

Design Brief

Project Description:

Work with Community Outreach Director and Deputy Chief of Staff for City of South Bend on the homeless challenges that arose with the encampment and look for long-term solutions. The city has been working with various agencies and non-profits on the gradual encampment of the homeless.

Intent/Scope:

The intent of this project is to better understand the reasons of homelessness and create solutions for the city to prevent further homelessness.

The scope with focus on understanding the needs and issues of the South Bend homeless population and how to better address their needs in order to reduce the number of residents forced into homelessness.

Exploration Questions:

1. What is the demographic most affected by unemployment and homelessness in South Bend?
2. How should the City of South Bend address the problem?
3. Can the City of South Bend provide services for residents to better prevent future homelessness and/or reduce the current rate of homelessness?

Target Users:

Throughout the life of our project, South Bend stakeholders will include: the homeless population, residents of the local community, and businesses in the surrounding area. The homeless population will be the primary focus of our research and strategic planning.

Research Plan:

We plan to talk to meet with both the Community Outreach Director and the Deputy Chief of Staff for the City to better understand the homelessness problem in South Bend. In addition, we will observe the encampment and the current issues it is facing as well as research the efforts that have been undertaken to reverse the problem.

Expected Outcomes:

Through our work, we expect to propose meaningful solutions to South Bend's homeless problem. These solutions will focus on homeless encampments, specifically providing these individuals long-term solutions as well as preventative measures against others becoming homelessness. These solutions will be crafted by reaching out to the Community Outreach Director, the Deputy Chief of Staff for the City, and nonprofits working on the problem. With our work we plan to present our solutions to the City of South Bend for implementation.

Success Metrics:

1. Did we collect research revealing *new* and *insightful* information on the homeless population?
2. Did we develop a comprehensive implementation strategy to address our problem?
3. Did we lower the homeless rate in the city?
4. Did our strategy have an effect on the unemployment rate of South Bend?
5. Have we engaged with local organizations and utilized their resources to fuel our project?
6. Have we improved the quality of life for the homeless population?

Project Planning:

We will establish deadlines and work to meet with/speak with our contacts at the City of South Bend at least three times.

Relevant articles

http://www.southbendtribune.com/news/local/future-of-south-bend-homeless-camp-uncertain/article_b9537440-9a5e-5c23-821d-8142454be620.html