

Homelessness Reading Resources

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COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIES TO END HOMELESSNESS IN PIERCE COUNTY

Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. “Washington state homelessness and family stability.”

<https://www.gatesfoundation.org/What-We-Do/US-Program/Washington-State/Homelessness-and-Family-Stability> (Accessed August 6, 2017)

Describes a program by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation to cut family homelessness by 50% in the Puget Sound region by 2020. The program focuses on 1) prevention, 2) coordinated entry to access support services, 3) rapid housing placement, 4) flexible support services tailored to each family’s specific situation and 5) linked income assistance, education and employment programs.

Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). “Pierce County community charrette final report: Framework to inform the Pierce County plan to end homelessness.” (July 15, 2016)

<https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/43762>

Report on the results of a CSH community charrette on homelessness in Pierce County. This effort is similar to the current League of Women Voters and affiliated organizations initiative. It can provide a foundation and serve as a starting point for our CoLab efforts.

Tacoma, Lakewood, Pierce County Continuum of Care. “Plan to end homelessness” , April 2012.

<https://www.co.pierce.wa.us/DocumentCenter/View/5583>

Comprehensive plan drafted in 2012 to end homelessness. It describes the causes of homelessness and the characteristics of the homeless population. Stated goals include 1) Centralized entry, intake and referral; 2) Prevention of homelessness and rapidly re-housing those who become homeless, 3) Development of affordable and permanent supportive housing; 4) Provision of tailored services and treatment in housing and prevention programs; 5) development of systems designed to increase economic and educational opportunities; 6)

Continued development of a Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) that accurately captures need and is useful to end users; 7) Coordination of funding for homeless programs; and 8) Building the community and political will to end homelessness

COMPREHENSIVE REPORTS ON HOMELESSNESS IN THE UNITED STATES

Burt, Martha R. "What Will It Take To End Homelessness?" Urban Institute. October 1, 2001
<http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/61346/310305-What-Will-It-Take-To-End-Homelessness-.PDF>

Discusses rates of homelessness in the United States and structural, personal and political factors that contribute to the problem. Discussion concludes that the nature of homelessness requires that programs address not only the needs of the current homeless population, but also must include preventive measures for those on the verge of homelessness.

Cunningham, Mary K. "Preventing and Ending Homelessness - Next Steps", Urban Institute. February 6, 2009. <http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/30126/411837-Preventing-and-Ending-Homelessness-Next-Steps.PDF>.

Describes the evolution of homelessness and identifies necessary steps to combat homelessness, including 1) bringing Housing First and permanent supportive housing to scale, 2) homeless programs for vets, 3) emergency prevention programs, 4) increased accountability, 5) programs that build stronger people and families.

THE EXPERIENCE OF HOMELESSNESS

O'Connell, Dr. Jim J. "Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor" Boston health care for the Homeless Program
<http://www.bhchp.org/stories-shadows>

Dr. O'Connell's collection of stories and essays, written during thirty years of caring for homeless persons in Boston, gently illuminates the humanity and raw courage of those who struggle to survive and find meaning and hope while living on the streets.

Whatcom Homeless Service Center. "Homeless in Bellingham Film Project",
<https://www.whatcomhsc.org/homeless-in-bellingham-film-project/>

A series of short videos each of which portrays the experience of a homeless person in their own words.

Ensign, Josephine. "Catching Homelessness: A Nurse's Story of Falling Through the Safety Net". She Writes Press.

Author brings her perspectives on running a clinic for the homeless and then becoming homeless herself. Based on her experiences she is able to provide a compelling look at the homelessness industry, nursing, and our country's health care safety net.

LaMarche, Pat. "Left out in America: The State of Homelessness in the United States".

Chronicles the author's experiences as she slept in 14 homeless shelters throughout the country over a 2 week period, and brings this humanitarian crisis into focus.

Desmond, Mathew. "Evicted". Penguin Random House.

Follows eight families in Milwaukee as they struggle to keep a roof over their heads. Provides deeper understanding of poverty and economic exploitation while providing fresh ideas for solving one of 21st-century America's most devastating problems. Scenes of hope and loss remind us of the centrality of home, without which nothing else is possible.

Ryan, Kevin. "Almost Home: Helping Kids Move from Homelessness to Hope". John Wiley and Sons, Inc.

