Equity and Health: Housing Crisis/ Accessible Housing

By: Patrick M, Rudy L, Adam H, Etziar J, Roman R, Guadalupe C

Topic Statement: Housing Crisis/ Accessible Housing

Existing Conditions

Challenges: *High Cost of living and High numbers of unhoused individuals*

- Number of Individuals Experiencing Homelessness in Sonoma County: 2,893 individuals (2022)
- 28% Sheltered, 72% Unsheltered, 57% of the unhoused population of Sonoma County
- 62% of residents claim quality of life has worsened
- 49% of individuals agree the cost of living has become worse
- 89% of citizens believe the unhoused issue has worsened

Existing Conditions

- Endangers community's safety (Schools/Shelters)
- Jeopardizes health of the community (Creeks, Water Sources, Trash)
- Unused plots of land and excess amount of parking lots

Case Studies

- 70 tents
- Finley Park (Parking Lot)
- Growth in health concerns pertaining to covid and unhoused population
- Curfew (8 P.M.) and three meals per day
- Acceptance grew as time went on

Case Studies

- Long Beach, California
- $2.5 million dollar deal with Connect Homes
- 30 tiny homes
- Cost Effective (Fraction of current solutions)
- 60-90 days after City grant
- Implemented in neighboring city; Rohnert Park
- Humane and Sustainable solution
- Cost Effective (Economically/Land Use)
- Promotes equity, safety, and health

Lessons Learned

- Affordable and realistic solutions to the housing crisis
- Solutions should focus on humanization and sustainable practices
- Unhoused issue affects the entire community and culture at large
- Displays collaboration between local government and organizations

Short Term Recognition

Solutions: Utilizing vacant parking lots for organized communities and tents (cs)

Potential Partners: Connect Homes

Government and partner organizations are responsible for construction of houses and reserving areas

Govern needs to supply grants to support accessible housing construction

Long Term Recognition

Establish tiny home communities in areas of unused land including vacant highway lot

Partnership: Connect Homes

Government needs to supply grants, time, and land

Establish programs to sustainably supply people with temporary homes creating a path for financial independence

Cited Sources

https://www.latimes.com/california/story/2021-04-08/santa-rosa-neighborhood-went-from-fighting-to-embracing-tent-city-for-homeless

https://www.businessinsider.com/connect-homes-builds-tiny-homes-shelters-for-homeless-2023-2