“Overview of First Draft of Guidelines for Library Service to People Experiencing Homelessness and A Brief Overview of Services to Youth Experiencing Homelessness Without Parents or Guardians”

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Introduction

• Homelessness touches all communities
• Relevant and practical guidelines
• Human rights
• Goal of Guidelines:
  – Background
  – Frequently asked questions
  – Examples
  – Resources
Why These Guidelines

• Homelessness is a worldwide challenge
• Libraries are central locations for all community members
• Education for housed members
• Address barriers

(Photo: Jo Guidice, Dallas PL, TX, USA)
Examples of Survey Questions

- Description of programs/kinds of services
- Target audience?
- Library services for refugees?
- Outcomes
- Professional support?
- Staff training?
- Specific policies
- Challenges/barriers

(Columbia Greene Community College Library)
Sections of the Guidelines
Guidelines Basics and Highlights

- 21 sections
  - 13 chapters
  - 8 appendices

- Overview of homelessness

- Each chapter includes:
  - Introduction
  - Examples
  - Recommendations
Attitudes: Chapter 5

- Consider who you are welcoming
- Assess rules & policies
- Be all-inclusive
- Listen & learn

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Examples of Services: Chapter 7

- Local government groups
- Local service groups
- Faith community
- Schools/adult education
- Local law enforcement
- Doctors/local clinics

- “Coffee and Conversation”
  Dallas PL
- Outreach to family shelters
  – Queens PL
- Employment
- Education
- Partnerships with community agencies
Paris Shop Signs
Example of policies: Chapter 11

• Odor
• Sleeping
• Permanent address required
• Use of restrooms
Appendices

- Insights from psychologist & social worker
- Sample policies
- Action Planning tools
- Video
- Vocabulary
- Suggested resources
- List of libraries

(Photo: Jo Guidice, Dallas PL, TX, USA)
Part II: Youth (Ages 12 to 24) 
Experiencing Homelessness Without 
Parents or Guardians
Overview

• Challenges
• Up to 40% LGBTQ in U.S.
• Formative time
• Reject term “homeless”
• Reject term “teenager”
• Young
• Suspicious of bureaucracies
• Need respect and acceptance
Thank you!

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