

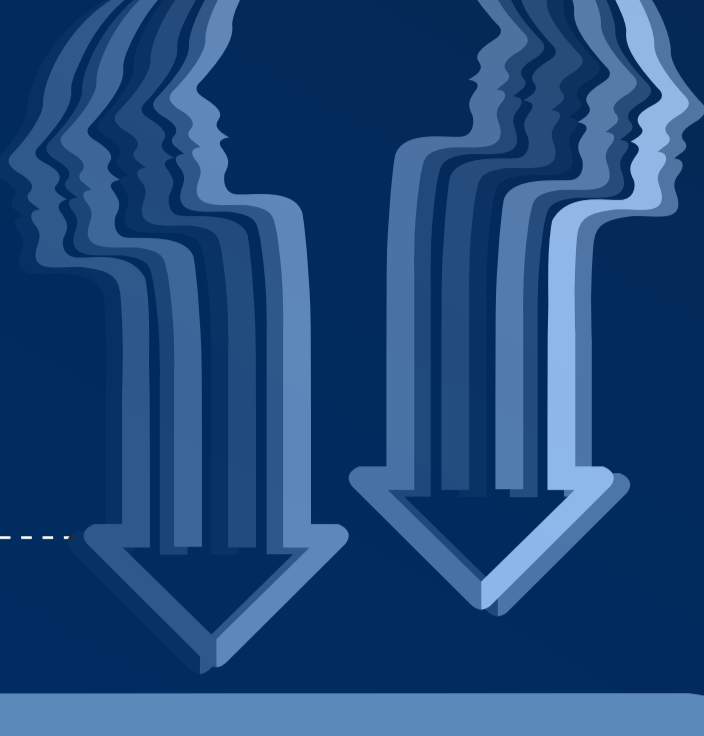
Social

WORKERS AS ADVOCATES

HOW SOCIAL WORKERS INFLUENCE COMMUNITY CHANGE ON HOMELESSNESS



The national rate of homelessness fell slightly from 2014 to 2015, but still continues to be an issue for vulnerable populations.



STATISTICS ON HOMELESSNESS

According to The State of Homelessness in America 2016 report

In January 2015, an estimated 564,708 people were homeless on any given night, either living outside or seeking shelter in a transitional housing program or emergency shelter

In 2016, 16 states reported a general increase in homelessness and 33 states and the District of Columbia (D.C.) reported a decrease in homelessness

Prior to becoming homeless, many individuals lived doubled up with family and friends. The 2014 estimate of the number of people living doubled up is up by 52% from 2007

In 2015 the national rate of homelessness was 17.7 per 10,000 people

Though the unemployment rate has decreased, in 2014 the poverty population has remained relatively steady. Though 32 states and D.C. had a decrease in the population living in poverty, 18 states had an increase. endhomelessness



CHRONIC HOMELESSNESS

According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness, "A chronically homeless individual is someone who has experienced homelessness for a year or longer, or who has experienced at least four episodes of homelessness in the last three years (must be a cumulative of 12 months), and has a disability. A family with an adult member who meets this description would also be considered chronically homeless."



On a single night in 2016,

77,486

homeless individuals were chronically homeless

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FACTORS LEADING TO HOMELESSNESS

Insufficient wages; According to estimates by the National Low Income Housing Coalition, the housing wage exceeds the average hourly wage by almost \$4.88 in 2016.

Limited scope of housing assistance programs

Lack of affordable housing leading to foreclosure

Lack of affordable health care

Domestic violence nationalhomeless

Mental Illness/ Addiction

Lack of employment opportunities



PROPOSED SOLUTIONS TO ADDRESS HOMELESSNESS



PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The number of beds in permanent supportive housing grew by 6.3% from 2014 to 2015

35 states saw an increase and 15 states and Washington D.C. had a decrease



RE-HOUSING

Grew by 59.6% from 2014 to 2015 an increase of 22,529 beds.

38 states and D.C. had an increase of rapid re-housing capacity



TRANSITIONAL HOUSING

Low utilization of transitional housing, with 81.7% of beds filled at the date of count.

Current trend is showing a nationwide decrease across 40 states and D.C. endhomelessness



PREVENTIVE MEASURES

Preservation of at-risk families, such as early intervention

Promoting healthy family life and child development

Aid survivors of domestic violence by providing the needed tools to preserve or regain housing

Provide transitional programs for youth leaving juvenile detention or foster care systems endhomelessness

SOCIAL WORKERS' ROLES IN INFLUENCING CHANGE



SOCIAL WORKERS HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

Lobbying

Organizing local protests

Networking with the power of social media

Voicing their opinions by writing op-ed articles

Work with social service agencies to protect existing services

Working to change laws to help the vulnerable and disadvantaged



The Hunger Prevention Act of 1988 was passed after a social worker saw the need of a homeless individual to obtain emergency food stamps without providing an address. (socialworkers)

THE WAYS IN WHICH A SOCIAL WORKER CAN EFFECT CHANGE IN REDUCING HOMELESSNESS AND POVERTY

Community development & education- working with the local community to raise awareness and effect change

Social planning by working with social service agencies

Economic development-creating opportunities for homeless individuals to transition into a stable home lifestyle

Program development, such as aiding homeless individuals seeking employment socialworkers

Group work- bringing together homeless individuals to guide them in transitioning to a stable home lifestyle

Advocacy through:

- Grassroots organizing
- Serving in office



Multiple U.S. based organizations such as the National Alliance to End Homelessness, as well as the National Coalition for the Homeless employ social workers who fill various positions in management, policy and planning, research, and politics.

Social workers use multiple techniques across various positions to work with communities, organizations, and governments to defend the vulnerable and disadvantaged living on the streets.

SOURCES:

<http://nationalhomeless.org/about-homelessness/>

http://www.endhomelessness.org/pages/youth_policy

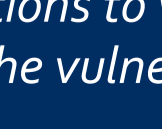
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<http://www.socialworkers.org/pressroom/features/issue/advocacy.asp>

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<https://www.socialworkers.org/pubs/choices/choices2.asp#Community Organization>



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<http://socialwork.unr.edu/>