

Homeless Prevention Advocacy Project

RECOMMENDATIONS

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Recommendations:

- The advocacy map shows seven resources to combat the issue.
- The first two resources get handled by the City and the TCHC, Tarrant County Homeless Coalition, and are under the control of the respective branches, and resources are presently exhausted (TCHC, 2023).
- The current times are a new environment (Hoefler, 2023, t.3:51), a time to act with heroic humanitarian efforts and implement creative solutions to counteract the flood of mental and physical health consequences (The Challenge, 2023).
- The following three resources in the advocacy map present low-cost implementation programs (Hoefler, 2023, t.4:49) that present the potential to rescue families by providing city-wide fundraising events to raise eviction prevention funds, new sources for immediate transitional residential unit inventory and reducing the number of residential units by at least 20% with the room sharing program.

Room Share Program

- Research shows that 42% of individuals seeking financial assistance in the City are single with no children (SVDP SMG, 2023). The information comes from the top three referred agencies by 211 in the City of Arlington for zip codes 76010, 76011, 76012, and 76013 (211, 2023).
- If 42% take the room-sharing option, the demand for available unit inventory can decrease by at least 20%.

- The data also shows that 68% are 50 or older (SVDP SMG, 2023). With many requesting one-time financial assistance, the trend shows the population struggling to make ends meet, living alone.
- The city ordinances do not prohibit a two-person lease with a Landlord and refer clients to learn about their rights as a tenant by visiting the Attorney General of Texas website (City, 2023).
- When promoting the room-sharing program to the general public, the organizer should have literature and provide interventions to the financially struggling clients to answer all their questions and reassure them that the new path is the proper one (NAEH, 2021).

Assisting Faith-Based Groups

- To raise funds at city-wide events can help other local Churches to learn how one small faith group climbs to the third spot and is even refer as an Agency when it is only a humble charity group that is making a difference in the lives of many neighbors by preventing families and individuals fall into homelessness (SVDP, 2023).
- The top two most referred Agencies are Mission Arlington, a faith-based group, and Arlington Urban Ministries, another faith-based group (211, 2023).
- The request to the City is to plan events, such as district-wide garage sales in the different City Council Districts, with the proceeds awarded to Charity Groups that can, in turn, use the funds to prevent homelessness or help pay for expensive utility bills, promoting capacity building for non-profits (National, 2023).
- It can also be an opportunity to promote the room-sharing program to reduce the demand for single-occupancy rentals.

The third topic refers to the four million dollar grant available to create 26 units.

- Arlington wants to follow the example of Fort Worth, which has 100 units with onsite medical staff and case managers.
- The discovery with this request following the recommendation to buy room blocks with the local hotels is that the local hotel industry in Arlington is in a challenging financial position, and the intervention to help those falling into homelessness might also be the same intervention to save many properties from bankruptcy (Wolf, 2023).
- The information gathered is from the State of Texas Comptroller, which collects the Hotel Occupancy Tax (TCPA, 2023).
- Their latest reports are from January and February 2023, the area's slow season.
- After reviewing the downloaded spreadsheets, the City of Arlington has approximately 7600 hotel rooms available per night, 230,530 monthly, and 2,766,335 rooms per year, not including the hotels in the rest of the DFW.
- The tax collection report shows that at least 19 properties are averaging less than \$30.00 per room night, and that is after paying the tax burden.
- Three hotels having 343 total available rooms, show no revenue, prompting them to think they have closed down. The hotels are The Budgetel Inn and Suites in East Division, The Sleep In Maingate Six Flags, and the Homewood Suites Arlington on Waxwing Drive, 76018.
- The hotel occupancy rate shows an optimistic forecast of 63%, meaning that most hotels will have available rooms each night throughout the year (Co, 2023).

- Building apartment complexes would take at least four to five years, especially with the shortage of construction materials.
- The logical solution is to transform low-performing hotels into adequate living facilities.
- The transformation would take minimal alterations and renovations to the existing structures.
- The bottom line is that action needs to take place quickly, as the issue is growing in size, and repercussions if nothing is changed, would be enduring and regretful.
- Many of these properties have requested federal assistance to bail them out financially due to the steep decline created by the pandemic and forecast a return to normalcy by 2024 (Kalibri, 2021).
- Therefore, the four million dollars can easily buy 100 rooms per night at \$40.00 for two years and still have money left to pay medical staff and counseling and save hotels from shutting down.

The last two entries in the Advocacy Map correspond to two new topics brought up by Ms. Mindy Cochran. The first of them deals with the benefits cliff.

- It looks like the topic is a widespread national issue, and several studies have been performed to deal with it (HPOG, 2020).
- Providing incentives is the best way to promote change (Murphy, 2011).
- Some incentives could be offering tuition reimbursement and grants for taking higher education professions or certified skill training institutions like nursing, electricians, childcare, automation, and others (HPOG, 2020).

- Other alternatives are to offer food pantry access in exchange for SNAP, including programs that have prepared meals, like the frozen food recovery program from City Square (Baker, 2022) or the existing food recovery program at Arlington Charities.
- Naturally, providing financial assistance with home ownership is the most rewarding path as long as the new homes are affordable, which is the next topic (Local, 2022).

The last entry is finding low-cost housing options.

- The suggested recommendations aim to alleviate the shortage of available housing currently in place and involve creating exciting new solutions for new facilities to lure investors.
- Each facility will feature and provide specialized interventions and themes, “new models (Hooyman & Kivac, 2018)” such as the “Green House (Hooyman & Kivac, 2018), music therapies (Rossato-Bennett, 2014), pet and human interaction shelters (Gee Et-Al, 2017), and intergenerational adult living communities (Providence, 2022).
- The Social Exchange Theory coins the concept that the benefits outweigh the costs (Irby & Irving, 2020), which prompts us to analyze the health costs associated with not providing adequate living arrangements to those in need.
- The overall expenses are impressive, especially when factoring in the accentuation of mental illnesses resulting from depression and anxiety, lack of a proper nutritional diet, chronic illness management, inclement weather conditions, and risks of living on the edge (Tsai & Huang, 2018).
- The majority of Seniors end up in the emergency rooms, considerably increasing the cost of care (Dobbins Et- al, 2020).

- One of the most compelling studies that helped establish Permanent Supportive Housing, P H D, by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD, shows that with a sample of 110 subjects, the savings of providing permanent housing to disabled homeless saved \$675,000, or \$6,136.00 per person (Dobbins et al., 2020).
- The savings from reducing the need for emergency health care entice the benefits resulting from the establishment of new living facilities will contribute to the economy generating a steady income instead of falling into a recession.
- New tiny homes are getting built all across the U.S. including Dallas, at City Square. They are transforming retired Rail Containers into homes. Attachments A, B, and C, offer other styles of Tiny Homes. Special theme communities as the ones described earlier, such as the “Green House (Hooyman & Kivac, 2018), Music Therapies (Rossato-Bennett, 2014), or the pet and human interaction shelters (Gee Et-Al, 2017), will take all the arguments away from those opposed to helping low-cost specialized homes and communities.
- Consequently, everyone wins by adding inventory to the housing market, particularly the disadvantaged low-income population currently living with anxiety.

Appendix A –

APPENDIX A- https://thetinyhouse.org/?utm_term=OZY&utm_campaign=daily-dose&utm_content=Tuesday_06.29.21&utm_source=Campaigner&utm_medium=email

Appendix B - <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/ikea-tiny-house>

Appendix C- <https://www.architecturaldigest.com/story/best-designed-diy-tiny-home-uses-hemp>

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