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“Homeless” Defined

- ◆ Miriam Webster : having no home or permanent place of residence
- ◆ Housing and Urban Development—HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing ACT):
 - (1) An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence
 - a. primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation for human beings, including a car, park, abandoned building, bus or train station, airport, or camping ground;
 - b. living in a supervised publicly or privately operated shelter designated to provide temporary living arrangements (including congregate shelters, transitional housing, and hotels and motels paid for by charitable organizations or by federal, state, or local government programs for low-income individuals;
 - (2) An individual who is exiting an institution where he or she resided for 90 days or less and who resided in an emergency shelter or place not meant for human habitation immediately before entering that institution;

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“Homeless” Defined (continued)

Housing and Urban Development—HEARTH ACT (continued):

(3) An individual or family who will imminently lose their primary nighttime residence, for whom no subsequent residence has been identified, and who lacks the resources or support networks— family, friends, faith-based or other social networks— needed to obtain other permanent housing;

(4) Unaccompanied youth under 25 years of age, or families with children and youth, who do not otherwise qualify as homeless under this definition, but who:

(a) Are defined as homeless under Runaway and Homeless Youth, Head Start Act, Violence Against Women, Public Health Service, Food and Nutrition, Child Nutrition or McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Acts.

(b) Have not had a lease, ownership interest, or occupancy agreement in permanent housing at any time during the 60 days immediately preceding the date of application for homeless assistance;

(c) Have experienced persistent instability as measured by two moves or more during the 60-day period immediately preceding the date of applying for homeless assistance;

(d) Can be expected to continue in such status for an extended period of time because of chronic disabilities; chronic physical health or mental health conditions; substance addiction; histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse (including neglect); the presence of a child or youth with a disability; or two or more barriers to employment, which include the lack of a high school degree or General Education Development (GED), illiteracy, low English proficiency, a history of incarceration or detention for criminal activity, and a history of unstable employment;

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“Homeless” Defined (continued)

(5) Any individual or family who:

(a) is fleeing, or is attempting to flee, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other dangerous or life-threatening conditions that relate to violence against the individual or a family member, including a child, that has either taken place within the individual's or family's primary nighttime residence or has made the individual or family afraid to return to their primary nighttime residence;

(b) has no other residence;

(c) lacks the resources or support networks, e.g., family, friends, and faith-based or other social networks, to obtain other permanent housing

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Homelessness is Complex



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The Faces of Homelessness

◆ “The face of homelessness,” HRDC’s Sheri Hanson said. “We all think of the weathered man on the corner holding a cardboard sign, and that’s not it. They’re mothers, they’re children, they’re someone you walk by in Walmart. They’re a teenager sitting next to your son in math class, and that’s what is alarming and is so interesting about this particular survey is that we find out that information.” (MTN News January 20, 2019)



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The Face of Homelessness

Can be YOU...or ME

In an instant, any of us can find ourselves in a precarious situation from which we could end up having no place to live, and, essentially, on the streets.

- Loss of job
- Outbreak of domestic violence in our home
- Abuse
- Divorce
- Death of a spouse or parent(s)
- Bad decision
- Disaster
- Addiction
- Serious illness
- Brain injury/physical disability from accident
- Mental illness...lack of treatment

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The Roots of Homelessness


- ◆ Few affordable places to live if low income or ex-offender; **very few** affordable, decent places to live if sex offender or violent offender.
- ◆ Shelter....a place to sleep and to toilet....is a basic human need and right. (*Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs*)

The diagram shows a pyramid divided into five horizontal sections, each representing a level of Maslow's Hierarchy of Human Needs. To the left of the pyramid, the names of these levels are listed: Self-actualization, Esteem, Love/Belonging, Safety, and Physiological. Each level is connected to the pyramid by a horizontal line. The pyramid segments contain the following descriptions of needs:

- Self-actualization:** morality, creativity, spontaneity, problem solving, lack of prejudice, acceptance of facts
- Esteem:** self-esteem, confidence, achievement, respect of others, respect by others
- Love/Belonging:** friendship, family, sexual intimacy
- Safety:** security of body, of employment, of resources, of morality, of the family, of health, of property
- Physiological:** breathing, food, water, sex, sleep, homeostasis, excretion

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Address/Unit	SI	Level	Issue	Issue	Issue	SI
1234 5th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
5678 10th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
9012 15th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
3456 20th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
7890 25th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1122 30th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
3344 35th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
5566 40th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
7788 45th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
9900 50th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1212 55th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1313 60th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1414 65th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1515 70th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1616 75th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1717 80th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1818 85th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
1919 90th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
2020 95th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI
2121 100th St	SI	Home	Water	Water	Water	SI



