



EDUCATIONAL INTERVENTION WITH FAMILIES EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

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Objectives:

1. Participants will be able to demonstrate an understanding of underlying structural issues contributing to family homelessness.
2. Participants will become familiar with critical theory as applied to the social problem of family homelessness.
3. Participants will understand the nature of community-based interventions for homeless families.

Family homelessness in the United States



The scope of the issue depends on who you ask and which statistics you look at...

It is exceedingly difficult to craft solutions to a problem without a consensus on how to define and quantify the problem.



“How homeless are you, really ?”



The U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban Development
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT



The 2018 Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) to Congress

PART 1: POINT-IN-TIME ESTIMATES OF HOMELESSNESS

DECEMBER 2018

US Department of Housing & Urban Development PIT count

2018 POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

Everyone counts, no matter where they live.





- “On a given night in January...”
- Homeless - a person who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, staying in an emergency shelter, transitional housing program, or safe haven or whose primary nighttime location is a public or private place not designated for, or ordinarily used as, a regular sleeping accommodation for people (streets, vehicles, or parks).
- The January 2018 PIT count identified 180,413 people in 56,342 families with children experiencing homelessness
- 164,023 sheltered / 16,390 unsheltered
- capacity vs. need
 - *loss of 5,430 beds for families in shelters and transitional programs since 2010*
 - *waiting lists*
 - *those turned away from shelter*
 - *AHAR part 2 will still be limited by these factors*



- Expands the definition of homelessness to include families living in motels, campgrounds, doubled up with other families, etc.
- Ongoing count throughout the school year
- 1,354,363 homeless children and youth identified in 2016 – 2017 school year

(478,718 people in 150,630 family households 2017 AHAR part II)

Different definitions result in differing assessments of the situation

-  HUD says homelessness is decreasing
“The number of people experiencing homelessness in families with children continued to decline, by two percent between 2017 and 2018, and by 23 percent between 2007 and 2018.” - 2018 AHAR Part I
- Department of Education disagrees
“US DOE reported that 1,354,363 homeless children and youth were identified in the 2016-2017 school year by public schools – a 4% increase from the 2015-2016 school year and a **70% increase from the 2007-2008 school year – the highest number on record.**” - National Center for Homeless Education 
- What number of homeless families would be acceptable ?

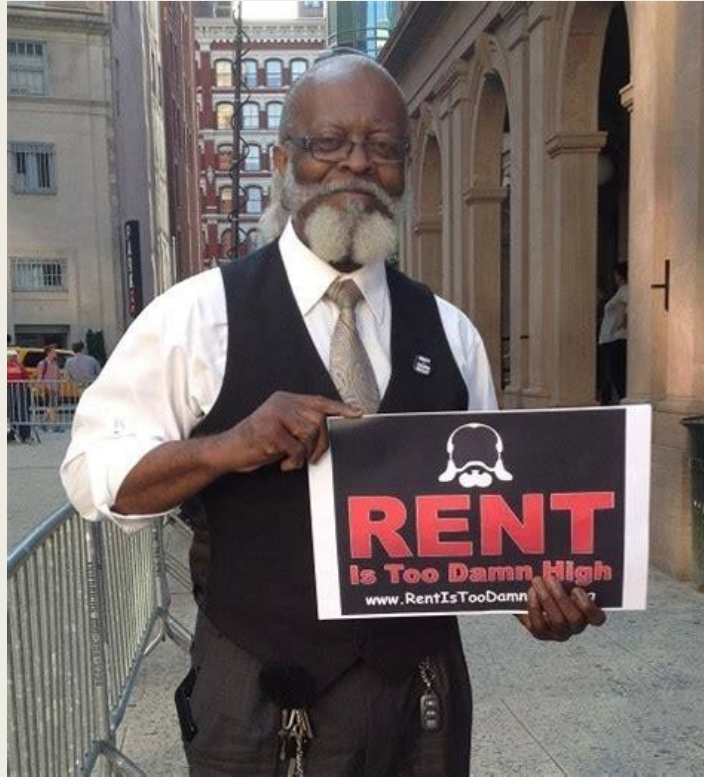


family homelessness

- *unaffordable housing
- *non-livable wages
- *imbalances of power
- *eviction

Unaffordable housing

- Housing costs have risen substantially while wages have remained flat
- Fair market value results in renting poor paying about the same as others but receive much less
- Supply and demand
 - Short 7.1 million rental units for low-income renters who need them
 - Each state would need to add 150,000 units every 10 years to close the gap
 - Rental vacancies in general have never been lower
 - Competition for any available rental is fierce



By MARK STRASSMANN | CBS NEWS | June 26, 2018, 6:45 PM

Families earning \$117,000 now qualify as "low income" in California's Bay Area

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SAN FRANCISCO -- A report out this week from the Department of Housing and Urban Development finds the median price for a single-family home in the Bay Area is now \$935,000. A family earning \$117,000 now qualifies as "low income" in the region.

