Who is Homeless Today?

Today's population in the shelter can very easily be a college graduate, a business person, or someone who ended up losing their apartment because of the economy.
- Eddie LaGuerre, non-profit shelter provider

1/3 of the families in NYC that are homeless are working, many full time.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

Some Solutions

We have an open-ended RFP, a request for proposals. Landlords work with a social service provider to create a plan of what they want to do at that location. They present it to us for review, and we determine if the proposal fits our needs.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

Who Decides Where Homeless Shelters Go?

The best proposals are the ones that have a range of services nearby, such as transportation and supermarkets.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

Does the Community Have a Say?

In the past, there wasn't enough consultation preceding some of these siting issues, so one of the first things we did as an administration was add an amendment to the RFP that said if you want to put a shelter in this neighborhood, you have to have a good neighbor and tell everyone before you do it.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

In addition to working with elected officials, we also work closely with community groups. We try to dispel the myths of homelessness and educate the public about the work we're doing to address inequality throughout the city.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

We want the public to have a say, but in the same time we don't want communities that just don't want homeless people because of prejudice. Otherwise, there would be no way for shelters to go in any neighborhood.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

In the negative side, we are not addressing the issue that has plagued this individual or this family into this particular situation. That's the stigma that we put on the door of the people that come in. There is no sustained permanent fix in the neighboring area.
- Jose Rodriguez, Bronx CB4

In a similar place people are sending children to get back on their feet. We provide a lot of opportunities in the immediate area. That's big, big asset because it creates employment opportunities. We also purchase a lot of materials from local vendors.
- Eddie LaGuerre, NAICA, non-profit shelter provider

The budget for the Department of Homeless Services is $3 billion. We should increase by 25% to give ourselves excess capacity to do more services, and to provide more subsidies for the neighborhood so that we are getting families out of the system.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

I would convene a meeting of the Borough Board and say, “We have some serious problems in the Bronx, and we should start addressing them.” And through negotiation come up with a borough plan to present to the Mayor’s office that’s ongoing and be held accountable with the borough board and go down with them and say “We’ve over-saturated in CB4, let’s see how we can properly address these particular families.”
- Jose Rodriguez, Bronx CB4

The best proposals are the ones that have a range of services nearby, such as transportation and supermarkets.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

The budget for the Department of Homeless Services is $3 billion. We should increase by 25% to give ourselves excess capacity to do more services, and to provide more subsidies for the neighborhood so that we are getting families out of the system.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

I would convene a meeting of the Borough Board and say, “We have some serious problems in the Bronx, and we should start addressing them.” And through negotiation come up with a borough plan to present to the Mayor’s office that’s ongoing and be held accountable with the borough board and go down with them and say “We’ve over-saturated in CB4, let’s see how we can properly address these particular families.”
- Jose Rodriguez, Bronx CB4

The best proposals are the ones that have a range of services nearby, such as transportation and supermarkets.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

The budget for the Department of Homeless Services is $3 billion. We should increase by 25% to give ourselves excess capacity to do more services, and to provide more subsidies for the neighborhood so that we are getting families out of the system.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

I would convene a meeting of the Borough Board and say, “We have some serious problems in the Bronx, and we should start addressing them.” And through negotiation come up with a borough plan to present to the Mayor’s office that’s ongoing and be held accountable with the borough board and go down with them and say “We’ve over-saturated in CB4, let’s see how we can properly address these particular families.”
- Jose Rodriguez, Bronx CB4

The best proposals are the ones that have a range of services nearby, such as transportation and supermarkets.
- Lisa Black, NYC Department of Homeless Services

The budget for the Department of Homeless Services is $3 billion. We should increase by 25% to give ourselves excess capacity to do more services, and to provide more subsidies for the neighborhood so that we are getting families out of the system.
- Steve Levin, City Council Member

I would convene a meeting of the Borough Board and say, “We have some serious problems in the Bronx, and we should start addressing them.” And through negotiation come up with a borough plan to present to the Mayor’s office that’s ongoing and be held accountable with the borough board and go down with them and say “We’ve over-saturated in CB4, let’s see how we can properly address these particular families.”
- Jose Rodriguez, Bronx CB4