

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Briefing on National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients
September 12, 1995, 3:30 pm
Room 474 OEOB

Agenda

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks

-Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

-Jeremy Ben-Ami, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

2. Overview of Survey

-Arthur J. Norton, Chief, Population Division, Census Bureau

3. Comments

-Martha Burt, Senior Associate, The Urban Institute

-Federal Agency Representatives

4. Questions and Answers

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On behalf of myself and the member agencies of the Interagency Council on the Homeless, I want to invite you and/or a representative of your organization to attend a September 12 briefing on our plans for a National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients.

The survey is being co-sponsored by twelve Federal agencies under the auspices of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. It will involve a statistical sample of 76 geographic areas and include nonmetropolitan as well as metropolitan areas.

The survey will include two components: (1) national estimates of the number and characteristics of service providers and an assessment of the types of programs and services available to people who are homeless (Phase 1) and (2) information on the characteristics of persons using those programs and services (Phase 2). Detailed information on Phase 1 was published for public comment in the *Federal Register* on August 9, 1995 at page 40640. Information on Phase 2 was published in the *Federal Register* for public comment on August 28, 1995 at page 44550. (Please call George Ferguson of the Council staff at (202) 708-1480 if you do not have access to the *Federal Register* and would like us to mail you a copy of these notices before the September 12 briefing.)

We are eagerly looking forward to the survey because it will provide up-to-date information about the providers of homeless assistance, the characteristics of the homeless population who use services, and how this population has changed in metropolitan areas since 1987, when the Urban Institute conducted the last comparable national study. The new survey, to be conducted this fall and winter, will also be the first national examination of the characteristics of homelessness in small cities and rural areas and will provide important information related to the prevalence of drug use, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and previous episodes of homelessness among service users.

The briefing will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 1995 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 474 of the Old Executive Office Building, 17th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The briefing should last approximately one hour.

Use the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance of the OEOP to reach Room 474. Because OEOP security procedures require that we submit the full name and birthdate of each person attending for admission to the building, we must have confirmation of your attendance before the meeting. Please mail or fax the attached form to the Interagency Council on the Homeless by September 11 to confirm your attendance. Call George Ferguson of the Council (708-1480) if you have questions.

I look forward to seeing you or your representative on September 12.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

Attachment

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Executive Director
Housing Assistance Council
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Mr. Thomas Kenyon
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Executive Director
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Executive Director
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President/CEO
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Raul Yzaguirre
Executive Director
National Council of LaRaza 1111
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PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP INVITATION LIST
BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS
ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

American Federation of Teachers
American Association of School Administrators
American Red Cross
Catholic Charities, U.S.A.
Council of Chief State School Officers
Council of Jewish Federations
Council of Large Public Housing Authorities
Council of State Community Development Agencies
Housing Assistance Council
National Alliance to End Homelessness
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National Council of La Raza
National Governors Association
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National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty
National League of Cities
National Low Income Housing Coalition
National Network of Runaway and Homeless Youth Services
National Resource Center on Homelessness and Severe Mental
Illness
Salvation Army
Travelers Aid International
United Way of America
U.S. Conference of Mayors
Volunteers of America, Inc.



Interagency Council on the Homeless

FEDERAL AGENCY REPRESENTATIVES BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

DOMESTIC POLICY COUNCIL

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

Jeremy Ben-Ami
Deputy Assistant to the
President for Domestic Policy

Molly Brostrom
Senior Policy Analyst

AGRICULTURE

Amy Bennett Donoghue
Program Analyst, USDA
Rural Economic & Community Development Service,
Office Policy & Planning

CENSUS BUREAU

Arthur J. Norton
Chief, Population Division

Charles N. Alexander
Assistant Division Chief
Demographic Statistical Methods Division

O. Annetta Clark
Demographic Statistician

EDUCATION

William Reid Kincaid
Special Assistant to the Under Secretary

Patricia Ann McKee
Chief, Grants Administration
Branch

Joanne Wiggins
Program Analyst
Office of the Under Secretary for
Planning & Evaluation Service

Mari Jean Margil
Program Analyst

ENERGY

Patricia H. Rose
Program Analyst
Office of Energy Efficiency
& Renewable Energy

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

Dennis Kwiatkowski
Deputy Associate Director
Preparedness Training and
Exercises Directorate