CBS News went to see California's red-hot housing market with realtor Larry Gallegos. He showed us a house you would think he couldn't give away. But Gallegos says the home, complete with leaks in the roof, sold for \$1.23 million. The buyer beat out six competing offers, all above the asking price.



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Powerful winter storm slamming into N

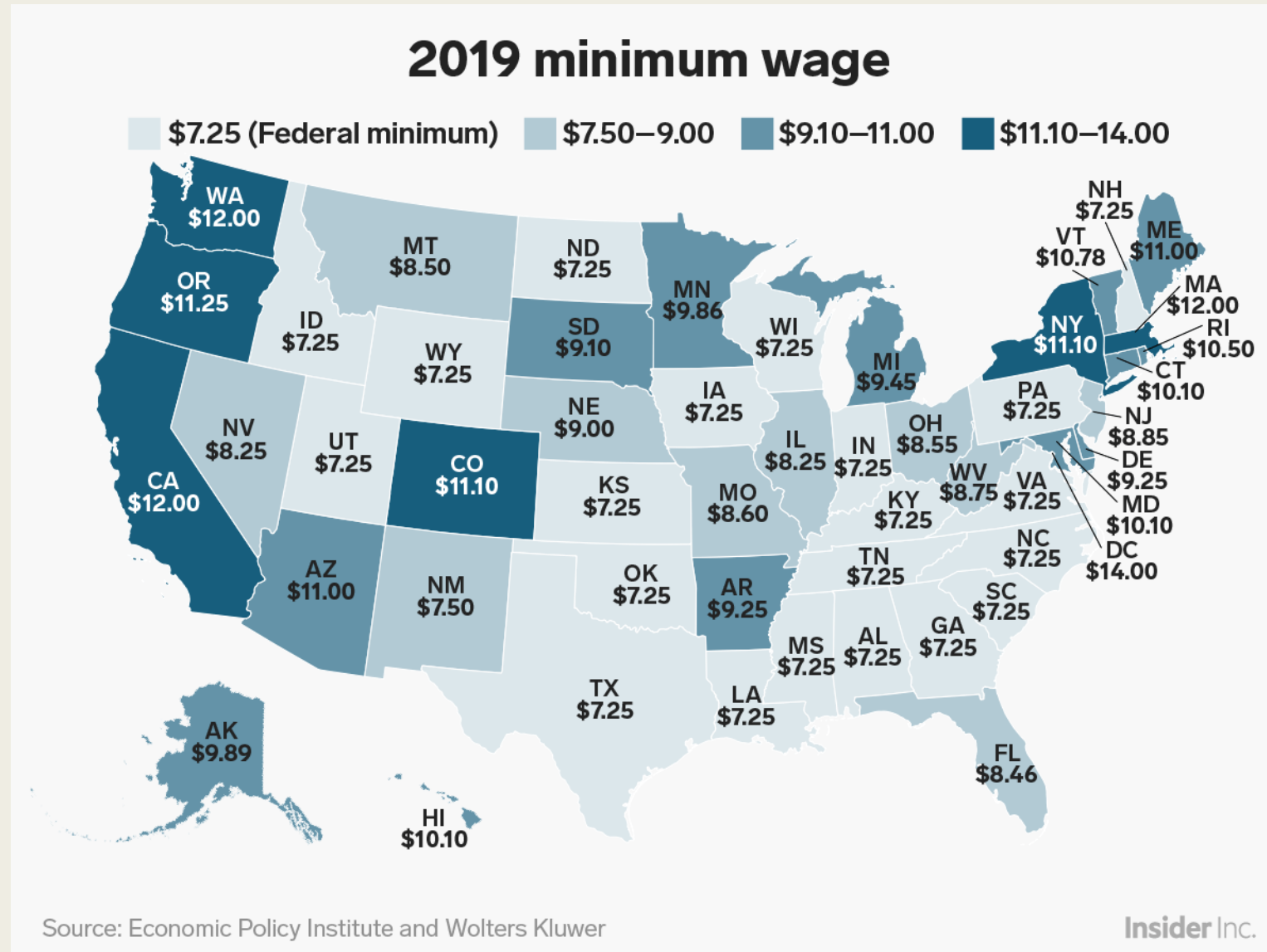


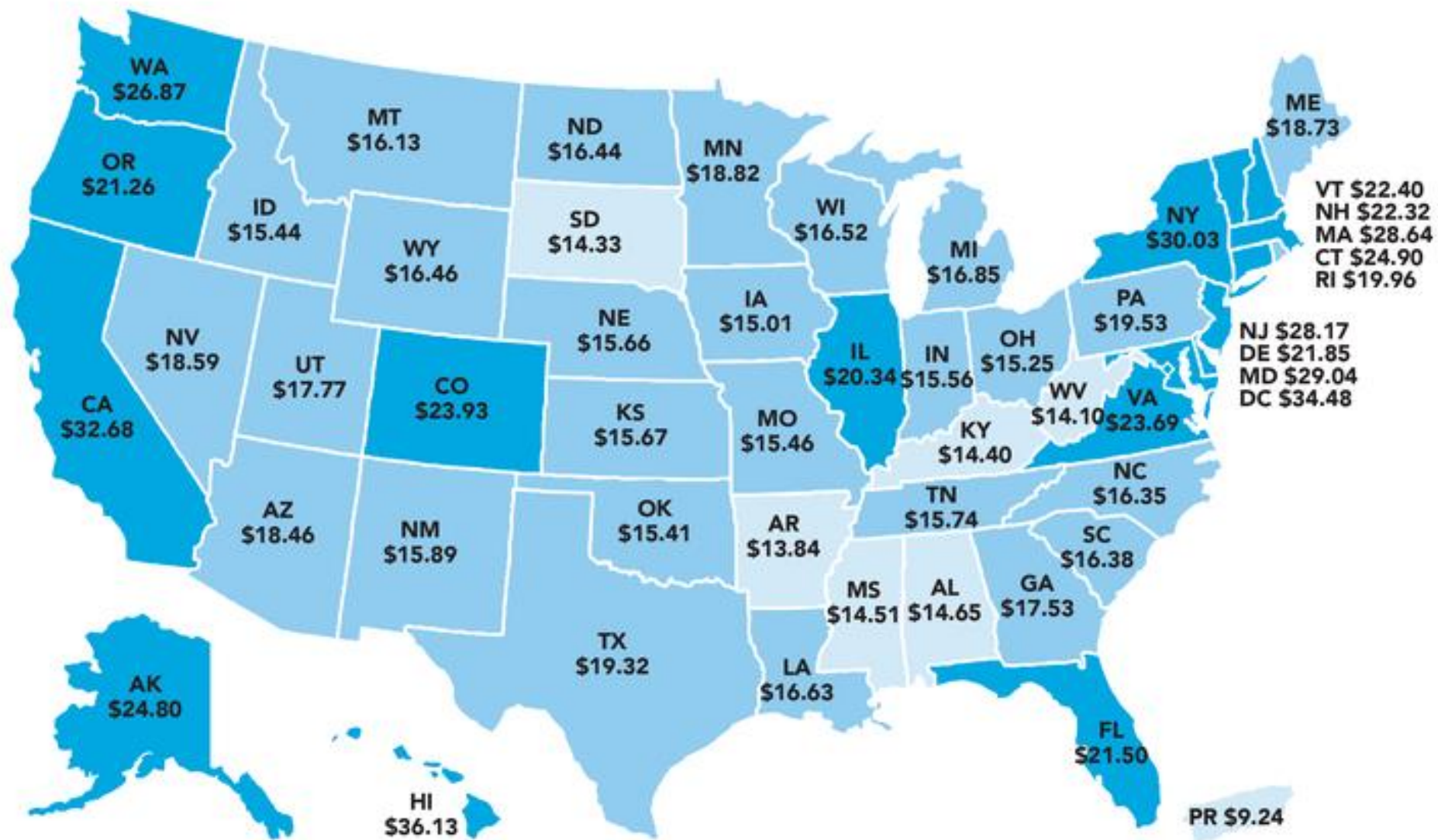
Rescuers in Spain to save a 2-year-old who had fallen in a building a week ago



