Youth Homelessness in Chicago

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**Introduction**

A significant number of young people in society experience challenges that most people hardly notice. Teachers deal with cases of students who express their challenges in paying for housing as a significant detriment to their performance in the classroom. As long as such challenges exist among young people, there are limited chances that society will experience an improvement in level of equality in the future. Young people need to have access to affordable and decent housing, but such is not the case in Chicago, with a significant number being victims of homelessness. Whether they ran away from home or were somehow sent away by parents, or fell into circumstances that rendered them homeless, the only solution to the issue lies in an extensive social policy to provide housing to such at-risk populations.

**Symptoms**

According to Miller (2017), about 20000 Chicago youth have experienced homelessness in their lives, which necessitates efforts to develop insight into indicators of the problem. It may not be easy to determine that a particular individual is homeless unless the said person explicitly talks of the condition in any interaction. However, there are often clear symptoms that indicate that the person may not have access to stable or decent housing. For instance, the individual may be susceptible to colds and the flu may fall asleep easily, and could even have some skin conditions. If the said person then lacks any medical health information with him, then it would be important to consider the possibility that he or she is homeless.

**Diagnosis**

With the different indicators, it would be critical for the individual involved in handling the student’s case to assess its potential causes. Particularly so, the best way to positively diagnose an individual following such indicators is to directly ask him or her whether he or she is homeless. The response therein would be critical to making the appropriate diagnosis irrespective of the displayed symptoms, especially due to the potential that he or she could be exposed to other issues that lead to the appearance of homelessness.

**Cure**

The primary cure of homelessness is providing the diagnosed individual with access to housing. With proper housing, the individual would have a permanent address to receive information such as medical information related to his or her health, in addition to an ideal environment that would prevent the development of conditions such as the flu or other health issues. Consequently, in as much as the government and other non-governmental agencies may invest in the identification and provision solutions to the issue, having a clear intervention plan to address homelessness, including the availability of housing, increases the effectiveness of their solutions.

**Brief Closing Summary**

Homelessness is a significant issue in contemporary society, and one whose solution lies with the increase in housing accessibility to the populations considered vulnerable to the challenge. An interagency effort that would include identification and provision of solutions to the issue would be the most effective approach to ensure that the young people in Chicago have their homelessness issues addressed before they can adapt to living in such an environment. Most importantly, ensuring that their welfare is appropriately secure reduces the potential challenges that Chicago could end up facing if the government ignores the homelessness problem in the city. Ultimately, the future of society’s welfare extensively depends on the quality of effort the government places on ensuring that young people have access to decent housing and those that lack such find solutions fast enough.

References

Miller, M. (2017, February 23). *'Sleep in? Spotlights youth homelessness in Chicago*. Retrieved from<https://news.wttw.com/2017/02/23/sleep-spotlights-youth-homelessness-chicago>