Carolyn Coleman
Program Specialist
Preparedness Training and
Exercises Directorate

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

Marjorie L. Lomax
Director, Performance and Outreach
Public Buildings Service

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Mary Ellen O'Connell
Senior Program Analyst
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Program Evaluation

Michael J. Shoag
Program Analyst
Office of the Assistant Secretary
for Program Evaluation

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Margery Austin Turner
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Policy Development & Research

Fred Karnas
Director
Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

Mark Robert Johnston
Acting Division Director
Office of Special Needs
Assistance Programs

James Edward Hoben
Community Planner
Office of Policy Development & Research

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Special Assistant
Interagency Council on the Homeless

Heidi A. Chapman
Special Assistant
Interagency Council on the Homeless

Andrea Hill
Special Assistant
Interagency Council on the Homeless

JUSTICE

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Senior Trial Attorney
Civil Rights Division

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Cassandra Wilkins
Senior Advisor to the
Commissioner

TRANSPORTATION

Betty F. Jackson
Program Analyst
Federal Transit Administration

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Marsha A. Martin
Coordinator for Homeless
Veterans Initiatives

Peter H. Dougherty
Homeless Programs Specialist



Interagency Council on the Homeless

**PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP REPRESENTATIVES
BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS
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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1995**

American Association of School Administrators

Leslie James Roberts, II
Program Director
Comprehensive School Health Programs

American Federation of Teachers

Joan A. Buckley
Assistant Director

Council of State Community Affairs Agencies

Vicki E. Watson
Program Associate

Housing Assistance Council

Mary Stover
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National Community Mental Healthcare Council

Andrew Sperling
Deputy Director
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National Health Care for the Homeless Council

Jeff Singer
Director
Health Care Reform Mobilization Project

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

Maria Foscarinis
Executive Director

Laurel Weir
Policy Director

National Network for Youth

Amy Elizabeth Gotwals
Public Policy Assistant

National Resource Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness

Gail P. Hutchings, M.P.A.
Assistant Director

Travelers Aid International

W. Mark Clark
President

United Way of America

Rosa Gabriele
Intern to the President

Urban Institute

Martha Burt
Senior Associate

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The briefing will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 1995 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 474 of the Old Executive Office Building, 17th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The briefing should last approximately one hour.

Use the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance of the OEGB to reach Room 474. Because OEGB security procedures require that we submit the full name and birthdate of each person attending for admission to the building, we must have confirmation of your attendance before the meeting. Please mail or fax the attached form to the Interagency Council on the Homeless by September 11 to confirm your attendance. Call George Ferguson of the Council (708-1480) if you have questions.

I look forward to seeing you or your representative on September 12.

Sincerely,

Carol H. Rasco
Assistant to the President
for Domestic Policy

Attachment

Interagency Council on the Homeless

September 8, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR: POLICY GROUP MEMBERS AND
AGENCY CONTACTS FOR THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF
HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS

FROM: MOLLY BROSTROM, DPC
GEORGE FERGUSON, ICH



SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 12 BRIEFING OF PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS

You and/or a representative of your agency are invited to attend a meeting on September 12 that the Domestic Policy Council is sponsoring to brief key public interest groups on the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients that will begin soon. Attached for your information is a list of the organizations that were invited on the basis on your recommendations.

The survey is being co-sponsored by twelve member agencies of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. As you know, we are eagerly looking forward to the survey because it will provide up-to-date information about the providers of homeless assistance, the characteristics of the homeless population who use services, and how this population has changed in metropolitan areas since 1987, when the Urban Institute conducted the last comparable national study. The new survey, to be conducted this fall and winter, will also be the first national examination of the characteristics of homelessness in small cities and rural areas and will provide important information related to the prevalence of drug use, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and previous episodes of homelessness among service users.

The briefing will be held on Tuesday, September 12, 1995 at 3:30 p.m. in Room 474 of the Old Executive Office Building, 17th & Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. The briefing should last approximately one hour. A representative of the Domestic Policy Council will open the meeting with welcoming remarks. A representative of the Census Bureau will then give a 10-15 minute overview and description of the survey. There will then be an opportunity for brief remarks (3 minutes or less) from any representative of a sponsoring agency who wishes to highlight the importance of the survey to his or her agency. Questions from the audience will follow.