President Trump's new proposal to the government

Non-livable wages





Two-Bedroom Housing Wage

Less than \$15.00
 \$15.00 to less than \$20.00
 \$20.00 or More

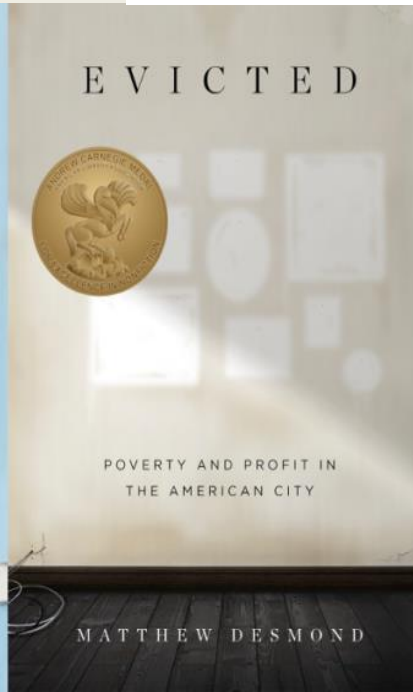
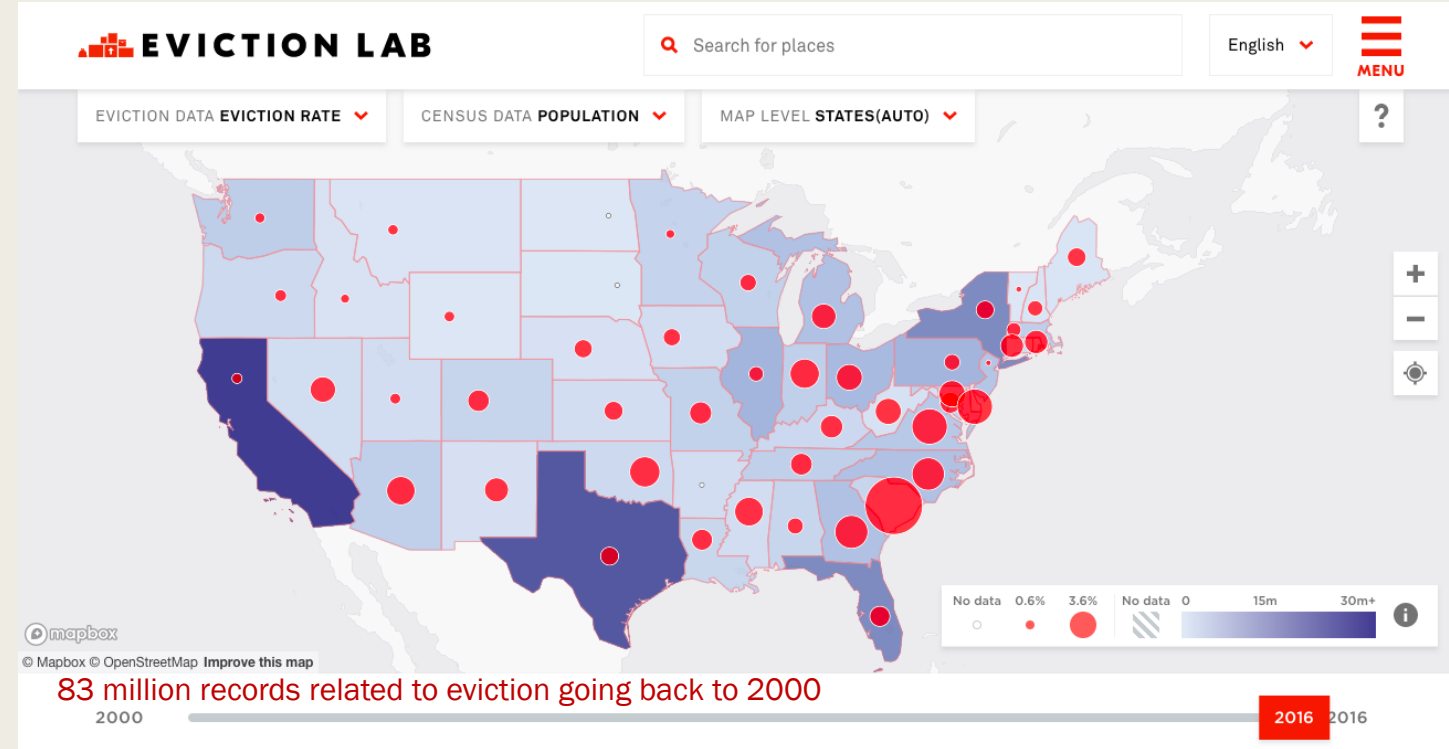


Imbalances of power

- Low supply – high demand
- Landlord gets to decide who to rent to
- Background and credit checks
- Power to evict / “self-help” evictions
- More familiarity and comfort with the court and eviction process
- Has means to obtain representation
- Policy – one size fits all / top down approach

Eviction

In 2016, there were about 2.3 million evictions filed across America. That's four evictions filed every single minute.



“...eviction is a direct cause of homelessness. The average age of a homeless person in America is 9.... the eviction crisis is a crisis borne by our children.... This is a problem of enormous scope and consequence.... How much direct inequality should we tolerate? ”

- “We think it’s bad parents, but that’s not the story. The story is the lack of infrastructure to serve people in crisis — we don’t have enough affordable housing. When you ask someone on the street why they became homeless, no one’s going to say it’s because of decades of federal disinvestment in affordable housing. It’s much easier to look around and see people in the streets as the problem — and not see it’s the broken system.”

