

Different government agencies use different definitions of homelessness. The Department of Education includes households who are living temporarily with family or friends because they cannot afford their own place to stay, known as doubled-up, in addition to households staying on the street and in shelters. The HUD definition of homelessness only includes those living on the street and in shelters. What definition of homelessness would your administration utilize when distributing city-generated funds?



BILL DALEY

"It doesn't matter if you are living in a car, on a friend's couch or in a shelter—you are not living in your home. To me, that's homelessness. I am open to using data from CPS, homeless advocacy groups, and other organizations that use alternative measures to gauge homelessness to inform how we deploy public dollars."



AMARA ENYA

"The Enya administration will use a similar definition of homeless to the one used by the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Our definition of homelessness provides a broad scope for considering exactly who is in need: those who lack a roof over their heads, those about to lose the roof over their heads, unaccompanied youth and families considered homeless by the Federal government, and those who have left home to avoid threats to their life, and homeless residents who are undocumented. Using this definition will expand the reach and effectiveness of our policies. Amara understands that limiting the scope of any need-based policy only adds undo stress to those living on the margins, and makes it harder for people to seek the help they need. Additionally, this definition recognizes that not all homelessness is born of economic insecurity, and as such will require different resources to address in different circumstances."



LASHAWN FORD

"We have to recognize that those who are doubled up with family, friends or just acquaintances without contributing to the rent may be even MORE vulnerable than those who stay at shelters, so we would use the Department of Education definition when distributing support and funds. I have experienced this situation in my own family, and I understand how stressful it can be for the whole family – the person who is experiencing homelessness, and the family that wants to help but often doesn't have the resources to give what is really needed."



LORI LIGHTFOOT

"I would adopt the Department of Education's broader definition of homelessness."



SUSANA MENDOZA

"I would prioritize funds for those living on the street and in shelters but would include those living doubled-up when distributing city-generated funds. Individuals living on the street face an increased risk of healthy and safety hazards. We must prioritize limited resources by first helping the most vulnerable. However, pretending as though those on the street and in shelters are the only ones facing homelessness is simply whitewashing the problem. As mayor, I commit to taking on homelessness in all its forms, and partnering with the Coalition to put us on the path to eradicating homelessness completely."



TONI PRECKWINKLE

"I support the Department of Education's definition of homeless that includes households that are doubled-up, in addition to families on the street and in shelters. Even if the doubled-up population has a roof over their heads, their living situation is temporary and they are still in need of city-generated funds to provide for their families."



WILLIE WILSON

"We will need to work on this carefully so that we do not violate any of the rules as it pertains to the federal funding. We would not jeopardize that funding. This question is not as simple as it seems and does not lend itself to a short answer here. For now, we must agree that this is a very serious problem that requires a collaborative effort to make a measurable impact and lasting results. Every night these citizens sleep in the street, is one night too long."

