

The Tiny House Movement: A Solution to Homelessness in Jackson, MS







What is Homelessness?

 The US Department of Health and Human Services defines homelessness as individuals who lack housing and/or whose prima residence is a supervised public or private facility such as a shelter that provides temporary living accommodations.

 Viewed as a temporary condition that people fall into when they cannot afford to pay for a place to live or when their current home unsafe or unstable.

Homelessness in Jackson, MS



- Currently Jackson, MS has a "Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness"
- The plan works with strategies to identify homelessness and come up with solutions.
- The city of Jackson states that its first priority is to provide permanent supportive housing for chronically homeless individuals.









Current Problems with Current Solutions to End Homelessness in Jackson, MS

- Lack of affordable housing
- Safety issues/concerns in public housing
- Leaky roofs, cracked floors, shifting foundations, chronic sewage and septic problems, mold and mildew, illegal/electrical wiring
- Lack of shelters in Jackson, MS to house the homeless in Jackson MS

Tiny House Movement

- Growing popularity across the US as a solution to end chronic homelessness
- The Tiny House Movement advocates for living simply in smaller homes.
- Garnered success in various metropolitan cities and can serve as a viable solution to end homelessness in Jackson, MS.



Current Tiny House Movements

Madison, Wisconsin- Occupy Madison Olympia, Washington- Quixote Village Austin, Texas- Community First! Village











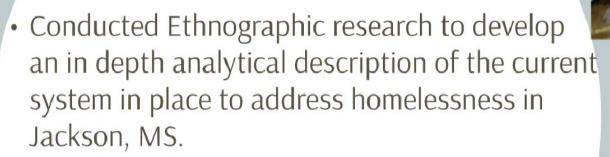
Methodology

Results
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 Collected extensive narrative data from 10 homeless individuals at Smith Park, various city officials, various homeless shelter directors, directors of Tiny House Movements in different states.







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Results

- Homeless Individuals
 - Felt that there were not enough options for them in the Capitol city to sustain and keep employment
 - The veterans felt that there was a lack of respect for what they had done for their country.
 - The women felt unsafe in shelters, even in the ones designed specifically for women
- Directors and Employees of Jackson Shelters
 - Expressed that people are homeless due to drug and substance issues or crime
 - Felt that there are not enough resources available for homeless individuals in the city of Jackson
 - No long term shelters for the chronic homeless in Jackson, MS







Results

- Conducting email interviews with Tiny House Village Directors it was found that a collaborative community effort was conducted to make these shelters a reality.
- Each Tiny Village was started by local 501 (c) 3 nonprofits
- Crime, substance abuse/use, and lack of affordable housing in their areas were also found to be reasons for continued homeless populations.
- Each village although comprehensively the same, took on unique approaches to address their specific community needs.





Solutions for Jackson What can Jackson, MS do to Implement this movement?



Solutions

Jackson, MS has the capacity to develop the Tiny House Movement for the city.

For this movement to be a success, the capitol city must explore:

- Current Housing supply
- Space standards
- Neighborhood conditions
- Affordability
- Housing quality
- Opinions of formerly and potentially homeless people on housing and shelters provided or arranged through current services or strategies

...But Can it Work???

- The Tiny House Movement can sustain itself through the work and efforts of the residents who live there and the grassroots efforts from surrounding communities.
- Residents accepted in The Tiny House Movement must acquire a job or skill to live on the village grounds.
 - developing/sustaining community garden, waste/garbage collection, recycling
- Collaborate with local municipalities and resources to provide residents with rehabilitation services, job/skills training, treatment, or other support services.



- I suggest that Jackson collaborate to create a citizen-driven initiative to create positive changes in attitudes, policies, and practices that would benefit homeless individuals.
- Dedicating to this initiative can provide facilities at low-cost, low impact development, while improving the overall appearance of the city.
- By facilitating support by increasing education to stakeholders, community leaders, and members through providing evidencebased practices and data support, the Tiny House Movement can gain traction as a solution to end homelessness in the Capitol city and serve as a model for surrounding communities within the state of Mississippi.









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