- Shehera Hyatt, director of the California Homeless Youth Project

https://www.huffingtonpost.com/entry/homeless-stereotypes-myths-housing-crisis_us_5c05a9a7e4b0cd916faefb18?fbclid=IwAR0ltXACZ2SltU-AdYxh_sF7Yadi_nxfJZgH0kaise6CWPk7Bh9Y_-bWy8A

The definition of insanity
is doing the same thing
over and over and
expecting different
results.

Can't depend entirely on subsidies and government money:

- *red tape
- *rules, restrictions, and guidelines
- *paperwork
- *time consuming
- *only enough for 25% of those who need it

Community Help

- People like to give "stuff" !



- Even money...



- ...but that's a little trickier.



I always give homeless people money, and my friends yell at me, 'He's only going to buy more alcohol and cigarettes.' And I'm thinking, 'Oh, like I wasn't?'

— Kathleen Madigan —

AZ QUOTES



I don't waste money on drugs and alcohol. I spend my dollars on sensible things, like fast food and Girl Scout cookies.

whisper

United Way Scandal: Repairing A Damaged Reputation

Free Live Webcast to Examine Steps Taken to Recover The Public's Trust




June 25, 2004, 1PM ET

Microsoft Word - X | Government shut - X | Explore The Evict - X | AOL Mail (27094) X | Restaurant.com - X | (1) Facebook X | Mail - diris295@liv X | Charity Navigator X

← → ↻ ↗ https://www.charitynavigator.org

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Give to one or many charities each time you shop

HELP CENTER

Money is very helpful, but what do people really need ?

You !

- Your time
 - Your wisdom
 - Your mentorship
 - Your care and compassion







Family Promise[®]

Building community, strengthening lives.

← → ↺ 🏠 🔒 https://familypromise.org



HOME

WHO WE ARE

WHAT WE DO

EVENTS

GET INVOLVED

DONATE

OUR IMPACT



\$3

in goods & services
returned for every \$1 raised



82%

of families sheltered find
housing



1,500

targeted initiatives created
at the local level



200k

volunteers engaged nation-
wide

Learn More >



GET INVOLVED

GET HELP

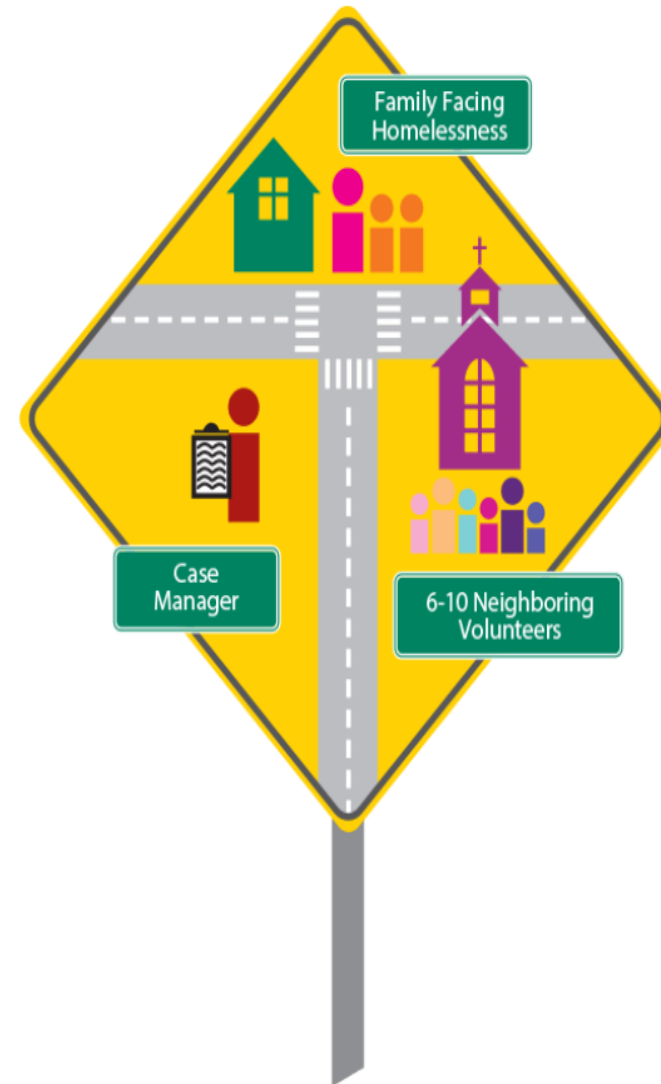
STORIES OF HOPE

OUR MODEL

ABOUT

GIVE

Neighboring Volunteers
walk alongside the Family
Facing Homelessness to
fill in the gaps, and help
the Family get back on
their feet.



Home ownership eliminates rental issues entirely !



