



Eliminate homelessness

What's working

There's a culture change downtown.

- Business security teams, police officers, restaurant owners, store owners and shoppers have shown a willingness to wade into this issue and work together.
- There has been a behavior change in our response to homelessness.
- The level of community engagement on homelessness has never been higher.

There is a plan for coordinated action.

- Having a plan, in itself, is a success. We can all point to the plan and what we're doing.
- Thanks to coordinated efforts, we're arresting fewer people for issues related to homelessness.
- Eleven downtown churches are collaborating to end homelessness.

- Thanks to agencies working together, we've gotten a few hundred long-term homeless people off the streets and out of shelters.
- The City, County and community are working together.
- We have 1,500 volunteers and 150 agencies working together to engage this population.
- Project Homeless Connect repeatedly leverages about \$200,000 worth of services for a day to provide practical help (dental care, job information, haircuts, housing referrals, etc.) to homeless people.

We see fewer homeless youths.

- We're leveraging private dollars to State dollars to house homeless kids.
- Minneapolis Public Schools works tirelessly to help homeless kids stay in school. Teachers know how to engage homeless kids and get them help.

What isn't working

Affordable rental housing is lacking.

- When the landlord is foreclosed, people end up homeless even if they've been paying their rent on time. The foreclosure strategy is missing the people in the lowest income ranges.
- There are very few multi-bedroom apartments available.
- We have an unheard of number of people in the County shelter.

housing in impacted areas. As a result, social services aren't nearby.

There are barriers to employment.

- The poor can't even get low-paying jobs.
- If you work a minimum-wage job, you work the first hour just to pay your bus fare.
- Homeless kids can't get jobs because they don't have grounding experiences in work expectations.

Funding and support services are in short supply.

- There's a bias toward development because it's tangible, but we need dollars to help the people living in these developments become successful.
- We need operating dollars. Without a person at the front desk or a lower ratio of staff to tenants, we can't pay attention to people and be successful. One staff person to 80 men is too high.
- Housing dollars are available for projects affordable to people at 50 percent of median income, but the need is at 30 percent.
- Cities could use more subsidies; the federal government has been an absent player.
- The federal government views dollars as "seed money," so they "de-fund" programs that have been around for 20 or 30 years to give money to new programs.
- You can't get an education or a job without child care, but the ability to get child care is zero.
- Work and life preparation skills are a void in homeless programs.
- There are no programs for kids who are nearing 18. They need help getting started (job, apartment, etc.).

Policies can work against our efforts.

- Workforce agencies have to show numbers for youth employment, so they can't risk working with the kids who lack job skills.
- Federal programs are outcome-based, so they won't pick people who need extra help.
- The City's policy aimed at deconcentrating poverty creates a disincentive to building new affordable

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What should be done next

Help make rent affordable.

- Provide rental subsidies. Hands down, this is the best tool for ending homelessness.
- Make well-managed rooming houses available. People can afford to rent a room. It would also help emerging adults.
- Find places where people can live for \$200 a month in rent.
- Seek a re-energized commitment from the federal government.

Change our views about homelessness.

- Encourage landlords to be willing to rent to tenants without rental history.
- Start viewing charity as an investment in the community or an act of justice.
- Change the public's behavior. Instead of giving money to panhandlers, call a legislator. Rather than drop off clothes at a shelter, volunteer at the shelter. If you meet homeless people, you'll care more and do more.
- We need outrage from local leaders. Cities and counties are shouldering the entire burden.
- Tell stories about homeless people so the public sees them as people.
- Launch a public campaign about homelessness. If the public knew the number of people sleeping outside, they would help. Get people to believe they can make a difference. If it feels hopeless, nothing will happen.

- Enlist people with voices louder than us to champion the cause. If the mayor asks for corporate assistance, pro-bono help would happen.
- Encourage corporate investment.
- Form an advocacy group of downtown stakeholders (businesses, resident associations, etc.) to work with the homeless people downtown.

Help kids avoid becoming homeless by preparing them for the future.

- Dump the concept that kids are ready to go out into the world when they turn 18. Provide emerging adults with programs and services.
- Replace the "one size fits all" model with more flexible approaches for youth programs.
- Provide alternative programming to kids so they can learn job skills and work expectations. STEP-UP and summer jobs programs don't work for kids who have difficulty thinking far ahead.

Provide low-income employees with transportation and child care.

- Employers should step up and provide bus fare assistance to their lowest-paid employees.
- Provide child-care subsidies or scholarships so parents can afford to work.

"We know how to end homelessness, but the real question is, will we?"

- Advocate for the homeless
