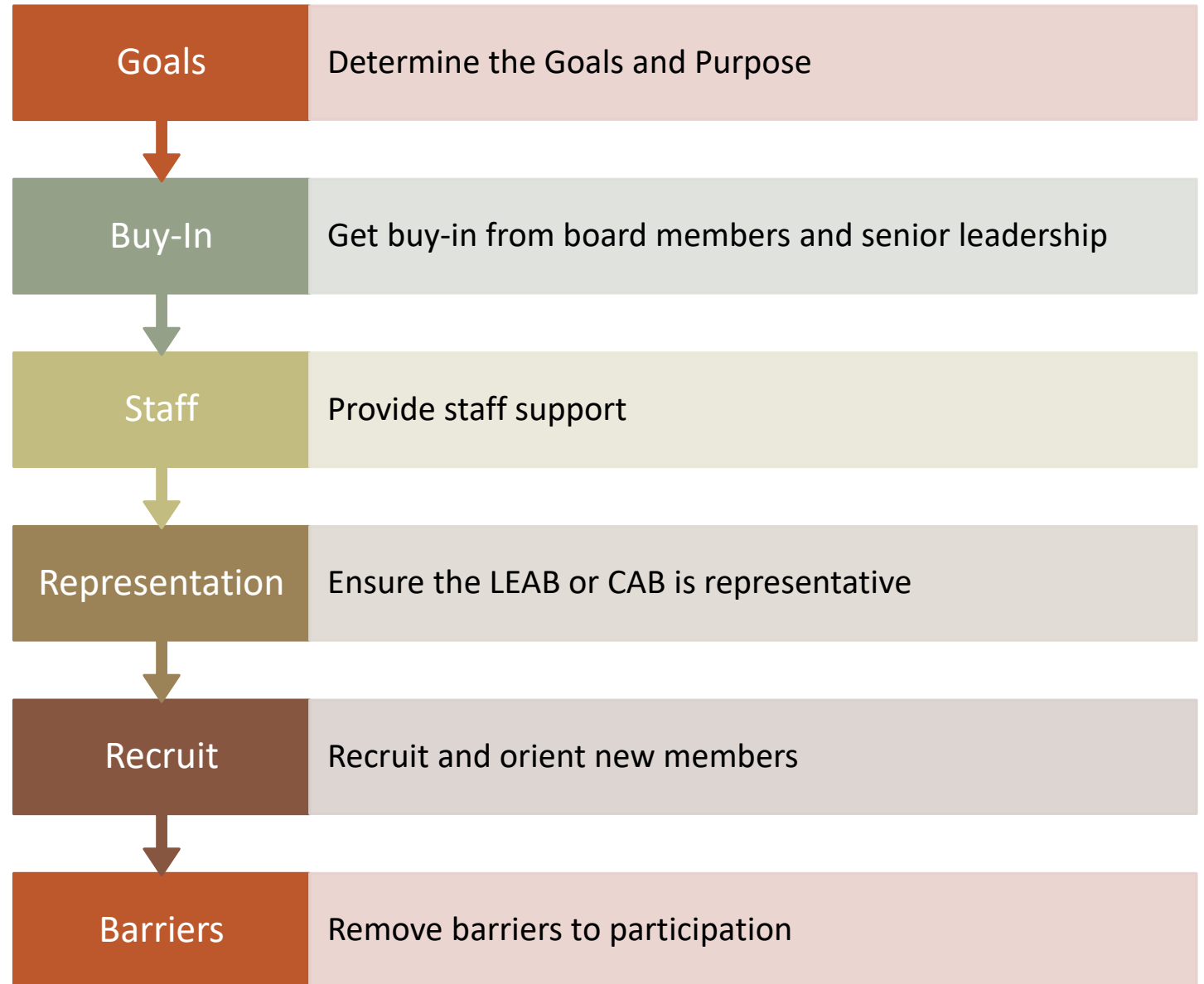
Buy-in from board members and senior leadership

“As public officials partner with private organizations to fashion effective programs providing shelter and services to the houseless among us, it is vital that they hear and appreciate the full and varied stories of houseless living in Anchorage.” – Celeste Hodge Growden, President/CEO, Alaska Black Caucus

“The creation of the houseless lived experience advisory board is a necessary step to improve development of city-wide homelessness services. Formalizing input and review by community members impacted by policy level decision making is a best practice that helps to achieve better outcomes.” – Jasmine Boyle, Executive Director, Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness

“A housed activist with more than a decade of participation in this struggle, recently noted that they had participated in many work sessions dealing with the issues of the housless. They were unable to recall a time when someone with lived experience was included in the search for solutions.” – Sid McCausland, Scribe, Houseless Resource Advisory Council