Cumberland County
Habitat
for Humanity®

Building Houses,
Building Hope

Community responses to family
homelessness call for



- * Atlanta – East Lake community
- * Cleveland – pathways to home ownership
- * Minneapolis – mixed-income development
- * Philadelphia – community-oriented building
- * San Francisco – Mercy House
- * Chicago – in-house community resource center
- * Salt Lake City – “deeply affordable housing”
- * New York City – Gateway transitional housing
- * Denver (& Pittsburgh) – Revolving Affordable Housing Loan Fund to create affordable housing

And the political will to make it happen...

- * Canada – national strategy budgeting \$11.2 billion (\$8.9 billion US) for the creation of affordable housing



If family homelessness is a public health concern... (Bassuk)

and evictions have become “epidemic”... (Desmond)

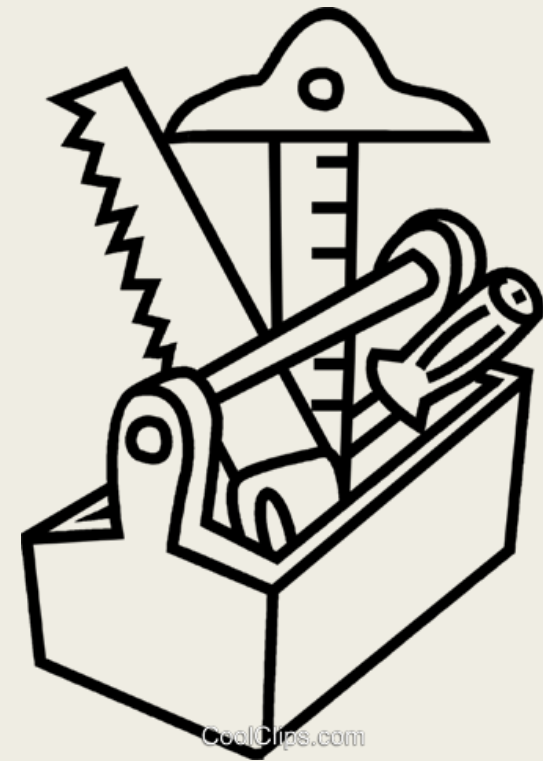
...then an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

**Teaching* adults experiencing family homelessness about tenant rights and responsibilities

*Providing them with *tools* for use in avoiding future eviction and housing instability

**Empowering* them to self-advocate



Not necessarily a novel approach...



Tenancy Program created by Board of Realtors and Family Promise. Test program pilot conducted summer 2018 through a partnership with the Lawrence Board of Realtors and Lawrence Family Promise.

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

- Mixed methods intervention research
- Community-based participatory research approach
- Effect knowledge of tenant rights & responsibilities ?
 - Pretest / posttest
- Effect perceptions of personal empowerment ?
 - Making Decisions empowerment scale
- Focus group discussions

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

- Knowledge of tenant rights and responsibilities
 - Overall score at pretest **84.7 %**
 - Overall score at posttest **85.9%**

- Making Decisions empowerment scale
 - prior to intervention **3.02**
 - following intervention **3.1**

Paired-Samples T Test

			Paired Differences			t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
			Std. Error	95% Confidence Interval of the Difference				
	Mean	Std. Deviation	Mean	Lower	Upper			
Pre	81.678	7.09519	2.24370	76.60241	86.75359	36.403	9	.000
Post	82.80000	5.62536	1.77890	78.77586	86.82414	46.546	9	.000

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

■ What did participants have to say ?

“I feel more confident now. I would be able to speak up for myself because I have the knowledge now where before I wouldn't. I would have probably just went along with what they said. You know what I mean? I do. I feel more confident now going in because I know what is expected of both parties.”

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

■ What did participants have to say ?

"Previously when I walked into an apartment if I like the way it looks, I'm getting it. Later on, I find out this outlet don't work, the toilet don't flush, whatever. When I go in the future to get an apartment or to look for an apartment, I will be taking my checklist and go and do it."

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

Appendix A: Sample Rental Condition Checklist

This condition checklist is intended to be used both as a way to record the condition of the apartment when you move in and as a way to compare the move-in condition with the condition when you move out. Do the move-in checklist carefully within three days of moving in. Sign and date the checklist and insist the landlord do the same. If the landlord does not sign then it is essential that an important witness sign and date the checklist in case there is a disagreement at move-out about the condition of the rental unit. One copy of the signed checklist stays in your files and one goes to the landlord along with a written request that certain repairs be made if they are needed. If the landlord promises to make such repairs, ask that the promise be put in writing. Photos may be helpful, particularly if they are dated.

