Title: Internet Database Resource for Homeless People and the Agencies that serve them.

Homelessness is a problem that affects every part of the country. Resources for the homeless vary greatly by the locality and needs of the homeless person (the client). Agencies that provide services for the homeless, don't always have the resources to coordinate with other agencies. We will attempt to build a database, accessible via a web browser, which will help match homeless people with the services they need. The online database will also allow agencies to monitor the client they are helping and coordinate the assistance with other agencies. We should begin by targeting our local shelters and service providers, and work up to a larger service area. There is a chance that with time, other areas will see the application as useful. There are issues surrounding the dissemination of data. This project should, first, concentrate on information gathering and dissemination of service information. Data on specific clients should be secondary.

The database will allow someone to input information about needs (food, shelter, and medical attention) and situation (addiction, mother with children, single male) and quickly retrieve local service information from a growing and accurate database.

After entering the client(s) needs/situation, a query would be performed on the database to come up with a list of possible agencies and services.

A secure area of the database would be needed for adding agency information and/or personal information about theclient.

The secure area of the database will hold information about the agency such as the service provided (food, shelter, medical), service availability (hours of operation, capacity, vacancies, requirements to obtain service), and agency information (address, phone, contact person).

The secure area of the database will hold personal information about the client (name, age, sex, health status, family associations, past and current shelter visits, id number, photo) if that data was forthcoming.

At the beginning, this service may be viewed as unnecessary or invasive. Our goal should be to transfer as much information from known sources to the database by hand and gradually convince service providers to commit to this service, taking the place of a simple record. Furthermore, a wider client database could aid in more accurately tracking clients passing through our area.