

Coursera Capstone: Setting Up a Homeless Shelter Center in New York City

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The Battle of Neighborhoods
(Week 1)

Introduction

- New York City has one of the largest homeless populations in the country. According to National Alliance to End Homelessness, NYC averages 78,604 people homeless per night in 2019, and 93.6 homeless per 10,000 people. Between 2007 to 2019, the total homeless population has increased by 56%.
- Top causes of homelessness include lack of affordable housing, unemployment, poverty, and low wages. In addition, mental illness and lack of needed services, and substance abuse and needed services.

Introduction Cont.

- There is a clear need to devote resources in aiding this community in need. A new Homeless Shelter Center will be used to coordinate services across different independent shelters across NYC. With more structure and correspondence between all shelters, it will truly make a difference for those who are in need.
- The focus of this Capstone Project will be to explore the best location to open a new Homeless Shelter Center. The Center will be located at a central location that is accessible and convenient.

Data

- To find the best location for opening of a new Center, we will first identify current shelter locations. Using a list provided by the [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development](#), we will transform the list into usable data. We will then correspond latitude and longitudinal coordinates of shelters using the Python Geocoder Package.
- Next, using Foursquare API, we will get data on neighborhoods to help determine where the best location is for the new Center.