

Sustainable  
Systems

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# **Final Project: NYC Work-Shelter Program**

# Homelessness in NYC

## **SHELTER IS A HUMAN NEED AND HUMAN RIGHT**

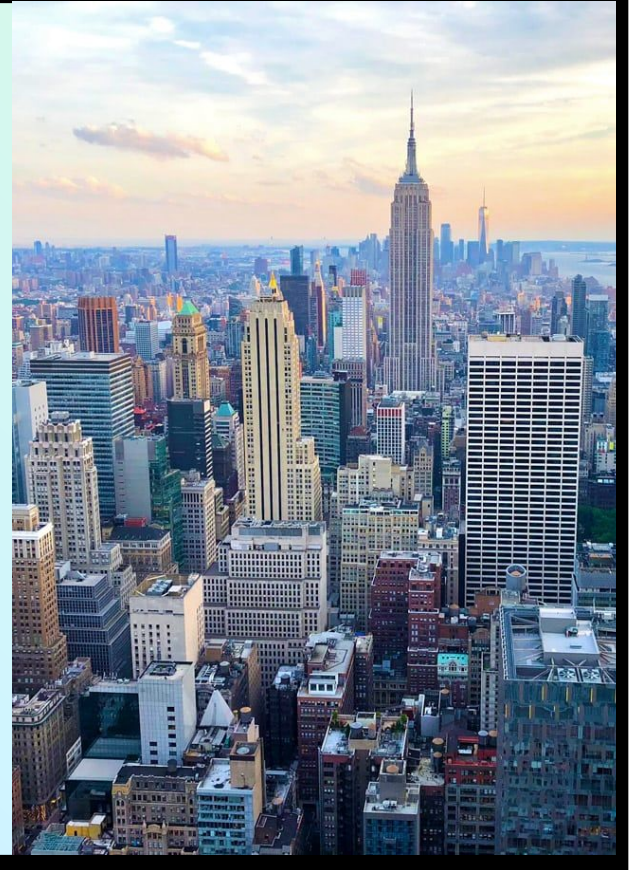
- In recent years, homelessness in NYC has reached an all-time high.
- Percentage of homeless adults has increased by 97% since 2010
- City surveys don't accurately estimate the number of homeless people

## **THE PRIMARY REASON FOR HOMELESSNESS IN NYC IS INABILITY TO AFFORD HOW EXPENSIVE BASIC HOUSING IS**

- Black and Hispanic people are the most severely affected by this issue, making up most of the population in shelters

# Systems at Play

- **Urban Systems**
- **Health and Wellbeing**
- **The Economy**
- **The Environment**



# Proposal

To provide homeless people with job opportunities to renew and upkeep abandoned buildings in return for guaranteed shelter and nutrition.



## **Why are abandoned buildings an issue?**

### **Vacant, poorly maintained properties harm the environment.**

- Poorly maintained storage tanks cause water contamination
- Incorrectly disposed chemicals harm the urban environment
- Breaks and cracks + humidity lead to mold growth.
- Runoff into water bodies used for drinking + running water
- Illegal disposal of hazardous waste.

## **Mission:**

Our mission is to provide work opportunities for homeless people as an incentive for shelter, food, and amenities while helping to decrease the negative effects of abandoned properties on the urban and natural environment.

- Volunteers accepted to help teach participants the skills required
- Priority to individuals who can't find jobs with experience in the jobs required
- When renovated, the building's spaces will be leased to generate income to fund the non-profit's expansion
- Motivation, Incentivizing work, Emotional Fulfillment

# Logistics and operations

## Funding

Money and capital will be raised through public funding and applying for government grants when registered with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3)

## Green Mountain Energy

Green Mountain Energy donates solar power to nonprofits when they apply for grants, currently powering over 110 nonprofits.

## Registration

Will be a program registered with the NYC Department of homeless services as a nonprofit. Must register with the IRS as a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit

## Lighting

The properties will operate on 100% LED Lighting fixtures. These bulbs don't release the majority of the energy they consume, requiring less energy to stay powered.

## Choosing picks

There are over 2,000 abandoned properties in NYC, so suitable picks will be chosen by working closely with the department of housing and urban development.

## Training

Volunteers will train staff and distribute responsibilities, from painting to plumbing. Volunteers will also prepare and equip living spaces before move-in.

# Inspiration: Shelters To Shutters



Chris Finlay, real estate executive

- Nonprofit that provides jobs to homeless people in buildings with vacant units in return for affordable housing in the buildings
- Operating in over a dozen cities in the US
- Entry-level positions remain vacant after employees find better, more advanced placements in the job market
- Model pushes people toward self-sufficiency by offering full time employment and discounted housing



## Potential challenges

- Receiving sufficient public funding
- Receiving grants as a new nonprofit
- Breaking even in the first phase
- Inability to lease spaces

# Sources

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<https://www.washingtonpost.com/lifestyle/2019/04/25/this-novel-program-gives-homeless-people-jobs-apartment-buildings-housing-go-with-them/>

<https://www.greenmountainenergy.com/sun-club/>

<https://www1.nyc.gov/nyc-resources/programs.page>

<https://www.coalitionforthehomeless.org/basic-facts-about-homelessness-new-york-city/>



# Thank You!

Questions?