

Effectively responding to homelessness in Cape Town

Create a holistic developmental response to homelessness that builds on 'what works' and provides effective pathways off the streets through:

| National Homeless Network theme | Access to sanitation and ablutions | Access to health facilities | Equal treatment by the law | Shelter & Accommodation | Increasing Economic opportunity |
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| What is needed | Reducing the day to day impact of homelessness | | Developmental and not punitive solutions | Increased housing options | Expanding meaningful employment opportunities |
| Actions /investments required in Cape Town | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Implement a number of simple, proven, hygienic solutions that reduce the daily impact of homelessness on both people experiencing homelessness and the community within which they sleep. These solutions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Secure accessible public facilities for both ablution and sanitation in each sub-council that are open 18 hours per day throughout the year Provision of toilets ○ Increased safe sleeping spaces (also a first rung on the housing ladder) ○ Mobile health services that are accessible and friendly to people experiencing homelessness and include support for people suffering from mental ill health ○ Centres/hubs that provide daily service and therapeutic group sessions to meet basic daily needs and support a person to start a journey off the street. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The city to switch its law enforcement policy on homelessness away from a focus on punitive actions e.g. fines, that do not make a person leave the street, to alternative proven and effective social development measures. Punitive responses to homelessness do not act as a deterrent (homelessness is growing) and undermine existing developmental work of service providers trying to help homeless people to leave the street long term. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Need increased housing and accommodation options beyond homeless shelters. This will include a full housing ladder approach (safe space, shelter, transitional housing, social housing, affordable housing), housing first options offering permanent housing, and innovative housing solutions, e.g. pods or container houses. All accommodation should be linked to daily developmental, rehabilitation and training programmes and cannot just be a short-term bed. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provide at least 1000 long-term work-based skills development opportunities for people experiencing homelessness as part of a structured developmental rehabilitation programme (includes therapy, training and skills development). Provide incentives and implement quotas for businesses and the City of Cape Town to hire graduates of such developmental programmes. |

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| <p>Benefits for all due to these actions / investments</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big reduction in human waste found on the street in the mornings making the City a nicer place to be, reducing unavoidable by-law infringements, decreasing urban cleaning costs, and increasing dignity of those living on the streets. • A city with improved level of primary health for all and support provided to people living on the street with mental ill health. • Spaces people experiencing homelessness can go that provide psychosocial support and longer term assistance to leave the street. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not entrenching homelessness through a law enforcement approach & criminalization that makes it even harder for someone to leave the streets. • A truly caring livable city that treats all equally before the law for all infringements. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A reduction in the number of people living on the street and the associated problems this brings (e.g. littering / human waste etc). • Increased success of developmental programmes providing a pathway for people off the street. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A thriving economy that reduces unemployment and puts more money into circulation locally and therefore the Fiscus both locally and nationally • Increase the flow of people through the programme by increasing the number of exit points. Also will increase the number of people within businesses and the City of Cape Town with lived experience on the street, improving programme planning and outcomes. |
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