"Opening Doors": Is it closing the doors of homelessness?

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WHAT IS OPENING DOORS?

OPENING DOORS is the country's first comprehensive strategic plan to end homelessness. Introduced in June 2010, it is based on the vision that everyone should always have a home.



HOW WILL IT END HOMELESSNESS?

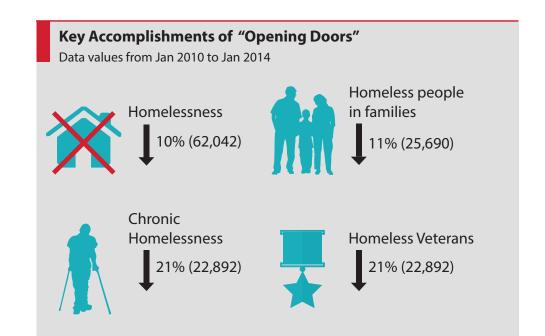
THE INITIATIVE will take on a multipronged approach to eradicate and prevent homelessness. It includes policies to provide low-cost housing for the needy, and research groups to brainstorm effective solutions for the homelessness problems in specific states.



SO THE QUESTION IS...

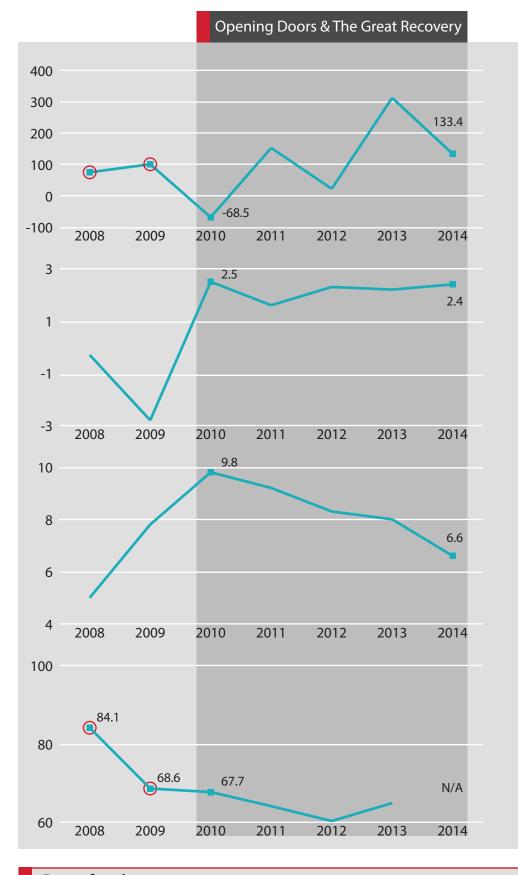
HAS "OPENING DOORS" BEEN EFFECTIVE?





Key Notes

- 2010 marked the start of the economy's recovery from the Great Recession from 2007 to 2009
 - During the recession, homelessness was also decreasing.
- Real GDP has been rising steadily since 2010.
 - People now have more disposable income for necessities like low-cost housing offered by "Opening Doors."
- Unemployment rates have been falling since 2010.
 - More jobs lead to stable incomes for more people.
 Many more now are able to pay rent for example.
- Real Housing Price has been falling since 2007
 - Huge drop in housing price during the recession could be a factor behind decreased homelessness in 2008 and 2009.



Legend & Details

DECREASE IN HOMELESS* (HUNDREDS)

Positive values represent decrease in total number of homeless people.

*2008 value evaluated using 2007 data which is not reflected in this graph.

CHANGE IN REAL GDP (%)

Positive values represent decrease in total number of homeless people.

*2008 value evaluated using 2007 data which is not reflected in this graph.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (%)

REAL HOUSING PRICE INDEX* (%)

*Measured in Real Terms

**Atlanta; Boston; Charlotte; Chicago; Cleveland; Dallas; Denver, Detroit; Las Vegas; Los Angeles; Miami; Minnesota

Goals of "Opening Doors"

- Ending Chronic Homelessness and Homelessness among Veterans by 2015
- Ending Homelessness for families, youth and children by 2020
- Setting a path to ending all types of homelessness

Conclusion

Opening doors definitely alleviated homelessness. However, we also need sound economic policies to tackle the issue.

