

Traditional and Extending MSW Program Case Study #1:

For the following case study, do the following:

Read the following case study thoroughly. Complete all tasks listed in the case study and write a 4-to-5-page paper (does not include reference page or cover sheet) to address outlined aspects of the case study. See deliverables below.

This paper:

- Will include a cover page that includes your name, the program you are applying for and the title of the case study.
- Will be double spaced with 1-inch margins in times new roman or arial
- Utilize at least 3 academic references following the instructions below, citing correctly
- Include at least one in-text citation, using appropriate formatting. This citation may be taken from one of the 3 academic references.
- Use headings and subheadings as appropriate
- Be clearly written using a professional style without grammatical errors
- Reflect your original thoughts, ideas and writing.
- Be written in total by you. No part of this original paper should have been used for another assignment, by written by any other person or by artificial intelligence.

Your writing will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- **Following Instructions:** Ensure that you adhere to the guidelines provided.
 - **Thoroughness and Organization:** Provide comprehensive and well-structured responses.
 - **Evidence of Critical Thinking and Analysis:** Show your ability to think critically and analyze information effectively.
 - **Grammar and Usage:** Ensure your writing is free from grammatical and usage errors.
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Case Study: Addressing Homelessness and Housing Inequality in a Diverse Urban Community

Background:

You are a volunteer with a community organization in a large urban city focused on addressing homelessness and housing insecurity. The organization is part of a coalition of nonprofits, government agencies, and community advocates working together to address rising homelessness in the area, particularly among marginalized populations, such as racial minorities, LGBTQ+ youth, and immigrants. You have been involved in organizing food drives

and community outreach events, but recently, you've been asked to help with a new initiative that aims to develop a comprehensive plan to reduce homelessness.

The city has a severe affordable housing shortage, which disproportionately affects marginalized groups. Racial minorities, particularly Black and Latino populations, are overrepresented in the homeless population due to historical and systemic racism, discriminatory housing policies, and income inequality. Additionally, LGBTQ+ youth, who often face family rejection and social stigma, make up a significant portion of the homeless population. Immigrant communities, particularly undocumented individuals, are also vulnerable due to barriers in accessing social services and affordable housing.

The coalition is tasked with creating a **5-year strategic plan** to address homelessness in the city. The plan needs to be data-driven, culturally competent, and inclusive of diverse voices from affected communities. The goal is not just to provide immediate relief, but to advocate for long-term policy changes that address the root causes of homelessness, including systemic inequality, housing discrimination, and social exclusion. Your involvement in the project has sparked your interest in pursuing an MSW to gain the skills necessary to work on macro-level social issues.

Ethical Dilemma:

The ethical dilemma in this case lies in balancing immediate needs with long-term solutions and ensuring that all voices, particularly those of marginalized groups, are included in the decision-making process. The coalition faces the challenge of addressing systemic inequalities while also advocating for fair and just policies. There is tension between different stakeholders, with some community members calling for immediate solutions such as expanding shelters and others pushing for deeper structural changes like affordable housing development and rent control. As a volunteer with no formal social work background, you must navigate these ethical complexities while respecting diverse perspectives and advocating for the most vulnerable populations. You need to think critically about how to balance these competing demands, ensure equity, and challenge systemic barriers.

Address all the following points in your paper.

1. Understanding Diversity & Inclusion:

- How would you ensure that the voices of marginalized communities, particularly racial minorities, LGBTQ+ youth, and immigrants, are included in the strategic planning process?
- What are some potential barriers to inclusion, and how can they be overcome to create a culturally competent plan?

2. Ethical Dilemmas in Advocacy:

- How would you address the ethical tension between immediate relief (shelters, food programs) and long-term structural changes (affordable housing, policy reform) while keeping social justice at the forefront?

- How does the **NASW Code of Ethics** guide decision-making in cases where there are competing interests and resource limitations?
3. **Critical Thinking & Problem Solving:**
- What strategies would you suggest for addressing the systemic factors contributing to homelessness in the city, such as housing discrimination, income inequality, and barriers to social services?
 - How would you use data, research, and community input to inform the strategic plan and advocate for policy change?
4. **Use of Academic Literature:**
- Research current academic literature on homelessness, housing inequality, and the impact of systemic racism and discrimination on marginalized populations.
 - Incorporate the literature you find into the 3 sections above to support your understanding of the issue and guide your approach to developing a comprehensive plan and policy recommendations for this issue?