So Others Might Eat

SOME is an interfaith, community-based organization established to help the poor and homeless of our nation’s capital. SOME is a 501(c)(3) organization, and contributions are tax-deductible. Federal ID #23-7098123.

Please remember SOME, Inc. in your will or estate plan.

Poverty, Homelessness & Hunger in the Nation’s Capital
Poverty

- Washington, DC has about 700,000 residents. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about 13.5% of the DC population is below the federal poverty level, which was $20,244 for a three-person household in 2020. Additionally,
  - 9% are below 50% of the poverty level
  - 19.8% are below 125% of the poverty level
  - About 25.6% of African-American residents, 12% residents of Hispanic or Latino origin, and 30.5% of persons with a disability, are at 100% of the poverty level.

- The child poverty rate in DC is 24%, contrasted with 18.5% nationally (U.S. Census Bureau 2020).

- Since 2000, the Fair Market Rent for a two-bedroom apartment in DC has more than doubled (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development data 2001-2018). Although the DC minimum wage is $15 an hour, a worker would need to earn $32.83 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in DC (www.nlihc.org/oor/district-columbia).

- Approximately 40,000 households in DC are on official waiting lists for housing assistance. Their estimated wait time is more than 20 years. (2019 Five-Year Plan to End Homelessness in the District of Columbia).

Homelessness

- The total number of homeless persons counted in DC on one winter night in 2021 was 5,111, including 752 children. 187 were veterans. 88% of the total counted were Black, though Black residents are only 46% of the District’s total population. (The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, 2021).

Homeless adults in DC

- 11.9% of adults in families were employed but could not afford housing
- 44.1% of adults in families reported a domestic violence history
- 5.2% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of substance abuse
- 31.7% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of mental illness
- 11.4% of unaccompanied adults reported a history of both substance abuse and mental illness.
- 23.5% of unaccompanied adults reported a chronic health problem
- 18.3% of unaccompanied adults reported a physical disability
- Permanent housing, such as that provided by SOME, is a crucial intervention. On the night of the 2021 Point in Time count, 6,363 formerly homeless unaccompanied individuals and 3,579 formerly homeless families were in a form of permanent housing. (The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness, 2021).

Hunger

- According to the DC Food Policy Council (2020) 16.7% of DC residents lack consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy life—an increase from 10.6% in 2018. Food insecurity spiked 21.1% of District residents in May 2020 when the impact of COVID-19 was the greatest. More than 16.7% of DC households with children experience food hardship. This figure is one of the highest in the country. (FRAC, Food Hardship in America, 2020).

- Food insecurity exacerbated by COVID-19 is likely to disproportionately affect Black, senior, undocumented, and unhoused populations (DC Food Policy Council, 2020).

- The disproportionality of food insecurity is worsened by the fact that only 3 of the District’s 79 full-service grocery stores are in Wards 7 and 8 (DC Hunger Solutions, 2020). Wards 7 and 8 have the highest percentage of Black residents and the highest percentage of individuals below the poverty line. Wards 7 and 8 residents have limited transportation options for accessing other grocery stores and worse health outcomes, including higher per capita rates of death from COVID-19.