The U.S. is a prosperous and powerful country that tolerates some its citizens to live on crates or cardboard. Social welfare’s “framework is food for the hungry, health care to the sick, water to the thirsty, welcome to the stranger, clothing to the naked, presence with the imprisoned, and shelter for the homeless.” Wildman (2012) This is an area that affects local and national government officials and policy professionals. Opportunities or problems are always present in public entities. The most important thing to do is to recognize the problem. Once you have the problem, it must be analyzed. What are the variables involved? Do I need a financial solution or do I need more complex results? Are there moral/ethical sides to the problem? The unique characteristics and requirements of given situations command the use of specific decision making models.

The rational decision model can be put into use to achieve the goals to battle homelessness. Per Davies and Coates (2005), the rational method “derives from an approach to strategy (and economics) which presumes that a predictable future allows decision-makers to carefully weigh up the consequences of alternatives and to choose a course of action that maximizes the achievement of objectives.” This method is rational or comprehensive because all possible options are reasonably selected and weighed in comparative importance by the administrator.

The rational model use demands impartiality, efficiency, and the absence of politics in confronting homelessness to select the means that lead to the desired ends (goals). The problem (homelessness) must be clearly understood to be able to unmistakably address it. All available data must be gathered and analyzed by expert analysis on homelessness. The model adopts the thinking that more information and choices is better. The reduction in homelessness should drive the selection of the means.

References:

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