

Social Action 2024: Economic Justice

Short-term Housing for Undocumented Immigrants:



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Defining the Social Issue:

Lack of Short-Term Housing for Undocumented Immigrants

Factors to Consider: *Social Context / Social Location*

Over 67,200 migrants were staying in city homeless shelters as of late November, according to city data.

- When undocumented immigrants enter the United States they are in need of government funded services. However, their legal status creates eligibility barriers to state funded programs and supports such as Social Security and Medicaid (Lander, 2024).
- Undocumented immigrants are not familiar with US housing and economic policies/systems. The lack of culturally competent US economic and housing policy education for this population further oppresses them creating gaps in knowledge and insight that legal US citizens may have (Narine & Shobe, 2013).

Presenting Issue:

- There is not an adequate level of government support to properly integrate undocumented immigrants into society leaving individuals susceptible to socioeconomic disparities.

Result: Problem of Focus

- The lack of immediate, short-term housing options for undocumented immigrants upon their entry into the country exposes them to economic justice issues, including homelessness, housing exploitation, as well as residing in overcrowded and unsafe conditions.

Barriers to Housing for Undocumented Immigrants in the US:

Understanding Challenges and Impact

- **Transitional Challenges:** This population may face unfamiliarity with U.S. housing policies which can serve as barriers to homeownership and stable housing opportunities (Narine & Shobe, 2013).
- **Economic Disadvantages for Undocumented Immigrants:** The lack of understanding regarding functioning in the U.S. economy places undocumented immigrants at a significant disadvantage. This can manifest by limiting their ability to secure stable employment, income, and education.
- **Support Gaps:** Lack of community and economic support restricts individuals and families in their ability to integrate into U.S. society, perpetuating economic hardships.
- **Affordability Crisis:** Low income and knowledge limitations create hardships in accessing immediate, affordable housing. This leads to undocumented immigrants settling in substandard living conditions in hidden or crowded areas (Ballard, 2020).
- **Discriminatory Housing Practices:** Although these practices are illegal, discriminatory practices in the housing market occur such as shifting property maintenance responsibilities to renters which exacerbate challenges for immigrants (Ballard, 2020).
- **Housing Exploitation:** Exploitative practices by landlords, including neglecting harsh living conditions or offering illegal/inhumane conditions to individuals who may be desperate for shelter. This results in health risks and unsafe environments for immigrant families (Ballard, 2020).

Housing Exploitation: Local News



This sheds light onto the vulnerabilities undocumented immigrants are facing. As the reporter said, this situation may be just one of many.

Interviews

Assessments were conducted at Mercy Hospital and includes the perceptions of two undocumented patients

Interview 1

..“The patient reports he is currently residing in a park”..



HOMELESSNESS

- Patient has possible ETOH dependence
- Patient refusing housing possibly out of fear



Interview 2

..“The patient reports cohabitating with her spouse, brother, and father-in-law in the small apartment”..



RESIDING IN OVERCROWDING

- Patient due to give birth on that day
- Patient unaware of resources available
- Patient’s landlord may be exploiting her situation

The Goals of our Project

The Vision

- To foster inclusive societies where newcomers are welcomed, integrated, and have opportunities to contribute to their new communities while preserving their cultural heritage (Dettlaff & Fong, 2016).
- Our social action project can promote this vision by establishing a social media page that allows people a safe space to discuss their experiences with immigration and/or homelessness.

Mission Statement

- Our mission is to spread awareness on the economic injustices that immigrants in NYC face and why this social problem exists through the use of our social media page. We will bring light to this issue through spreading factual information, including statistics, first-hand interviews, newly proposed bills, and the work that politicians and organizations are doing to fight this issue.

Underlying Issues

- Bring Awareness about Immigrants who are employed and face discrimination in the workplace where they are given less pay than U.S. citizens for doing the same work (Presiado et al., 2023).
- Bring awareness about the Migrant Relocation Assistance Program, which was created to move the high volume of immigrants in NYC outside of the city, and be placed in area they are not welcomed in (Rubinstein, 2024).
- Our long-term goal is to get homeless immigrants to achieve stable and sustainable housing and integration into their new community (Aldaco et al., 2019).
- Some of the challenges government and nonprofit organizations face when addressing the Latino immigrant homelessness crisis (Aldaco et al., 2019).
- Language barriers between immigrant and organizations

Underlying issues

- Post on our social media page often to continue to bring awareness about the immigration issues
- Change the minds of the american people of the injustice that immigrant population is facing

Identifying the groups action plan for advocacy

- Objective: Develop a social media advocacy action plan to spread awareness about immigration and short term housing.
- Strategy: Utilize various content formats and engagement techniques to connect with the audience.

Execution Strategy:

Defining the Cause and Setting Goals

- Define the cause: Immigration and short term housing.
- Identify key messages and goals for advocacy.

Establishing Social Media Presence

- Create a clear and easily accessible social media account.
- Diversify content with photographs, reels, links, and snippets from local news outlets.

Engaging the Audience

- Conduct polls and encourage discussions/debates.
- Share personal experiences/stories to foster connection and encourage others to share their own.

Utilizing Allies

- Identify key allies such as the New York Immigration Coalition, Representative Jamaal Bowman, and RDJ Refugee Shelter.

Continued...

Building a Coalition

- Spread awareness within Adelphi University's BSW and MSW programs, friends, family, and online forums.
- Aim to engage both professionals and uninformed individuals to create a supportive community.

Implementing Advocacy Steps

- Follow Guo & Saxton's (2014) method: provide information, build a community, and call to action.
- Utilize Instagram for sharing information, statistics, and resources.

Instagram Page Creation

- Each group member contributes content on immigration/asylum seekers and the housing crisis.
- Share the page within the class and online forums to gather followers and engagement.
- Assess project impact through metrics such as followers, viewers, likes, shares, and comments.
- Survey the audience to evaluate knowledge retention on the topic of immigration and short term housing.

By adhering to this action plan, we aim to establish a strong online presence and advocate effectively for our cause of addressing immigration and short term housing issues.

INSTAGRAM PAGE QR CODE



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