

# News

## Solutions to Homelessness Come With Their Own Challenges

By Geoff Mulvihill  
Associated Press

**M**any experts say homelessness is not an intractable problem.

A national focus on housing veterans and people who have long been homeless has made a difference, for example. But methods to end it or significantly reduce the problem come with financial and political hurdles. A look at some of the key strategies and their challenges:

### Federally Funded Subsidized Housing

A shortage of housing that's affordable to very low-income people, especially in high-rent areas, is a key reason for homelessness. Providing more affordable housing can sometimes prevent it.

"We don't need a multi-billion dollar homeless system," said Paul Boden, a longtime advocate for the homeless who runs the San Francisco-based Western Regional Advocacy Project. "We need to re-invigorate our housing systems."

But nationally, that's not the way things are headed. For the last 40 years, there's been slow growth in the number of units in publicly

subsidized housing, and President Donald Trump's budget proposal calls for reducing vouchers.

An analysis by the liberal-leaning Center on Budget and Policy Priorities found that 235,000 fewer families could have access to subsidized housing under his plan. The cuts would not be as deep under budget plans being considered in Congress.

The study's author, Douglas Rice, believes that perhaps 5 to 10 percent of families that lose vouchers would become homeless.

### Locally Subsidized Affordable Housing

Building more low-cost housing is at the center of efforts to stem homelessness in Los Angeles and other West Coast cities.

Since last year, voters in Los Angeles and Los Angeles County have approved bond issues totaling about \$4.7 billion over 10 years to build more affordable housing, using tax increases to pay for the bonds. Voters in the counties that include Oakland and San Jose have approved similar measures.

Joe Colletti, CEO of the Hub for Urban Initiatives, which provides

planning and other services in several California communities, said the approach is the right one. But it will take years to build homes.

He said voters might be disappointed when they still see people living on the streets in a decade: While adding 10,000 units of housing in Los Angeles can prevent homelessness for many, he said, it won't get everyone who is now homeless off the streets.

### Enforcing Laws

In many places, officials have added laws to combat panhandling, camping in public places and stepped up enforcement of those and other policies to keep homeless people away.

In August, Sacramento County officials approved spending \$5 million to increase enforcement of an anti-camping law along the American River, which is lined with encampments.

That's discouraging for Bob Erlenbusch, executive director of the Sacramento Regional Coalition to End Homelessness. He says there aren't enough efforts to house the growing numbers of homeless people.

Read the rest of this story at  
[TheSkanner.com](http://TheSkanner.com)

## OBITUARY: Oscar Eason, Jr.

1930-2017

**T**he Honorable Oscar Eason, Jr., a faithful servant, passed this life on Dec. 18, 2017.

His home going is planned for Thursday January 4, 2018, 10 AM at St. Paul Catholic Church, 10001 57th Avenue South, Seattle, WA. South of Kubota Gardens.

Burial at Mt. Tahoma National Cemetery, 18600 SE 240th Street, Kent, WA 98042-4868 followed by a Repast in Roman Hall at St. Paul Catholic Church.

Mr. Eason served on many boards, Nationally, State, Federal and County.

In Washington State he was one of the founding members of the Seattle Chapter of Blacks in Government. Past President of Seattle King County Chapter, also past President of the Seattle King County NAACP, past Regional President of the NAACP (Alaska, Oregon & Washington). A life time member of both organizations. Oscar also served on the National Board of Blacks in Government. Several Governor appointments to the Washington State African American Commission where he served as President for 4 years. He also served on the Board of the Central Area Motivation Board (CAMP), Co-founding member of the Martin Luther King, Jr. March and Rally Committee and on many other community boards.

Eason is survived by his wife

Oscar is survived by his wife, Lois; his daughter, Angela Green and her husband Eugene of St. Louis, MO; his son, Oscar Eason III and his wife Gloria of Kansas City, MO; His grandchildren, Oscar Eason IV, Jaylen Green, Derek Eason, Lauryn Eason, Jazzmin Hill, Elexys



Oscar Eason, Jr.

Hamilton and Jeremy Eason; his sister, Nell Rose Eason, his nephews, Dr. Charles Hunt and his wife Bobbie, and Charles Sonny Eason; his great-nieces, Robyn Corr and her husband Dominic and Nicole Ford. Great-nephews, Charles Hunt Jr., Jason Robinson and Sean Carrington.

He was a faithful advocate for people who could not speak for themselves and did the work without complaining. He leaves a strong legacy of community service and he will be missed.

The Seattle King County NAACP issued the following statement upon Oscar's death:

"It is with a heavy heart we grieve the loss of a longtime NAACP activist and leader, Oscar Eason, Jr. After nearly six decades of service, Oscar served as NAACP President of both Seattle King/County as well as Alaska, Oregon, WA State Area Conference. He leaves behind a long, distinguished history of fighting for Civil Rights and equality for all."

"While Oscar is no longer with us, his legacy will live on for ages, both in his personal life and in the mission of the NAACP. He will have an everlasting impact on the hearts and souls of all the people who had the pleasure of knowing and working him over the years. Our thoughts and Prayers go out to his family, as we all have lost a legend of Civil Rights in Oscar Eason, Jr."

Funeral arrangements by Bonney Watson Funeral Home, 1723 Broadway Avenue, Seattle, WA. Phone number (206) 322-0013.

## Garner cont'd from pg 8

this for being Black in America. I can't."

In a March 2015 interview on NBC News, Erica Garner spoke passionately about the Black Lives Matter movement and other protests that sought justice.

She recalled the August 2014 shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., and how it wasn't until months later, when the video of her father's death was released, that the Eric Garner incident received national attention.

Garner described seeing her father die via a cellphone video "a thousand-million times," and when a grand jury failed to indict police officers, she

said it was time to take her fight for justice to the streets.

"To me, it was just saying, 'you know what? I'm just going to march,' she told NBC News.

Even when there weren't television news cameras, Garner said she was determined to keep marching, to keep fighting.

"That's the most annoying question I get. People ask, 'when will you stop marching? What do you want from marching?' He was my father," Erica Garner said during the interview. "I will always march."

# MFFHM

My Father's House Ministries



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