Use the Pennsylvania Avenue entrance of the OEGB to reach Room 474. Because OEGB security procedures require that we submit the full name and birthdate of each person attending for admission to the building, we must have confirmation of your attendance before the meeting. Please mail or fax the attached form to the Interagency Council on the Homeless by 5:00 p.m. Monday, September 11 to confirm your attendance. Call George Ferguson of the Council staff at 708-1480 if you have questions.

We look forward to seeing you or your representative on September 12.

Attachments

PUBLIC INTEREST GROUP INVITATION LIST

BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS
ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS
SEPTEMBER 12, 1995

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U.S. Conference of Mayors
Volunteers of America, Inc.

September 12, 1995

MEMORANDUM FOR CAROL H. RASCO

CC: Jeremy Ben-Ami
FROM: Molly Brostrom
RE: Homeless Survey Briefing

At 3:30 pm today, Room 474 OEOP, you are scheduled to give opening remarks to our briefing for homeless advocacy and interest groups on the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients. We expect a good turnout -- we have RSVP's from representatives from 14 outside groups as well as representatives from 10 of the 12 agencies that are contributing to the survey (lists of attendees attached).

The rough agenda is as follows: You will give opening remarks, seconded by Jeremy; Arthur Norton of the Census Bureau will outline the survey; Marty Burt of the Urban Institute will confirm the importance of the survey (commenting on how thrilled she is to be able to tell the many people who call her looking for data about the homeless that there will soon be more recent survey data than theirs from 1987); a couple agency representatives will discuss the importance of the survey to their agencies; and a question and answer session will be the final item.

Attached are suggested remarks, the lists of attendees, a summary of the survey, and a an op-ed from yesterday's Post criticizing the proposed cuts to homeless programs.

As an FYI (or as an invitation if you are free!), Jeremy and I are joining agency staff after the briefing (around 5 pm) on the rooftop of the Hotel Washington to celebrate full funding of the survey.

Suggested Remarks for Briefing on National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients

1. Background on Interagency Council on the Homeless

- Welcome -- on my behalf as well as on behalf of all of the 18 member agencies of the Interagency Council of the Homeless -- to this briefing on the National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients.
- As most of you know, in October 1993, the President, as an indication of his commitment to ending the cycle of homelessness in our country, asked that the ICH become a working group of the White House DPC, which I lead.
- The ICH is chaired by HUD Secretary Cisneros, with HHS Secretary Shalala and VA Secretary Brown as co-vice-chairs. 18 agencies are members; just this spring, Mrs. Gore became a member of the Council.

2. Background on Survey

- As you all know, one of the early accomplishments of the Council was the development and publishing of "Priority: Home! The Federal Plan to Break the Cycle of Homelessness." This document contained the seeds of this survey by recognizing the dearth of information on the characteristics of the homeless, and recommending that the federal government explore how to address this information gap.
- After almost two years of planning, pre-testing and struggling to find funding, I am delighted that the survey is off the ground.
- The funding of this survey during these very tough fiscal times is a testament to its importance. Not only will this information give us the tools to use scarce resources most effectively. But also, as Secretary Shalala indicated at one of our Council meetings, this survey will provide key markers to measure the effects of the proposed Congressional cuts to housing and homeless assistance.

3. Thanks

- I would like to thank all of the agency representatives here for your agency's contribution as well as the personal effort each of you have put into the survey. And I would like to thank the Census Bureau for their patience and dedication to the survey we struggled to find funding.
- And I would like to thank all of our guests for coming to learn about the survey. I look forward to continuing our work together towards ending homelessness in this country.
- I turn now to my deputy, Jeremy Ben-Ami, who has had a strong interest in this survey because of his work in the field of homeless assistance prior to coming to work with us.

