

I am a housing provider, and my 8 unit building is across the street from the homeless camp. My units are filling by word of mouth, there just isn't enough housing for the lower income population. After a year of having squatters, non paying renters, and vandalism, I wanted to offer some creative ideas to generate more housing and create quality of life community that could help our housing crisis.

1. HUD housing - provide more funding for HUD programs. This program helps countless people, and changes lives. However, with a wait list of over 2 years, it isn't helping all the people that need this. Perhaps the state can partner with the federal government to create more HUD funds.

2. With the additional HUD funds, we need to build more efficiency units. Federal and State funds can be directed to builders and developers, to provide incentives for them to build these kind of developments. The builders hopefully will build with the neighborhood in mind, creating community using greenery, and thoughtful placement of buildings.

3. Build green, and Save Habitat! It is imperative that the housing needs do not impact our environment. There should be additional government incentives that direct developers to re-use old buildings, re-purpose older structures, and don't pave over precious habitat. They should concentrate on old industrial areas, or areas that have been already developed, and build up, not out.

4. Set up Land Trusts - A philanthropist or a city can donate the property, and place that in a land trust, thereby reducing the costs for the builder. These savings can be passed on to the potential renter or owner.

5. Create a housing complex, campus for the challenged homeless - Our city is covered with homeless people in tents. They have nowhere to go. It is impacting our town. We need to conduct surveys of this population, and find out what their needs are, and where they would go if provided a home. State and Federal funds can be directed to create a large housing complex, with very small safe places for someone to sleep, it doesn't need to be big, just large enough for a bed and dresser. Can have shared baths and kitchen area. Similar to a college dorm. This can create jobs, social workers can be on site, there can be an area for job training, skills trainings,

cafeteria, full time access to hot showers, and several other possibilities. This can be paid for by HUD funding, and also if the clients have disability social security income, a percentage of that can be used for each client. There are several costs that the city is covering, to manage all the garbage and problems from the unmanaged camping areas. These costs could also be redirected to the housing complex. There could also be a managed camping area, in the same complex, for those that can't make the transition to housing at that time.

Once the stress of not having a home is removed, the person can transform, and become a more contributing member of the society. It will be better for them and everyone else.