



## Homelessness PDX Connection

Summer 2019



### Survey first step to help students and employees experiencing homelessness

The Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative will launch a survey of students and employees this fall to help shed light on homelessness and food insecurity on campus.

"We know that students and employees are struggling to meet basic needs because we see it every day in our classes and on campus," said Research Director Greg Townley.

Students, staff and faculty will receive the anonymous survey in an email the first week of fall term. The study will be the first step to help students and employees overcome barriers to basic needs.

Participants will have four weeks to complete the survey and will have the chance to enter a random drawing to win one of the \$100 VISA gift cards. For more information, contact [Research](#)



Director Greg Townley. Thank you in advance for filling out the survey and helping on this important issue.

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## HRAC hires an assistant director

Co-founder Jacen Greene stepped up to a new role as assistant director this month.

“Jacen is exactly who the center needs to help us continue the incredible work that everyone is doing,” said Director Marisa Zapata.

Greene managed social innovation programs in PSU's School of Business. He is also an instructor, author, and speaker on social entrepreneurship.

“As someone who has had friends and a family member who experienced homelessness, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work on this topic with the homelessness collaborative.”  
Read more about Jacen Greene on our [faculty and staff page](#).

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Photo Courtesy of Street Roots and Katalina Berbari

## Exploring Homelessness Research Oct. 10th

Learn what student researchers discovered this summer working with the Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, including the work that students did with community partners interviewing houseless community members for the [Portland Street Response pilot program](#).

Hear about our recent study on the cost and scale of homelessness and our survey on homelessness and food insecurity for staff, students, and faculty during this Portland State of Mind event 4 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 10 at the Native American Student and Community Center, 710 SW Jackson St., Portland. RSVP now to reserve your spot.

RSVP



## **Study: More than 38,000 people homeless in 2017**

More than 38,000 people experienced homelessness in Multnomah, Clackamas and Washington counties in 2017, [according to our regional study with PSU Northwest Economic Research Center.](#)

The report took a comprehensive look at homelessness and housing insecurity in the Portland tri-county area and the cost to provide housing and services. It was one of the first regional examinations of the homelessness population and cost. It sparked conversations and garnered news coverage across the Northwest, including [OPB](#), [The Oregonian](#) and [The Seattle Times](#).

[Read more about the study here.](#)





## 2019 Legislative Round up with Dr. Zapata

There were multiple bills that collectively could really help with housing affordability and homelessness in the 2019 session.

These included a statewide rent control bill and essentially abolishing single-family zoning statewide for towns over 10,000. As a land-use planner, I'm particularly excited about HB 2001 passing given the legacy of racism and classism embedded in single family home zoning.

Being able to keep more people in their homes as in SB 608 is obviously a critical part of reducing homelessness as well. These are good first steps. We will need to continue to monitor and study the effects of these bills. [Read the complete round-up of housing bills on our website.](#)

- Dr. Marisa Zapata

How well do you know your facts  
on homelessness?

## Campaign busts myths on homelessness

This summer we launched a public education campaign to bust myths on homelessness. We developed a [quiz](#), educational slides and [a video](#). Hundreds of people took part. It's not too late to test your knowledge and bust a few myths of your own at our [website](#).

Test your knowledge



Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative / [www.pdx.edu/homelessness](http://www.pdx.edu/homelessness) / [homelessness@pdx.edu](mailto:homelessness@pdx.edu)

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