

Criterion A: Planning

Client: Myself (Aarul Motiani)

Advisor: Rajeev Motiani

Why they have been chosen: I have chosen my client and advisors to be relatives who also lives in the greater Seattle region. This is significant because I know that the residents and citizens of the greater Seattle region have witnessed homelessness and are affected by it in public. Therefore, solving such a critical and relatable problem is easily comprehensible and familiar for my client and advisor to assess, guide, and provide me with constructive criticism towards how I can be more effective with creating this app and helping the society.

The Problem:

Many people in the greater Seattle region experience homelessness and aren't provided with the necessary resources to have a standard of living. This problem not only affects the lives of homeless people but also the society as there have been numerous reports of the homeless engaging in unwanted activities like occupying public spaces, looting, theft, aggressive behavior (chasing down people), blackmailing, threatening resident's safety, etc. These incidents contribute to public safety concerns and make some residents feel uneasy, particularly at night.

Rationale for the Product:

How will I solve the problem?

I want to solve this problem of homelessness by programming a website that connects support organizations with the homeless. The platform will serve the homeless through an easily accessible website that allocates resources by meeting needs and connecting them to support organizations. Creating a website will be crucial because desktop accessibility is easy to access through public locations and services like library desktops, community centers, job centers, churches, religious locations, etc. Homeless people often end up in their state due to problems other than financial instability like drug abuse or mental problems. Ensuring that support organizations like homeless shelters, drug abuse facilities, and mental healthcare organizations can easily connect with each other to allocate the appropriate resources can have a significantly positive impact on society.

Why is this product being developed?

I want to create this product is because I have personally seen these issues with homelessness in local cities and based on interviews conducted with scholars from colleges across Washington state, approximately 75% of all interviewees reported homelessness as a pressing concern. Through this product, "Bridgepoint", I can branch homeless organizations and other drug abuse/mental illness organizations with the homeless. This way, an easily accessible outlet can be utilized by the homeless to communicate with organizations to satisfy their needs and resolve viable mental/health problems.

Success Criteria:

- **User Accessibility:** The user should be able to access all pages of the website conveniently including the home page, contact page, employment opportunities, Find Help, sign-in/sign-up page, etc.
- **Dynamic database for Sign-up/Login:** The user should be able to sign up and sign in while saving their information securely in a live database server that ensures the user can gain access to their account the next time they login.
- **Job Search Functionality:** Users should be able to search for job opportunities based on their survey responses and current skills, and abilities.
- **Access to support organizations:** Users should be able to find help by accessing a list of support organizations, along with descriptions and locations, ensuring easy access to local assistance.

Word Count: 407