Name of tenants _____

Address of rental unit _____

Move in Date _____ Move Out Date _____

Item	Move In		Move Out		Comments
	O.K.	Dirty/Damaged	O.K.	Dirty/Damaged	
Living Room					
Floor					
Walls/Ceiling					
Doors/Locks					
Woodwork					
Windows/Screens					
Curtains/Blinds					
Closets					
Light fixtures					
Electrical outlets					
Electrical switches					
Other_____					
Other_____					
Kitchen	O.K.	Dirty/Damaged	O.K.	Dirty/Damaged	Comments
Floor					
Walls/Ceilings					
Doors/Locks					
Woodwork					

The Tenant Rights Toolbox

■ What did participants have to say ?

“I was evicted before, and then one of the things that I did was I didn't show up to court. I thought I already lost it. I didn't give myself that chance to be in front of the judge and explain my situation and maybe, even come up with something and avoid that whole eviction. So, I didn't know that. I think that's pretty much it. When it comes to tenants and neighbors, I didn't know that tenants do have too much rights. I thought whatever the landlord says, you do. Like that's it. Either that or you move out or you get evicted or whatever.”



SOCIALWORKERS

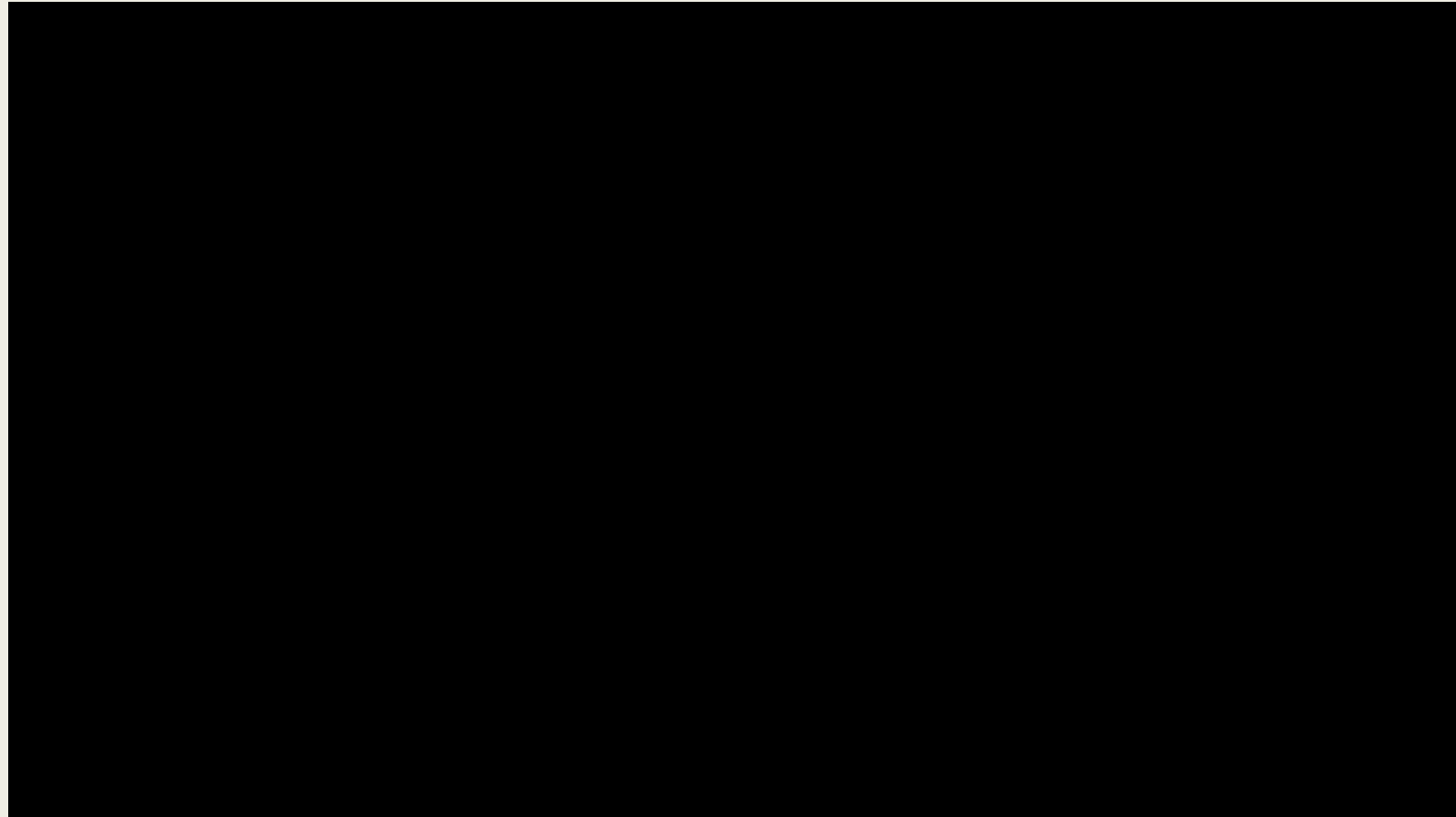
leaders. advocates. champions.

educators.

