

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



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In 2017 SOME's Dining Room served 262,405 meals. This was made possible by staff and nearly 11,000 Dining Room volunteers.

Poverty

• Washington, DC, has about 700,000 residents. The U.S. Census Bureau estimates that about **17% of the DC population is below the federal poverty level**, which is now \$20,780 for a three-person household (American FactFinder 2018).

- 9% are below 50% of the poverty level
- 20% are below 125% of the poverty level
- About 28% of African-American residents, 13% residents of Hispanic or Latino origin, and 36% of persons with a disability, are at 100% of the poverty level.

• The child poverty rate in DC is 25.6%, contrasted with 17.5% nationally (U.S. Census Bureau 2018).

- 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 \$13.25 an hour, a worker would need to earn \$34.48 an hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment in DC (www.nlihc.org/oor/district-columbia).

• Approximately 41,000 households in DC are on official waiting lists for housing assistance.

Their estimated wait time is more than 20 years. (2015 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 2018 was 6,904, including 1,933 children. The oldest person was age 89. 300 were veterans. 88.4% of persons counted as homeless were African-American (DC Point in Time Homelessness Report 2018).

• Of homeless adults in DC:

- 24% were employed but could not afford housing
- 26% reported severe mental illness
- 23% reported domestic violence history [40% of women] including 10% who were homeless directly because of domestic abuse
- 23% reported chronic substance abuse
- 19% reported chronic health problems
- 14% reported physical disabilities
- 11% reported both chronic substance abuse and severe mental illness.

• Permanent Housing, such as SOME's, is a crucial intervention. On the night of the 2018 Point in Time count, 4,696 formerly homeless individuals and 3,650 formerly homeless families were in permanent housing. Also, 449 veterans were housed in the previous year. (The Community Partnership for the Prevention of Homelessness 2018).

Hunger

• About 1/6 of the DC population does not have enough money to buy food for themselves or their family (FRAC, How Hungry is America, 2016).

• About 26% of DC households with children experience food hardship. **This figure is the highest in the country.** (FRAC, Food Hardship in America, 2016).

• Your access to grocery stores depends on whether or not you live in a high-poverty, majority-African-American section of the city. Of the 49 full-service grocery stores in DC, only two are located in Ward 7, and just one is in Ward 8. Those three stores east of the Anacostia River serve about 150,000 residents. In contrast, 10 full-service grocery stores in Ward 6 serve 82,000 residents.

- **The disparity in grocery store access worsens health outcomes for DC's most vulnerable residents.**

(DC Hunger Solutions, Census Data Show that D.C. is a Tale of Two Cities, 2017).

