

Smart Shelters for Homeless Communities

Enhancing Shelter Operations Through Connected Technologies

A Horizon IoT Thought Leadership Overview

Executive Summary



Homeless shelters serve as critical community resources, providing safety, stability, and access to essential services. As demand for shelter services continues to grow, organizations are exploring innovative approaches to improve operational efficiency, strengthen resident support, and enhance service delivery.

Horizon IoT Approach

Horizon IoT helps organizations evaluate, deploy, and support connected technology solutions through RFID, IoT, health and wellness technologies, analytics, and a broad ecosystem of technology and service partners.

This overview explores practical strategies, deployment approaches, and technology applications that can help modernize shelter operations while improving resident well-being, safety, and sustainability.

Current Shelter Challenges

Shelter organizations face a range of operational, safety, and resource-management challenges that can impact service delivery, efficiency, and resident outcomes. Understanding these challenges is the first step toward identifying practical technology solutions that can support modernization efforts.

FIVE CHALLENGE AREAS

High Operating Costs

Facility management, staffing, utilities, and security requirements continue to place pressure on shelter budgets.

Resource Visibility

Tracking inventory, supplies, and critical assets can be difficult without real-time visibility into available resources.

Safety & Security

Shelters must provide a safe environment for residents, visitors, and staff while managing access and security requirements.

Health & Wellness Support

Many residents require access to healthcare services, wellness resources, and ongoing support programs.

Limited Operational Data

Decision-makers often lack real-time information needed to make informed operational and resource-allocation decisions.



The Horizon IoT Approach

Horizon IoT works with public-sector agencies, nonprofit organizations, healthcare partners, and technology providers to help evaluate, design, deploy, and support connected solutions that address real-world shelter challenges. Our approach focuses on combining proven technologies, strategic partnerships, and practical implementation strategies to improve operational efficiency, enhance resident services, and support long-term sustainability.



FOUR KEY PILLARS

Assess Organizational Needs

Every shelter environment is unique. Understanding operational objectives, facility requirements, resident services, and resource constraints helps establish a strong foundation for successful technology adoption.

Build the Right Solution Ecosystem

Successful modernization often requires more than a single technology. Horizon IoT works with a diverse network of technology, infrastructure, connectivity, software, and healthcare partners to help identify solutions aligned with organizational goals.

Enable Connected Operations

Connected technologies can help improve visibility across assets, facilities, services, and support programs. RFID, IoT, analytics, and health technologies provide new opportunities to enhance efficiency, safety, and service delivery.

Support Long-Term Sustainability

Technology adoption is most effective when supported by training, operational guidance, performance measurement, and continuous improvement. Horizon IoT helps organizations build sustainable solutions that evolve with changing needs.

Horizon IoT combines technology expertise, strategic partnerships, and flexible deployment approaches to help organizations create safer, smarter, and more connected shelter environments.

Horizon IoT's RFID Solutions

Horizon IoT helps organizations improve visibility, accountability, and operational efficiency through RFID-enabled solutions tailored to shelter environments. By combining proven RFID technologies with deployment expertise, integration capabilities, and strategic partnerships, Horizon IoT helps create more connected and data-driven operations.



Resident Identification & Access Management

Horizon IoT RFID solutions support secure resident identification, streamlined check-in and check-out processes, and controlled access to facilities, programs, and designated service areas. These capabilities help improve operational awareness while supporting a safer and more efficient shelter environment.

Asset & Resource Visibility

Horizon IoT helps organizations gain greater visibility into critical assets, donated resources, inventory, bedding, clothing, and operational supplies. RFID-enabled tracking can improve accountability, reduce losses, and support more informed resource allocation decisions.

Service Delivery & Operational Efficiency

RFID solutions can support meal distribution, program participation tracking, inventory management, and operational workflows. By reducing manual processes, organizations can improve efficiency while maintaining a stronger focus on resident services.

Emergency Preparedness & Accountability

Horizon IoT solutions can help improve situational awareness during emergency events by supporting accountability for residents, staff, and critical resources. Enhanced visibility can assist organizations in responding more effectively during security incidents or facility emergencies.

Horizon IoT RFID solutions provide the foundation for greater visibility, stronger accountability, improved operational efficiency, and better-informed decision-making across shelter operations.

Horizon IoT's IoT Solutions

Horizon IoT helps organizations leverage Internet of Things (IoT) technologies to create connected, data-driven shelter environments. Through smart sensors, monitoring systems, analytics platforms, and integrated infrastructure, Horizon IoT helps improve operational visibility, enhance safety, optimize resources, and support better service delivery.

Intelligent Facility Management

Horizon IoT solutions can help organizations monitor and manage critical facility operations through connected sensors and automated alerts. Environmental monitoring, smart lighting, climate control, and infrastructure monitoring provide increased visibility into daily operations while supporting a safe and comfortable environment.

Security & Situational Awareness

Connected security technologies can improve operational awareness through smart access control, surveillance integration, occupancy monitoring, and real-time alerts. These capabilities help organizations strengthen security while maintaining a welcoming environment for residents and staff.

Resource Optimization

IoT-enabled monitoring can help organizations better understand facility usage, utility consumption, equipment performance, and operational trends. Improved visibility supports more informed decision-making and helps maximize available resources.

Resident Services & Connectivity

Access to connectivity and digital services plays an increasingly important role in modern shelter operations. Horizon IoT solutions may support Wi-Fi, 4G LTE, and 5G connectivity, digital information services, connected kiosks, and technology platforms that help residents access resources, services, and support programs.

