

#15

Project title (a catchy title that will attract students)	OpenDoor: Demonstrating the link between homelessness and access to legal representation
Contact and Organizational Information Name Organization Address Email phone	Adrian Tirtanadi Executive Director Open Door Legal adrian@opendoorlegal.org 415-854-6392 opendoorlegal.org
Organization Mission (what is your organizations' purpose/ high level description of the work you do?)	We're working to pioneer universal access to legal representation and show that when everyone has access to the law, poverty can be dramatically reduced
Project Description (what is your project seeking to do and why is this important?)	San Francisco has a per capita rate of unsheltered homeless individuals than any other major American city. Hundreds of millions of dollars have been spent combating this issue, to limited effect. Policy makers and major foundations that are tackling this issue do not consider access to civil justice as a contributing factor to homelessness, but the experience of our clients disagrees. We want to see if data supports our thesis that legal services is an effective and cost-effective way to reduce homelessness. We want to see if there is a correlation between the availability of legal services and homelessness. Several dependent variables will need to be controlled for. See Hamline Law Review: Vol. 38: Iss. 2, Article 7 for an example of what the finished product would look like.
Questions to be answered from the data (e.g.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Question #1: What is the relationship between civil legal aid availability ratios and # of unsheltered homeless persons per capita, i.e. between homelessness and availability of legal services? Create

<p>hypotheses, geographic patterns, etc.)</p>	<p>a ratio between civil legal aid availability and homelessness rates and see what the relationship is between this ratio and the following data points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Question #2: What is the relationship between the cost of housing and the homeless/legal aid ratio? Use median rent as a proxy for cost of housing. • Question #3: What is the relationship between the level of income inequality and the homelessness/legal aid ratio? • Question #3: what is the relationship between the urbanization rate of a state and the homelessness/ legal aid ratio? <p>Use the state as the unit of analysis for this project, given that using the city would involve too much data gathering.</p> <p>Similar study is found at https://digitalcommons.hamline.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1061&context=hlr</p>
<p>Data Sources (links to websites to be scraped, names and/or links to APIs, link to folders with internal datasets, links to websites with public datasets that students should access)</p>	<p>Students should use all 50 states in their analysis: 50 PDFs from HUD to pull data from. Otherwise, the other data sets are already in tables by state. HUD summary reports for homelessness by state is found at https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/. HUD has state-level summary reports in PDF format at https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/coc-homeless-populations-and-subpopulations-reports/. Most cities also publish their reports. The data might be availability in non-PDF format at data.gov. For example: New York homeless data</p> <p>HUD data plus provider ratio (access to legal aid) as a proxy for the homelessness/ legal aid ratio (or “access to justice” ratio)</p> <p>Then examine the link between the ratio above and the following</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Median rent • Poverty ratio (as measured by gini income inequality index data - to be provided by Adrian - 2016) • Urbanization (2010 census)