As leaders, advocates, champions and educators we are called upon to:

- Develop, implement, and support programs based upon the real needs of families impacted by homelessness and evictions
- Advocate for and **with** our families and students contending with unaffordable housing, non-livable wages, and abuses of power in the private rental market
- Champion effective programming and services for families experiencing homelessness and impacted by eviction and the policies and legislation that favors people over profit.
- Find opportunities for learning at the micro, mezzo, and macro level

Advocacy



Homeless Children and Youth Act (H.R. 1511/S. 611) would unify the definition across agencies:

Introduced 03/13/2017 by Representative Steve Stivers [R-OH-15] in the house and in the senate by Senator Dianne Feinstein (D-CA)

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Act programs
- Head Start
- Child Care and Development Block Grant (i.e. federally-funded child care programs)
- Domestic Violence Act programs
- Health Care for the Homeless programs
- Child Nutrition Act programs.
- Higher Education Act programs
- US Housing Act (i.e. public housing programs).

Co-sponsors

House of Representatives

Rep. Loebsack, David [D-IA-2]*
Rep. Beatty, Joyce [D-OH-3]
Rep. Walz, Timothy J. [D-MN-1]
Rep. DeFazio, Peter A. [D-OR-4]
Rep. Jayapal, Pramila [D-WA-7]
Rep. Lipinski, Daniel [D-IL-3]
Rep. McMorris Rodgers, Cathy [R-WA-5]
Rep. Pocan, Mark [D-WI-2]
Rep. Moore, Gwen [D-WI-4]
Rep. Bonamici, Suzanne [D-OR-1]
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-8]
Rep. Young, David [R-IA-3]
Rep. Hanabusa, Colleen [D-HI-1]
Rep. Carbajal, Salud O. [D-CA-24]
Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2]
Rep. Posey, Bill [R-FL-8]
Rep. Sinema, Kyrsten [D-AZ-9]
Rep. Davis, Danny K. [D-IL-7]
Rep. Clay, Wm. Lacy [D-MO-1]
Rep. Hill, J. French [R-AR-2]
Rep. Bera, Ami [D-CA-7]

Senate

Portman, Robert “Rob” [R-OH]
Baldwin, Tammy [D-WI]
Heitkamp, Heidi [D-ND]
Scott, Tim [R-SC]
Hatch, Orrin [R-UT]
Harris, Kamala [D-CA]
Murkowski, Lisa [R-AK]

Actions by House

03/13/2017 Introduced in House

03/13/2017 Referred to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

06/06/2018 Hearings Held by the Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance Prior to Referral.

07/24/2018 Committee Consideration and Mark-up Session Held.

07/24/2018 Ordered to be Reported (Amended) by the Yeas and Nays: 39 - 18.

11/14/2018 Reported (Amended) by the Committee on Financial Services. H. Rept. 115-1026, Part I.

11/14/2018 House Committee on Education and the Workforce Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 28, 2018.

12/28/2018 Committee on Education and the Workforce discharged.

12/28/2018 Placed on the Union Calendar, Calendar No. 858.

Actions by Senate

07/24/2014 Introduced

01/27/2015 Reintroduced Bill

03/13/2017 Reintroduced Bill
Referred to Senate Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs
Committee

Help Homeless Children and Youth Now!

Tell Congress to Pass the
Homeless Children and Youth Act

HOME

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FACTS

LATEST NEWS

TAKE ACTION

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Take Action

Use the online form below to send messages directly to your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators. Or, download these sample letters in Microsoft Word ([one for your U.S. Representative](#), and [one for your U.S. Senators](#)), put them on letterhead, and fax or deliver them to your Members of Congress.

Whether you use the online form below or the Microsoft Word sample letters linked above, please personalize and add any local or state information that is available.

Tell your U.S. Senator and U.S. Representatives that all homeless children and youth need help – no matter where they happen to be staying!

Enter your zip code below to send a message to your Senators and Representative urging them to become a co-sponsor of the Homeless Children and Youth Act. Please be sure to edit the sample letter on the page to explain why YOU support this bill, including any local, or state information – especially examples of

Take Action

Tell your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators that all homeless children and youth need help, no matter where they happen to be staying. [Take action here.](#)

Add your organization or office to the list of Homeless Children and Youth Act supporters. [Click here to become a supporter.](#)

Listen to Youth

There is no better way to understand homelessness than listening to the children and youth who have been through it. [Listen](#)