University Initiative to Eliminate Homelessness
2016 - 2021

Representing an historic collaboration between twelve (12) independent USC schools with a collective mission.
Directed by social worker Brenda Wiewel, DSW.

2016
USC’s Initiative to Eliminate Homelessness is established by President C. L. Max Nikias

USC Presidential Summit was held, announcing the university’s commitment to end homelessness in Los Angeles.

Deans Steering Committee formed under auspices of the USC Provost and created a direction for the initiative.

2017
Developed a homeless services option for undergraduate volunteer work through the Dornsife Joint Educational Project (JEP) for student service learning opportunities. Available Here

Over 500 USC Trojans volunteer for 2017 homeless count.

Convened 50 religious leaders in Los Angeles to address the impact of homelessness and created a faith-based collective statement to guide the work of their congregations.

Shared resources for students facing food and housing challenges at USC Libraries, student activity offices and campus fairs.

Collaborated with Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work to plan a one-day conference with the theme of homelessness entitled Wild Ideas and Innovations. To view recordings click Here

Designed by: Jazmin Lopez MSW
2018

- Arranged for an MSW intern at the Trojan Pantry to educate and enroll eligible students into CalFresh food benefits and provide supportive counseling, supervised by a professional social work clinician.

- Collaborated with USC libraries to create a comprehensive guide on homelessness with current news, USC faculty publications, and links to a wide range of resources. [Available Here](#)

- Created a toolkit with comprehensive information on new housing typologies to help developers and architects respond to the affordable housing gap. [Available Here](#)

- Convened a regional summit on ending homelessness in Los Angeles at USC to highlight current research, stimulate collaboration, and create innovation among key stakeholders and top USC experts, with 400 people in attendance. [Available Here](#)

2019

- Produced a comprehensive report to university leadership on campus homelessness at USC with recent data and detailed options/ plans to address student housing challenges.

- Prepared a research brief with policy recommendations in collaboration with colleagues (B. Henwood, P. St.Clair) to understand the increase in unsheltered older adults based on the 2017-2018 Los Angeles county homeless count. [Available Here](#)

- Wrote a white paper with literature review and guidance on trauma informed care for organizations serving the homeless population with L. Hernandez. [Available Here](#)

- Funded and conducted a one-year study of a new intervention, known as WISER, to prevent homelessness through financial empowerment for older adult women. [Available Here](#)
Developed and conducted the first training on trauma, offered for homeless count workers to support their street outreach capacity.

Partnered with Lava Mae and community to offer mobile hygiene services near Health Sciences Campus.

Added the first academic undergraduate social work course on homelessness for Fall 2021 with Professor Ben Henwood.

Published a research project in collaboration with students on community land trusts as an addendum to the housing typologies toolkit, entitled TRUST: A Guide to Affordable Housing. Available Here

Collaborated with students on a virtual homelessness awareness week during the spring semester with a variety of activities designed to educate and motivate students. Available Here

Created a resource for students who are interested in volunteering to work on homelessness in collaboration with the USC Volunteer Center. Trojans Tackling Homelessness site features projects developed by or through active participation of USC students.

Produced an educational film for students to learn about homelessness through the eyes of persons with lived experience.

FIGHT ON!

Other Resources:

Lib Guide On Homelessness  IMPACT REPORTS  Initiative Archive @ USC Libraries

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