

Emmy Finlinson

## Homelessness in Casper

For my Information Creativity Service Project, I choose to address the homeless population in Casper, Wyoming. I thought homelessness would be a very simple problem to fix. I figured I could just say we need to build more homeless shelters, but it's actually a lot more complex than that. In Casper, we have a lot of outreach programs for the homeless. Unfortunately, because of this, we have homeless people come to Casper which is increasing our homeless population and depleting our resources to help the people.

So, my solution was to continue with our homeless support programs and implement squatting laws. Then reach out to surrounding communities to do the same. So, we can help the current homeless, without inviting new people in.

While researching if this solution was possible, I found an article from Wyoming public media that said we are already taking steps toward fixing our squatting laws. The article states, "The

objective is to make Casper less inviting for the homeless, at least until further assistance to them can be obtained, mainly in the form of mental health and substance abuse treatment services."

Describing that the rise in our homeless population has gotten so high that we are running out of the right resources to help them. So, if we can make an agreement with the cities around us then we can help manage and truly help the people on the streets.

My solution to pitch to other communities would be to collaborate with corporations The National Alliance to End Homelessness (NAEH) and work on incorporating projects like Rapid Re-Housing. Which the NAEH describes as,

“Rapid re-housing provides short-term rental assistance and services. The goals are to help people obtain housing quickly, increase self-sufficiency, and stay housed.”

Which I think could help the homeless not just have a place to stay, but an opportunity to truly start a new life.

## Citation

Cook, Hugh. "The City of Casper Wants to Strengthen Camping and Squatting Laws to Address Increasing Homeless Population." *Wyoming Public Media*, 6 Sept. 2023, [www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/politics-government/2023-09-06/the-city-of-casper-wants-to-strengthen-camping-and-squatting-laws-to-address-increasing-homeless-population](http://www.wyomingpublicmedia.org/politics-government/2023-09-06/the-city-of-casper-wants-to-strengthen-camping-and-squatting-laws-to-address-increasing-homeless-population).

National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Solutions - National Alliance to End Homelessness." *National Alliance to End Homelessness*, 2019, [endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/](http://endhomelessness.org/ending-homelessness/solutions/).