# Persuasive Essay

## Thesis

The solution to homelessness is to give people houses.

## In Favor

### Cheaper per person than jailing, even with record high average rent prices in

the USA. Rent: $2,002/mo \* 12 months = $24,024 per person per year Jail: $39,158 per person per year

Total yearly savings of $7.5 billion

Difference of more than $15k is enough to cover drug rehabilitation services which cost, on average, $13k per person.

#### Sources:

* https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2021/09/01/2021-18800/annual-determination-of-average-cost-of-incarceration-fee-coif
* https://www.redfin.com/news/redfin-rental-report-may-2022/
* https://drugabusestatistics.org/cost-of-rehab/

### Extreme excess of vacant housing units compared to the number of homeless

people

Even though housing vacancy rates are near record lows, in 2020, there were 16 million vacant housing units in the US. The homeless population in 2020 was around 580,000. This means that in 2020, there were 27 vacant units per homeless person in the US.

#### Sources

* https://www.census.gov/library/stories/2022/05/housing-vacancy-rates-near-historic-lows.html
* https://www.lendingtree.com/home/mortgage/vacancy-rates-study/

### Salt Lake City decreased chronic homeless population by 91% between 2005

and 2015 by simply giving homeless people homes.

#### Sources

* https://www.npr.org/2015/12/10/459100751/utah-reduced-chronic-homelessness-by-91-percent-heres-how

40% unsheltered, 53% sheltered homeless were employed 2011-2018 https://bfi.uchicago.edu/insight/finding/learning-about-homelessness-using-linked-survey-and-administrative-data/

Minimum income required to afford modest apartment in USA. https://nlihc.org/oor

### Moral and ethical imperative

#### Sources

## In Opposition

* People don’t want drug addicts living in their neighborhood.
  + The average cost of drug addiction treatment per person in the US is just over $13k, which means that the amount of money saved by housing someone vs putting them in jail would cover the cost of their addiction treatment, potentially with more to spare.
* Generalized vitriol toward homeless people.
  + People are afraid of queues of people waiting for affordable housing availabilities overflowing on the streets and causing hazardous conditions for their children.
  + People dehumanize the homeless because they view them as a blight on society. They waste tax money, endanger ‘normal’ people and have been conditioned to expect help because they receive help.
  + Homelessness is a motivator for people to make something happen for themselves and if they don’t or aren’t able to do it, then they aren’t worth our time or effort.

#### Sources

* https://www.ocregister.com/2019/09/04/why-youre-right-to-oppose-homeless-housing-in-your-neighborhood/
* https://caufsociety.com/why-should-we-not-help-the-homeless/