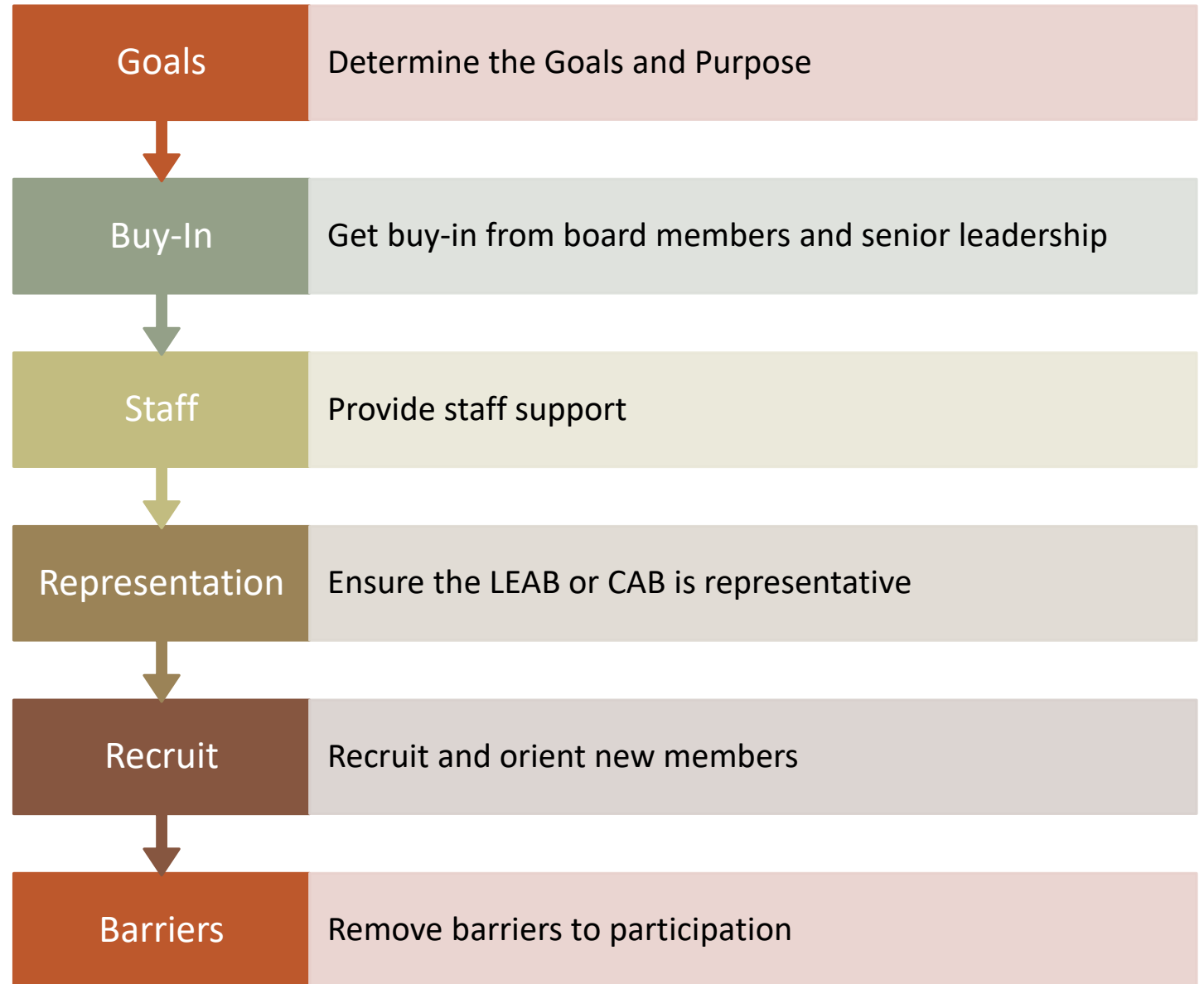
Main Considerations when Forming a LEAB or CAB



Ensure the LEAB or CAB is representative

- B. The board shall consist of up to 9 members serving three-year terms who self-identity as having lived experience of homelessness. The following experiences are suggested, but not required, to ensure a variety of perspectives on the board:
1. Families.
 2. Youth.
 3. Single adult.
 4. Physical disability.
 5. Mental health disorder.
 6. Substance misuse disorder.
 7. Domestic violence survivor.
 8. Veteran.

Main Considerations when Forming a LEAB or CAB



Examples from other jurisdictions

From the street to the boardroom: Homeless residents take back power in Bay Area

In a new shift, unhoused people are getting more seats at the table

By [MARISA KENDALL](#) | mkendall@bayareanewsgroup.com | Bay Area News Group
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Austin's bet to beat homelessness: Engaging people with lived experience

 Bloomberg Cities Feb 6, 2019 · 7 min read

