

Homeless Simulation Instructions

Read the scenario following this slide.

You have 48 hours to get into housing and arrange childcare. However, you are sleeping for 12 of those hours, working for 16 hours, leaving you 20 hours to obtain housing and childcare.

To explore **housing** options, click on the 'Housing Options' icon. Select one of the options. Before going to another option, decide why you could or could not use that option. For each option you explore, take 2 hours off of your available time.

To explore **childcare** options, click on the 'Childcare Options' icon. Select one of the options. Before going to another option, decide why you could or could not use that option. For each option you explore, take 2 hours off of your available time.

Important: After every 3 of any options explored, open a green 'Life Happens' card.

Keep track and count down your hours either on paper or using your computer's calculator.

20	16	12	8	4
19	15	11	7	3
18	14	10	6	2
17	13	9	5	1

You ran out of time. You are now living on the streets.

[Click to read scenario](#)

Homeless Simulation Scenario

Your Name: Gerald Johnson **Gender:** Male **Age:** 32 **Race/Ethnicity:** African American **Education:** GED

Your family members include: You are raising your 6-year-old daughter Tyra by yourself after her mother left when Tyra was 3 years old. Your mother helps with childcare, but you do not have much family to support you as you try to work and raise your daughter alone.
Income: You make \$13.53 an hour at your full time job. A paycheck is typically about \$420 a week after taxes.

Credit History: You do not have much credit history. You have never had a credit card. You were late on a doctor bill when Tyra was 3 and it has lingered on your credit report. You have never been evicted, but you typically are late each month on your rent.

Employment: You work as a traffic control flagger. You average 40 hours a week, but when the weather is bad, there is no work. Your company works really hard to help people get their hours, but sometimes that means that you have to work a different shift. This creates a problem with childcare. When you cannot work, you must use paid time off (PTO) or receive lesser pay. You do not have PTO to use so you must have a smaller paycheck. On the other hand, in summer, when construction is in full force, you get a lot of overtime.

Social Capital: Your mother plays a key role in your life, especially with childcare for Tyra. There is also a grandmotherly-type neighbor that lives down the hall. She will sometimes bring you and Tyra dinner or watch Tyra in a pinch.

[Click to read more scenario](#)

Homeless Simulation Scenario

More of your story: You were in a committed relationship with Tyra's mother, Denise, for 5 years before Tyra was born. During Tyra's first year of life, Denise loved being a mom, but she experienced depression. When Tyra was 3 years old, Denise said she couldn't handle it anymore and left you and Tyra. You were devastated and have done your best to raise Tyra. You have struggled to find a good job that will sustain your family. Unfortunately, when you were 18 you made a poor decision with a group of friends to break into someone's home while they were sleeping and you stole their new game system. You now have a felony on your record after serving 2 years in prison. You met Denise after that and everything was different for you, but the felony still remains. You heard you could get it expunged, but you don't know how. There have been 3 snow storms this month which have eliminated 7 days of work. You are now a month behind on your rent.

Current Housing Situation: Your landlord told you that you have 2 days until you are evicted.

START SIMULATION

Homeless Simulation

Click on one of the icons below.



Housing Options



Childcare Options



Life Happens

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Housing Options

Click on any one of the options below.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Option 5

Option 6

Option 7

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Housing Options

Option 1

Home Sweet Home Ministries

You qualify to stay there and because you have a daughter, you'll be in a private room. But that means your 6 year old daughter will be on a floor with all men. Are you comfortable with that? If so, you have time to work with your Case Manager on how to find childcare and a place to live. Your Case Manager will provide support as you work through the obstacles you face.



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Housing Options

Option 2

Safe Harbor (Salvation Army's Homeless Shelter)

Safe Harbor doesn't house children.



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Housing Options



Option 3

Rapid Rehousing (HSHM's program to get people into apartments quickly)

Although 'Rapid', this takes some time. Do you have enough steady income to be able to afford the apartment once the financial support of HSHM is phased out in 3 months? If so, this a great option for you.

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Housing Options



Option 4

Bridge of Hope (HSHM's program to get people into apartments quickly and have 6-10 people from a church in town to support them with social capital, emotional support, and guidance)

Our Bridge of Hope staff person works with you to get you into an apartment with Home Sweet Home Ministries paying the rent until you can get back on your feet. You also have a community of people from a local church to walk beside you as you navigate the next several months.

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Housing Options

Option 5

Subsidized Housing

You are a felon and therefore ineligible for subsidized housing.



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Housing Options

Option 6

Cheap Apartments

You found a studio apartment for \$450 a month, but you know from friends who've lived there that the landlord refuses to fix problems with heat and air conditioning and the roach infestation is constant.



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Housing Options

Option 7

Housing Vouchers

You were able to apply for a housing voucher, but in order for you to get one, someone else who has one has to move out. You are currently #62 on the list.



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Childcare Options

Click on any one of the options below.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

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Childcare Options

Option 1

Your Mother

While your mother is great with Tyra and will watch her during the day when Tyra is in school, she is not able to do the online learning that is now required while schools are closed due to COVID.



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Childcare Options

Option 2

The sweet grandmotherly type down the hall

This is no longer an option as this woman is having serious health problems.



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Childcare Options



Option 3

The Childcare Resource and Referral Network

See website for requirements to qualify. Navigating forms are a part of the struggles of experiencing homelessness.

<https://www.ccrn.com/Child-Care-Assistance-Program.php>

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Childcare Options

Option 4

A daycare center

Without help from The Childcare Resource and Referral Network, you can't afford a daycare center. And if you could, they close before you'd be off work in the busy months.



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Life Happens

Click on any one of the options below.

Option 1

Option 2

Option 3

Option 4

Option 5

Option 6

Return to Main Menu

Life Happens

Option 1

Your daughter is sick so childcare isn't available and you have to miss work. Remove 10 hours from your time.



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Life Happens

Option 2

You break your leg and can't work for at least 4 weeks. You have one week of sick time to use. Remove 14 hours from your time.



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Life Happens

Option 3

Tyra's mother, Denise, shows up and decides she wants to be a mom again. A legal battle seems to be imminent. Remove 8 hours from your time.



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Life Happens



Option 4

You get a stimulus check for \$1,200. Add 10 hours to your time.

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Life Happens

Option 5

Your car blows a tire and you can't get to work.
Remove 4 hours from your time.



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Life Happens

Option 6

It's an icy winter and you don't get work for 6 weeks. Remove 8 hours from your time.



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