DRAFT

**BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS
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3

**BRIEFING ON THE NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS
ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1995**

DRAFT

AGRICULTURE

Amy Bennett Donoghue
Program Analyst, USDA
Rural Economic & Community Development
Policy & Planning

CENSUS

Arthur J. Norton
Chief, Population Division

Charles N. Alexander
Assistant Division Chief
Demographic Statistical Methods Division

O. Annetta Clark
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EDUCATION

Mari Jean Margil
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DHHS/ASPE

Michael J. Shoag
Program Analyst
DHHS/ASPE

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Mark Robert Johnson
Acting Division Director
Office of Special Needs
and Assistance

Margery Austin Turner
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Office of Policy Development & Research

Fred Karnas
Director
Office of HIV/AIDS Housing

James Edward Hoben
Community Planner
Office of Policy Development & Research

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Interagency Council on the Homeless

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Civil Rights Division

TRANSPORTATION

Betty F. Jackson
Program Analyst
Federal Transit Administration

VETERANS AFFAIRS

Marsha A. Martin
Homeless Programs Coordinator
Veterans Health Administration

3



Interagency Council on the Homeless

September 1995

OVERVIEW

NATIONAL SURVEY OF HOMELESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND CLIENTS

The **National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients** ("survey") is designed to provide up-to-date information about the providers of homeless assistance and the characteristics of homeless persons who use services. The survey, which will be conducted by the Census Bureau, is being co-sponsored by 12 Federal agencies¹ under the auspices of the Interagency Council on the Homeless. The survey will involve a statistical sample of 76 geographic areas consisting of metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas. It will be carried out between October 1995 and February 1996.

The last nationwide survey, which was conducted in 1987 by the Urban Institute, used a similar methodology. However, it relied on a smaller sample, did not include nonmetropolitan areas, and did not collect information on as comprehensive a basis as the new survey will. Since the 1987 study, no significant national studies have been conducted to produce information on the characteristics of persons participating in homeless assistance programs.

The new survey will include a wider variety of locations than the 1987 study in order to more accurately and fully reflect the characteristics of homeless people who use services nationwide. The 76 geographic areas to be included in the national sample will be comprised of the 28 largest metropolitan areas, 24 randomly selected medium and small metropolitan areas, and another 24 randomly selected nonmetropolitan areas (small cities and rural areas).

The survey will provide up-to-date information about the providers of homeless assistance, the characteristics of the homeless population who use services, and how this population has changed since 1987 in metropolitan areas. This information is critical for developing effective public policy responses needed to break the cycle of homelessness.

For example, the survey will:

1. Provide information on the types of programs and services (e.g., housing, food assistance, health care) available to homeless persons in both metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas, including population groups primarily served (e.g., veterans, people with mental illness); days of operation; occupancy levels; and sources of funding.

¹The 12 Federal agency sponsors include the Departments of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Veterans Affairs, Agriculture, Commerce, Education, Energy, Justice, Labor, and Transportation as well as the Social Security Administration and the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

2. Provide a comprehensive profile of the homeless population and allow us to compare characteristics of the homeless population with the findings of the 1987 study.
3. Collect additional information related to prevalence of drug use, mental illness, HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, and previous episodes of homelessness.
4. Provide information on issues not addressed by the last national study in 1987 such as: What are the triggering events that precipitate homelessness? Where were homeless people living before they became homeless?

The national survey will be conducted in two phases. The first phase of the survey--the "provider survey"--will be conducted from October 1995 through January 1996. It will involve interviews of assistance providers in 76 communities. Included will be programs specifically targeted to homeless people (e.g., shelters, soup kitchens, and outreach programs), as well as providers of "mainstream" assistance programs which offer programs targeted to homeless persons. The purpose of this survey of service providers is to identify the types of programs and services available to homeless persons in metropolitan and nonmetropolitan areas and assess emerging local continuums of care.

The second phase of the survey--the "client survey"--will be conducted in February 1996. It will include interviews with a sample of persons in emergency shelters, soup kitchens, outreach programs, and other locations where assistance is provided. Interviews will take place continuously over a four-week period in order to obtain a representative sample. In addition to providing data on characteristics of the portion of the homeless population who use services, this phase of the survey will identify population subgroups and help determine their use of various types of assistance programs. It will also collect limited comparative data on housed persons with very low incomes who also rely on soup kitchens and other emergency assistance.

The client survey will produce data on client characteristics at the national level only. The sample size is not large enough to produce estimates of client characteristics at the regional or local levels, nor is it designed to produce a count of homeless people.

