

Lesson Planning Resources

EDUCATION CENTER UNIT ONE - HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS For Grades 6-12

Audience: Adults working with youth/teens (primary) and youth/teens (secondary)

Recommended Learning Objectives: Using data, activities and reflection the Learning Unit will help youth/teens to:

1. Break myths and stereotypes about who is homeless in America and why.
2. Expand their view of the problem in ways that raise awareness of the cycle of poverty and structural causes for inadequate housing. This includes lack of adequate, affordable housing, as well as the condition of homelessness.
3. Increase understanding and empathy about what it means to lack a basic human necessity specifically, adequate housing.
4. Use the issue of housing/homelessness to provide a hopeful and inspiring contemporary view of effective, community action for social justice.
5. Offer concrete actions that youth/teens can take to participate in creating housing justice in their community.

Help youth/teens answer compelling questions such as:

1. Who is homeless in the USA?
2. Why are so many Americans homeless?
3. What is it like for youth/teens to be homeless in America?
4. What is the housing crisis in America and what communities are affected?

Provide resources that will:

1. Describe some real life solutions to the housing crisis in various U.S. communities.

2. Give examples of empowered homeless Americans, especially youth/teens.
3. Cite good websites and other resources for further information and action.
4. Provide a link to Catholic social teaching resources

Excellent Internet Resources

www.nationalhomeless.org The mission of the National Coalition for the Homeless (NCH) is to end homelessness. NCH focuses its work on housing justice, economic justice, health care justice, and civil rights through grassroots organizing, public education, policy advocacy, technical assistance, and partnerships.

~ Check out the Fact Sheets at this website which either provide basic information about homelessness or address a specific aspect of homelessness. Each fact sheet summarizes facts and issues, and contains a list of recommended reading for further research. Here are a few examples:

Fact Sheet # 7 – Homeless Families with Children

Fact Sheet #11 – Homeless Youth

Fact Sheet #13 – Rural Homelessness

Fact Sheet #16 – How You Can Help End Homelessness

~ Click on What's New to find out what's in the news now about homelessness

<http://yep.cohhio.org> The Youth Empowerment Program (YEP) of the Coalition on Homelessness and Housing in Ohio (COHHIO) is a homeless youth program comprised of seven councils of youth ages 10-24 who all experienced homelessness in various ways around the state of Ohio. YEP is dedicated to empowering youth through leadership, advocacy, and education. Furthermore, YEP encourages youth to take control of their life situations while building self-esteem and improving the quality of life for themselves and other homeless youth.

~ Be sure to visit the following pages at this Web site:

YEP Home Page

Resources

YEP Presentations

Ways to Help Homeless Children

~ Also visit COHHIO's home page at www.cohhio.org.

www.nlihc.org The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) is dedicated solely to ending America's affordable housing crisis. NLIHC educates, organizes and advocates, to ensure decent, affordable housing within healthy neighborhoods and provides up-to-date information, formulates policy, and educates the public on housing needs and strategies for solutions.

~ This website will help you to

Access housing costs in a specific city, state or county.

Understand the impact on low-wage workers seeking an apartment in that community by computing the number of hours per week a minimum wage worker would have to work to afford the rent of a modest 2 bedroom apartment in that community.

Learn about public housing policy and its impact on poor and low-income people expressed in simple language from recent reports, news items, and summaries.

www.networklobby.org NETWORK is a National Catholic Social Justice Lobby that educates, lobbies and organizes to influence the formation of federal legislation to promote economic and social justice.

~ This Web site will

Identify and describe key pending legislation (Housing is in the Economic Equity section).

Provide simple and direct guidance on reaching legislators.

Give you tools and support for communicating with legislators on housing and other issues.

www.preblestreet.org The Preble Street Resource Center (PSRC) exists to empower people who are experiencing problems with homelessness, housing, hunger and poverty and advocates for solutions to these problems. See PSRC's

Teen Center. The Catholic Campaign for Human Development has supported PSRC's Consumer Advocacy project. This project is engaged in voter education and other non-partisan civic activities that help homeless citizens participate more fully in the live of their community.

WORKING WITH OTHERS TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND HOMELESSNESS IN THE U.S.

1. Take the Poverty tour at this (www.povertyusa) Web site.
2. Learn about stories of empowerment among people who are experiencing poverty in the U.S. Talk with the Diocesan Director for the Catholic Campaign for Human Development in your area. Go to www.usccb.org/cchd to find out who that is and identify projects funded in your region.

Find Resources for Middle School and High School students, as well as, Pre-School and Elementary levels, at the Educational Materials page of the National Homelessness Coalition Web site www.nationalhomeless.org. Kids Corner at this Web site has specific ideas for action, personal quotes, facts.

Link to Catholic resources. www.usccb.org/cchd/education.htm.