Leveraging Community Colleges to Promote Housing as a Right

The Realization Project

Economic Roundtable
ERt’s *Realization Project*

Economic Roundtable (ERt)
- Independent research firm, est. 1991
- Research / programming facilitating individuals’ economic self-sufficiency
- Building sustainable economy, inclusive communities
- Relevant, recent publications:
  - [Early Intervention to Prevent Persistent Homelessness](#) (2019)
  - [Locked Out: Unemployment and Homelessness in the COVID economy](#) (2021)

Realization Project
- Understanding homelessness as problem of income and of racial justice
- Scientifically identifies individuals on the path to chronic homelessness
- Holistic intervention: temporary housing, workforce development, behavioral health svcs
- Less expensive than public costs of supporting persistently homeless
- Sponsored by the Weingart Foundation, CA Community Foundation, Homelessness Policy Research Institute; Long Beach City College (since 2020)
Realization Project Team

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Systemic Framework
Human Categorization as Status Quo

Hierarchical Relationships
Social Workers et al. “reaching down” to help

Dysfunction

Institutional Inertia
Organizational accountability gaps; mission drift

Dependence

Largely Untapped Human Capability

No-Cost Resources
Free shelter, food, healthcare, etc.

Despair

Self-Fulfilled Incapability

Systemic Injustice
Perpetuated, societal biases and assumptions including racism

Disempowerment
REALIZATION FRAMEWORK
Human Empowerment as Systems Change

Human Capability
(Inherent Worth & Potential)

Equipping
Pedagogical Collaboration
Designing/delivering equitable curricula

Affirming
Trauma Information
Acknowledging/processing wounds

Reparing
Goal Orientation
Visualizing & engaging change

Attaining
Cultural Imagination
Honoring diverse values and traditions

Attaining
Data-Driven Results

For Cohort 1 (N=12):
- 83% received job offers paying $20+/hour
- 75% accepted jobs and promotions
- Majority engaged behavioral health services
- Significantly higher graduation rate vs. LBCC
- 100% report increased career readiness as well as greater hopefulness and other quality of life measures
- 92% were **no longer homeless**
Housing as a Right

• The Realization Project’s goal: To demonstrate the need for and advocate the implementation of policies that guarantee housing to every student facing homelessness in the Long Beach Community College District, Los Angeles County, and the CA Community Colleges.

Annual costs for public assistance, medical, mental health, criminal justice, etc. for one (1) employable adult experiencing persistent homelessness.

~$15,000

Annual programmatic costs to facilitate housing, employment, and wellbeing for one (1) employable adult experiencing persistent homelessness.

~$10,000