Horizon IoT's IoT solutions help transform traditional facilities into connected environments that support operational efficiency, resource optimization, enhanced security, and improved resident services.



Horizon IoT's Health & Wellness Solutions

Wellness Monitoring & Connected Health Technologies

Horizon IoT helps organizations explore wearable technologies, biometric monitoring devices, wellness tracking platforms, and connected health applications that support resident engagement, health awareness, and proactive wellness initiatives. These solutions can help provide greater visibility into wellness trends while encouraging healthier lifestyles and participation in support programs.

Improve Access to Care

Connected technologies can help expand access to healthcare services through telehealth platforms, remote consultations, digital wellness resources, and technology-enabled care programs. These capabilities can help connect residents with healthcare professionals and support services regardless of location.

Strengthen Care Coordination

Technology can improve communication and collaboration among shelter staff, healthcare providers, case managers, social service organizations, and community partners. Better information sharing and coordination can support more effective service delivery and improved resident outcomes.

Data-Informed Wellness Programs

Wearables, connected devices, and digital health platforms can provide valuable insights into participation, utilization, wellness trends, and program effectiveness. These insights can help organizations measure impact, allocate resources more effectively, and continuously improve resident support initiatives.

Horizon IoT helps organizations leverage wearable technologies, connected health solutions, telehealth platforms, and strategic healthcare partnerships to improve resident well-being, strengthen care coordination, expand access to care, and build healthier, more resilient communities.

Homeless shelters often serve individuals facing complex physical, behavioral, and social health challenges. Horizon IoT works with healthcare innovators, wellness technology providers, and community partners to help organizations evaluate and implement connected health solutions that improve access to care, strengthen resident support services, and promote healthier outcomes.



Horizon IoT's Partner Ecosystem

Successful shelter modernization requires more than a single technology solution. Horizon IoT works with a diverse ecosystem of manufacturers, software providers, healthcare innovators, infrastructure specialists, and deployment partners to help organizations implement solutions aligned with their operational objectives and community needs. This ecosystem enables Horizon IoT to deliver RFID, IoT, health and wellness, connected infrastructure, analytics, and deployment solutions.

OEM Manufacturers & Technology Providers

Horizon IoT collaborates with leading manufacturers and technology innovators to provide access to RFID, IoT, security, communications, analytics, and emerging technology solutions. This partner network enables organizations to evaluate and select technologies that best fit their operational requirements and future growth strategies.

Distribution & Supply Chain Partners

Through established relationships with distributors and supply-chain partners, Horizon IoT helps simplify procurement, improve technology availability, and support cost-effective deployments while maintaining flexibility and scalability as organizational needs evolve.

Infrastructure & Connectivity Partners

Reliable infrastructure is essential for successful technology adoption. Horizon IoT works with networking, wireless, telecommunications, and infrastructure partners to support secure, resilient, and scalable environments capable of supporting modern connected operations.

Software & Integration Partners

Technology solutions deliver greater value when systems work together. Horizon IoT collaborates with software developers, cloud providers, analytics specialists, and integration partners to help organizations improve visibility, automate workflows, streamline reporting, and support data-driven decision-making.

Healthcare & Wellness Technology Partners

Through relationships with healthcare innovators, telehealth providers, wearable technology companies, wellness platform providers, and community healthcare organizations, Horizon IoT helps organizations explore solutions that support resident well-being, care coordination, and improved access to services.

Deployment & Support Partners

From assessment and planning through installation, training, operational support, and ongoing maintenance, Horizon IoT's partner ecosystem provides the expertise and resources necessary to support successful deployments and long-term operational success.

Horizon IoT's greatest strength is the ability to bring together the right technologies, partners, and expertise to deliver practical solutions that improve operations, support residents, and strengthen communities.

Deployment Models and Services

Feature	Cloud-Based (SaaS)	On-Premises	Hybrid
Hosting	Cloud-hosted environment	Customer-hosted environment	Combination of cloud and local infrastructure
Deployment Speed	Fastest implementation	Longer implementation timeline	Moderate implementation timeline
Infrastructure Management	Vendor-managed	Organization-managed	Shared responsibility
Customization	Standardized configuration options	Extensive customization options	Flexible customization
Data Management	Cloud-based data storage	Local data control	Shared storage strategy
Scalability	Highly scalable	Dependent on local infrastructure	Flexible expansion model
IT Resources Required	Minimal	Higher internal IT involvement	Moderate IT involvement
Best Fit	Rapid deployment and reduced IT burden	Maximum control and customization	Balance of flexibility and control

Service Area	Description
Assessment & Planning	Evaluate operational requirements, objectives, infrastructure, and deployment readiness.
Solution Design	Develop solution architectures aligned with organizational needs, security requirements, and growth plans.
Deployment & Installation	Deploy and configure hardware, networks, sensors, and supporting technologies.
Systems Integration & Data Connectivity	Integrate RFID, IoT, analytics, health, and business systems into a unified environment.
Pilot Programs	Validate technologies, workflows, and operational outcomes before broader deployment.
Training & Knowledge Transfer	Prepare staff and stakeholders through onboarding, training, and operational guidance.
Support & Optimization	Provide ongoing monitoring, support, maintenance, and continuous improvement services

Thank You

Transforming Vision into Reality
Through the AI and IoT Revolution



John Ozkurt

HORIZON IoT LLC

john.ozkurt@horizoniot.org

203.434.3334

<https://horizoniot.org>