

## 2016 State of the Homeless Public Forum

### *Summary of Public Comments*

#### Public Forum Comments

- Former homeless veteran suggested more education assistance for homeless individuals so that we can “teach them to fish” rather than just feeding them
- Resident in an Emergency Shelter program for Women and Children with 4 children – rent is issue even for those who work – need more affordable housing
- The lack of transportation is a barrier for homeless trying to find jobs
- Women with kids face additional issues: not enough affordable housing, child care so they can go to work, and shelters not extending check in times so they can work all day or at night.
- Program Director stated that an influx of calls from older women with no children and women living in their cars, can’t get into shelter since they get off so late. Shelters need to review entrance policy; need affordable housing
- Need to extend public transportation hours for those working night shifts
- Participant who was homeless 2 years ago now works with homeless and states there aren’t any “safe” places to stay on the west side
- Childcare is needed so mothers can work
- Affordable transportation, the bus system is a problem and the homeless can’t get things done b/c of the poor transportation in the area
- Families are choosing to sleep in their cars b/c they can’t meet check in times at shelters b/c of work
- More volunteers are needed to provide services for women
- “If you care...get involved”

#### Written Comments

- It would help if we had an SS rep that could come to the shelters. This would increase the ability for our clients to get SSI & SSDI.
- I think it would make prioritizing clients much easier if someone from each org was allowed to prioritize the clients.
- I’m currently job seeking but looking for employment along the public transportation line. This is in fact leaving me limited to a minimum of job opportunities. Therefore, this is not conducive to a successful end result. If a program is available to help one to obtain good reliable transportation ownership; this will enable one to increase or broaden their employment options. I’m referring to those who are proactive to helping themselves, such as myself. I feel this will definitely set someone up for success.
- Great pres. keep the info coming to keep us involved. I didn’t know Dallas had a similar program.

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- I came today because I participated in the count and wanted to hear the results. I'm interested in helping this population and involved with the Direction's Home Program & Homeless Connect 2016.
- What are we doing to prevent homelessness?
- How are we holding agencies accountable to work together?
- Providing more affordable housing.
- Speedy move out from shelter to affordable housing.
- I administer the JustServe.org website for this area (Tarrant County). JustServe is a site where organizations with need of volunteers can publish their volunteer needs and individuals within our community can connect their desire to serve with the published organizations.