Tells the stories of six remarkable young people from across the United States and Canada as they confront life alone on the streets. Each eventually finds his or her way to Covenant House, the largest charity serving homeless and runaway youth in North America.

Benson, Allen, "Homeless in King County: A Day in the Life"

<http://www.thestranger.com/slog/2017/09/28/25442688/homeless-in-king-county-a-day-in-the-life>

Recounts what a day in the life of one King County homeless person looks like and the positive effect of Congregations for the Homeless,

SERVICE DELIVERY

Main, Thomas J., "Homelessness in New York City: Policy making from Koch to de Blasio." New York University Press.

Tells the remarkable story of how America's largest city has struggled for more than thirty years to meet the crisis of modern homelessness and meet the court-enforced right to shelter.

Padgett, Deborah, Henwood, Benjamin, Tsemberis, Sam. "Housing First: Ending Homelessness, Transforming Systems, and Changing Lives". Oxford University Press.

Traces the history of homelessness and then chronicles the story of Housing First (HF), a paradigm-shifting evidence-based approach to ending homelessness that began in New York City in 1992. The system is based upon principles of consumer choice, harm reduction and immediate access to permanent independent housing in the community. Includes a chapter of personal stories of individuals who have experienced HF.

Adam Nagourney. "For Homeless Advocates, a Discouraging Lesson in Los Angeles: Money Is Not Enough." New York Times. <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/09/29/us/homeless-housing-los-angeles.html?ref=todayspaper> (Accessed October 15, 2017)

A discussion of how community resistance can derail homelessness housing projects, even when funds are available.

Keyes, Scott. "The most innovative homeless service you've never heard of." ThinkProgress.org

<https://thinkprogress.org/the-most-innovative-homeless-service-youve-never-heard-of-18a1d10b61c2/> (Accessed July 28th, 2017)

Describes Project Homeless Connect, a San Francisco organization that hosts 5 homeless fairs each year. Each fair brings a variety of social services together at one time so homeless individuals don't get bogged down dealing with multiple layers of bureaucracy.

Workforce Innovation Fund Housing and Employment Navigation Model. "A study in finding steady jobs and stable housing".

<http://workforcenavigator.org/> (Accessed August 11, 2017)

Report regarding 3-year project initiated in 2013 in four counties. Involved formation of teams of employment, housing and social service specialists to work with individuals to overcome barriers to employment and housing. The pilot project was funded by a federal Workforce Innovation Fund grant and had promising results

Berry, Richard J. "Apractical way to help the homeless find work and safety." Ted Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/richard_j_berry_a_practical_way_to_help_the_homeless_find_work_and_safety

A Ted Talk that outlines how the City of Albuquerque NM engaged the homeless by providing day jobs. In the process the city saved money while provided housing and mental health and addiction referrals.

A Way Home Washington. "100 day challenges to impact youth homelessness".

<http://www.awayhomewa.org/100-day-challenges/>

(Accessed August 11, 2017)

Provides dashboards for results of 100 day projects in Pierce, King and Spokane counties to rapidly locate housing for and successfully place youth and young adults.

Mcevers, Kelly. "Utah reduced chronic homelessness by 91%; Here's How". NPR

<http://www.npr.org/2015/12/10/459100751/utah-reduced-chronic-homelessness-by-91-percent-heres-how> (Accessed August 23, 2017)

Article about Housing First project in Utah that reduced chronic homelessness by 91%.

Schulzke, Erik. "Is Utah still a model for solving chronic homelessness". Deseret News, April 27, 2017.

<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/865678779/Is-Utah-still-a-model-for-solving-chronic-homelessness.html>

Discusses changes in how homeless statistics are compiled and how they inflated Utah figures on improvements in chronic homelessness. Goes on to discuss what Utah is doing and how it has achieved one of the lowest levels of chronic homelessness in the country.

James, Will. "Tacoma finds it's easy to move people into a sanctioned camp, hard to find them housing". KNKX

<http://knkx.org/post/tacoma-finds-its-easy-move-people-sanctioned-camp-hard-find-them-housing>

(Accessed August 24, 2017)

Describes Tacoma initiative to provide emergency shelter and difficulties in finding permanent supportive housing.

