

## *The Homeless Pandemic*

Homelessness is a touchy topic that many avoid or do not give the attention that it deserves. An individual encounters vagrancy when they lose their home or if they are born homeless. Homelessness is an issue that numerous Americans face today, yet a few people do not appear to mind. Individuals are forgotten about in the city to fight for themselves. Individuals should not have to live like that. Great hearted people become savages compelled to rummage through trash and afterward are dealt with like soil by the general population. The homeless cannot help themselves; in the wake of being in neediness for such a long time, it is not easy to begin another life. Now the question comes up what should we do to help homeless people? The United States made great strides over the past years to aid the homeless; due to Covid-19, our progress may be at risk. However, with the correct planning and increasing affordable housing and shelters, we can beat Covid-19 and make a tremendous change.

In general, homelessness results from the loss of work, aggressive behavior at home, substance misuse, institutional release, and numerous elements. Occupation misfortune is one of the multiple reasons why vagrancy is quite a significant issue. Loss of employment happens substantially more regularly than it did a couple of many years prior. In 2010, the Obama administration declared Opening Door's vision, based on the belief that "no one should

experience homelessness, no one should be without a safe, stable place to call home." The main focus of The Opening Door's Vision was four main goals

1. end homelessness in veterans by 2015;
2. Finish the job of ending chronic homelessness by 2017;
3. Prevent and end homelessness for families, youth, and children in 2020. (Obama's Homelessness Policy 1)

Of course, these goals could not become a reality as ending homelessness is not so simple. However, one point that the Obama administration had, which is critical, is prioritizing affordable housing for homeless people and those at risk of losing their homes. According to the plan, every community will have the ability to identify and contact people at risk or those who are homeless, intervene to prevent loss of one's home, and provide immediate access to shelters and temporary housing. The importance of accommodation for the homeless is substantial as giving protection and a way of life to those who have fallen allows them to get back on their feet. It does not make them complacent and makes them seek outlets in which they can support themselves.

"Compared to the previous year, homelessness increased by 3 percent in the 2019 Point-in-Time Count. 2019 marked the third straight year of national-level increases. Despite this negative movement, the long-term trend has been downward. Overall, homelessness has decreased by 12 percent since 2007, the year nation-wide data collection began. The current COVID-19 crisis has the potential to diminish or completely wipe out these modest gains." (National Alliance to End Homelessness 1) We have made some progress with a housing-first approach; however, if we were to add more housing options and make them more organized, the

results would be more drastic. Homeless services systems do not have enough resources to meet the needs of everyone experiencing homelessness fully. Thus, it helps examine the difficult decisions they must make, including how to allot the limited funds available—temporary housing.

Over the past five years, the number of temporary housing beds (Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing) has decreased by 9 percent. Under the Trump Campaign, "President Trump has pressured cities in blue states to get people off the street; The Washington Post reported in 2019 that he called for police sweeps that would put people in shelters." The Council Of Economic Advisors (CEA) stated that forcing the homeless into shelters "is not proven to be helpful" and could cause a supply and demand problem, ultimately causing more people to end back up on the streets. (Fighting Homelessness 1) Throughout Trump's presidency, homelessness has gradually increased. This approach to forcing the homeless into shelters may not be the best as we are not in a state to handle that many people in shelters. The correct approach would be first to upgrade facilities and make sure that the homeless get the best care possible then, by urging the homeless to go, they will see that they are cared for and that temporary housing is just a stepping stone and not a place to live and die. If we strive to increase the homeless's available options and grant them the chance to get out of their situations, we can overcome homelessness. We can never wholly end homelessness as we can not control every single thing that occurs in the economy or the world. When we say end homelessness, we mean that every community will be responsible for ensuring that homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise. a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience. (Obama's Homelessness policy 1)

In conclusion, homelessness is a grave issue that has not received the attention that it deserves. It is a shame many face this day in and day out with no sign of help anywhere. How can one expect a better life when there is no hope? Our duty as Americans is to ensure that we decrease the number of homeless people and grant the needed aid. A great place to start is to increase temporary housing and give more options. The increase of temporary accommodation is crucial for the less fortunate to realize their story is not over, and they can get back on their feet; all they need is a helping hand.

### Works Cited:

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