Published Listing From a Salvation Army Resource of the Few Property Owners Who Rent to Felons, Violent Offenders, Sex Offenders

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The Roots of Homelessness

Some basic data on South Side housing to explain why our neighborhood is disproportionately effected by the linked issues of homelessness and sub-standard housing:

- ◆ Greater number of older housing structures (only 22% build after WWII) which means many properties are deteriorating faster than their owners can afford (or care) to fix them. Also illustrates the overall lack of investment in the neighborhood. While not directly linked to homelessness, it means the standard of housing offered on the South Side is much lower.
- ◆ Disproportionately renter occupied (71.69%) and renters are at greater risk for homelessness than homeowners
- ◆ 48% of renters pay more than 30% of their household income on rent and are therefore considered "cost burdened."

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The Roots of Homelessness

“From surveys of homeless individuals living on the streets and in shelters and the findings of researchers, we have learned not only about the institutional histories of homeless individuals (and often-difficult transitions from the military, foster care, psychiatric institutions, prisons and jails) but also about the neighborhoods where they lived prior to becoming homeless.

One of the harsh realities is that homeless individuals and families tend to come from communities of concentrated poverty. These neighborhoods typically have the highest rates of unemployment, poor health, crime, family violence, low educational achievement and overcrowding – the very conditions that make people vulnerable to losing their homes and community supports.”

“Getting to the Root Causes of Homelessness”, Rosanne Haggerty President, Community Solutions, Huffington Post, Jan 04, 2012

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The Story of Charlotte

She was living in California on disability; physical, mental illness and inability to read.

Her husband died suddenly in 2008.

Came to Montana with a friend who had family here.

2008-2013 Lived in Fraser Towers ...then The Colonialthen The Battleship

Evicted

Friend died

Money stolen and gambled away; mental illness and drinking kicked in

Met another friend and lived out of a tent outside Billings city limits

Gambling and drinking continued; schizophrenia/bipolar disorder got worse

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The Story of Charlotte (continued)

Living in tent in various places, including in fields on the South Side



and staying at the Crisis Center when she can get in



Sent to Warm Springs for 6 months



Now in Billings staying at a motel on the Laurel Highway at the first of the month, camping in fields when weather permits, and staying at the Crisis Center when she can get in.

Uses St. Vincent de Paul and the Hub during the day.

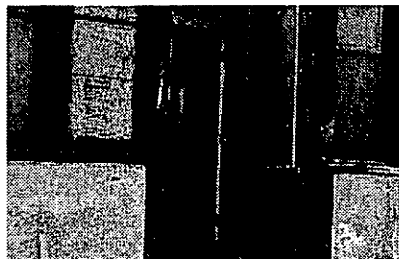
Gambling and drinking less, mental illness better.

Walks miles upon miles each day with an artificial leg.

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Impacts on the South Side

- ◆ "Difficult to house" people clustered in dilapidated housing and living under difficult conditions, including high rent for terrible quality and threats of eviction; forced into "indentured servant" situation with landlord.
- ◆ Garbage: landlords dump the belonging of evicted renters in the South Side alleys, overwhelming dumpsters; garbage pickers further scatter it.



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Impacts on the South Side

- ◆ People sleeping/sheltering in alleys, doorways, vacant buildings, vacant lots.
- ◆ People using alleys, trees, bushes as toilets.
- ◆ Hypodermic needles, drug paraphernalia on sidewalks, alleys, parks.
- ◆ Perpetuation of “dog-eat-dog” culture of abuse, drug and human trafficking, addiction, “conning” and crime.
- ◆ Children caught up in the trauma.
- ◆ Hunger, illness, death of human spirit, etc., etc., etc., etc.

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What Can Be Done

Meet the basic needs of shelter, food, toilets, care/love, as a community.

- ◆ Low barrier shelter supported by community

A low barrier (wet) shelter is a homeless shelter that allows someone to enter even if he/she is actively using alcohol or drugs. It is the antithesis of an abstinence shelter, which prohibits these client behaviors. Proponents of wet shelters see it as way to keep users out of the criminal justice system or off the streets. (Connecticut Coalition to End Homelessness (cceh.org) They also see it as an important first step in addressing addiction and physical and mental health issues.

- ◆ Affordable, decent housing
- ◆ Accessible, affordable food sources
- ◆ Accessible counseling and other mental health services
- ◆ Public toilets



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