STATISTICS

Institute for Children, Poverty and Homelessness. "American Almanac of Family Homelessness 2015."

<http://www.icphusa.org/national/american-almanac-of-family-homelessness-2015/> (Accessed July 28th, 2017)

Provides state by state rankings of 1) efforts to identify and serve homeless children, and 2) the adoption of policies that can prevent homelessness and allow families to regain housing stability. While primarily a compilation and discussion of homelessness data, It also identifies ideas for action. These policy priorities and recommendations are focused on three key areas of family homelessness: education for homeless children, policies supporting homeless families, and research and targeted assistance

State of Washington Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction. "Performance Indicators – Data and Analytics".

<http://k12.wa.us/DataAdmin/PerformanceIndicators/DataAnalytics.aspx> (Accessed August 11, 2017)

Data and analytics of school performance in Washington state.

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "Homelessness in America: Overview of Data and Causes".

https://www.nlchp.org/documents/Homeless_Stats_Fact_Sheet

Discusses United States homeless demographics and related trends and causes of homelessness.

CAUSES OF HOMELESSNESS

Chamberlain, Chris and Johnson, Guy. "Pathways into adult homelessness" Journal of Sociology November 7, 2011

<http://journals.sagepub.com/doi/pdf/10.1177/1440783311422458>

Outline five typical pathways into adult homelessness. The pathways are called 'housing crisis', 'family breakdown', 'substance abuse', 'mental health' and 'youth to adult'. Then it discusses why people on some pathways remain homeless for longer than others.

ECONOMICS OF HOMELESSNESS

Elliott, Diana and Kalish, Emma. "The Cost of Eviction and Unpaid Bills of Financially Insecure Families for City Budgets" The Urban Institute: Seattle: January, 2017

http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/87736/seattle-cost-eviction-and-unpaid-bills-financially-insecure-families-city-budgets_1.pdf

Discusses the governmental cost of family financial insecurity in Seattle and the magnitude of the problem. Also describes how household financial insecurity affects cities and identifies steps that cities can take.

Gillespie, Sarah, Cunningham, Mary K., Gilbert, Brandi, Kooragayala, Shiva, Posey, Lily, Leopold, Josh, Hatry, Harry P. "How the Federal Government is Working to End Homelessness" The Urban Institute, December 12, 2016. http://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/86506/usich_highlights_0.pdf

Discusses the work of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, its accomplishments and the risks if it should be allowed to sunset in 2017.

PROPOSED LEGISLATION

Kroman, David. "With more than a thousand living in cars, what's the city's next move", Crosscut <http://crosscut.com/2017/08/seattle-city-council-legislation-homeless-rv-vehicles/> (Accessed August 11, 2017)

Discussion of proposed Seattle vehicle residence legislation designed to allow individuals to avoid enforcement of some city regulations if they register their vehicle and agree to comply with rules governing such things as trash disposal.

National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty. "Housing not handcuffs - Ending the criminalization of homelessness in U.S. Cities".

<https://www.nlchp.org/documents/Housing-Not-Handcuffs>

Provides an overview of criminalization measures in effect across the country and looks at trends in the criminalization of homelessness, Discusses why laws punishing homeless persons' life-sustaining activity are ineffective, expensive to taxpayers, and how they often violate homeless persons' rights. Also offers constructive alternative policies to criminalization, making recommendations on how to best address the problem of visible homelessness in a sensible, humane, and legal way.

LOW COST PHYSICAL SHELTERS

Pilling, Nathan, "Bainbridge company pitching tiny dome homes as homeless shelters". Kitsap Sun, August 12, 2017.

<http://www.kitsapsun.com/story/news/local/communities/bainbridge-islander/2017/08/12/bainbridge-company-pitching-tiny-dome-homes-homeless-shelters/561064001/>

Describes 10 foot geodesic domes designed by a Bainbridge Island company, that can be used as a homeless shelter and constructed for under \$5,000.

RESOURCE GUIDE

Reach Center in Tacoma Washington. "Resource Guide"

http://reachtacoma.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Tacoma_Resource_Guide1.pdf

A resource guide for Pierce County. Includes contact information for hotlines, housing, food, health, identity, education, employment, armed services recruitment, and legal resources.