A pretest of the survey was conducted in April 1995 in Atlanta, Georgia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; and a rural county outside Pittsburgh. The results of the pretest were used to refine the design of the full national survey.

For additional information on the design and implementation of the survey or for other questions of a technical nature, contact Annetta Clark, Population Division, Room 2324, Building 3, U.S. Bureau of the Census, Washington, D.C. 20233, (301) 457-2378 [Fax: (301) 457-2644]. For all other questions, contact the Interagency on the Homeless at (202) 708-1480 [Fax: (202) 708-3672].

Lucie C. McKinney

Dumb Move on Housing

Right before the summer break, the House approved drastic cuts to housing programs for the neediest Americans: homeless people who have chronic mental and medical illnesses. Four of these—the McKinney Programs, named after my late husband, Stewart B. McKinney, who was a Republican representative from Connecticut—face reductions of 40 percent or \$444 million (as compared to that unasked-for \$7 billion the House decided to give the Pentagon). Usually when I testify before Congress I talk about the people who have reclaimed their lives through the offer of housing and a helping hand. In keeping with the times, however, I'd like to reframe the debate—and talk about statistics and cold, hard cash.

I'm stunned that Congress, which has proclaimed its commitment to finding and funding plans that actually work, would allow these cuts to stand. The McKinney Programs provide funding for something called supportive housing—permanent housing linked to a safety net of support services that allow even chronically disabled people who are homeless to live autonomously in hope and dignity. And according to the evidence, including two separate government evaluations, supportive housing is our best bet for ending homelessness and doing so cost-effectively.

The first study found that formerly homeless people with severe mental illnesses achieved stability at a rate of 83.4 percent in supportive housing. Tenants also cut their hospital inpatient use by 50 percent. The four-year evaluation concluded that this unique housing “not only will alleviate human suffering, but also will reduce costs for institutionalization and hospitalization. The five projects [studied] offer proof that the face of homelessness in American can be changed dramatically.”

The second evaluation found a success rate of 84.5 percent and concluded that supportive housing—“provided cost-effective assistance to help families and individuals escape from homelessness.”

So. These programs actually end homelessness, which is one of those seemingly intractable social problems we thought would be a permanent part of the American urban landscape.

As to the cost, Congress doesn't

seem to grasp the fact that cuts, far from saving money, will waste it. Put simply, not housing our most vulnerable Americans costs millions more than housing them. It's just common sense: People with mental illnesses end up using expensive hospital beds, state psychiatric institutions and even jails as de facto housing; people with AIDS end up in acute-care beds (at more than \$1,000 a day); people with alcohol or drug dependencies stay too long in high-cost treatment programs. Meanwhile, they are still homeless, still dependent on crisis services and

“These programs actually end homelessness.”

no closer to living independent productive lives. This is worse than penny-wise, pound-foolish—it's billions foolish.

The cost of providing housing linked to services, on the other hand, can be as little as \$10,000 a year, an expenditure that actually ends that person's homelessness and allows him or her to use clinics instead of emergency rooms, counseling instead of psychiatric hospitalizations and drug counseling instead of treatment centers. Supportive housing also promotes self-sufficiency through employment and education linkages. Aren't these the very goals Congress is so anxious to advance?

My late husband was committed to ending the blight of widespread homelessness. Four months before he died, he even spent a night on the streets in 20-below weather to bring media attention to the plight of homeless people. Yes, he was deathly ill at the time, but so are more than 70 percent of homeless Americans.

We may not have a cure for AIDS, cancer or a way to provide health care to all Americans, but we do know how to end homelessness. And while the cure is not cost-free, it costs a whole lot less than not facing—and solving—the problem. Saving lives and saving money—how can that be bad?

The writer chairs a foundation that works on housing for the homeless.

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Briefing on National Survey of Homeless Assistance Providers and Clients
September 12, 1995, 3:30 pm
Room 474 OEOB

Agenda

1. Welcome/Opening Remarks

-Carol H. Rasco, Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

-Jeremy Ben-Ami, Deputy Assistant to the President for Domestic Policy

2. Overview of Survey

-Arthur J. Norton, Chief, Population Division, Census Bureau

3. Comments

-Martha Burt, Senior Associate, The Urban Institute

-Federal Agency Representatives

4. Questions and Answers