

Western Illinois University  
2021 Thomas E. Helm Undergraduate Research Conference

**Abstract**

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Recorded Scholarly Presentation

Major: Liberal Arts and Sciences

Faculty Mentor: Tammy Werner

**Policy Brief: Promote Funding for Homeless Shelters in Terms of Technology and Programming**

**Ashley Hoffman**

The project described here is a work in progress for the Senior Capstone course in the Liberal Arts and Sciences. For this project, I am conducting research and writing a policy brief that advocates for providing homeless shelters in the State of Illinois with the proper technology in order to help the individuals staying in shelters find jobs. I will explain my plan for a statewide program for funding of computer, wi-fi, and applications such as Microsoft Office. The funding will go towards not only these resources, but also the funding will go towards paying employees to offer guidance with creating online profiles on websites such as LinkedIn or Indeed to search for job opportunities. With these resources, homeless individuals will be able to schedule appointments to go over career training. The goal of this project is to lower the homeless population across Illinois by methods of preparing the individuals for careers with the use of technology. Evidence will include facts about the homeless population in the state, funding amounts, current challenges due to COVID-19, and current policies that prove to be beneficial for this policy. I will also provide examples of programs that have been created similar to the in the United States that have been proven successful.