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**Value, attitude, and belief determinants of willingness to accept
a facility for the homeless**

Somerman, Frances B., Ph.D.

City University of New York, 1990

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**VALUE, ATTITUDE, AND BELIEF DETERMINANTS OF WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT
A FACILITY FOR THE HOMELESS**

by

FRANCES B. SOMERMAN

**A dissertation submitted to the Graduate Faculty in Psychology in
partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Doctor
of Philosophy, The City University of New York.**

1990

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1990

This manuscript has been read and accepted for the Graduate Faculty in Psychology in satisfaction of the dissertation requirement for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

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Abstract

Value, Attitude, and Belief Determinants of Willingness to Accept a Facility for the Homeless

by

Frances B. Somerman

Advisor: Professor Irwin Katz

This dissertation is a study of some determinants of people's willingness to accept or reject a facility for the homeless in a suburban community. The homeless are a stigmatized group, not only because of their poverty, but also because the stereotypes of being non-white and mentally ill have been associated with them. Basic values, attitudes toward the homeless, and specific beliefs about a proposed facility have been examined, along with the NIMBY (Not In My BackYard) phenomenon, to explore if, and to what degree, they affect community acceptance or rejection of a facility.

Westchester County has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country. In the Westchester town of Greenburgh a temporary facility to house homeless families was proposed. There was a vociferous and tenacious reaction against this plan from many members of the community. A sample population of 154 people from this town, at varying distances from the proposed site, was selected and given a questionnaire which examined their beliefs, attitudes, and values in relationship to their acceptance of or resistance to the facility.

Based on previous findings that values, attitudes, and beliefs are important determinants of people's behavior, and on the prevalent NIMBY phenomenon, it was predicted that these variables would be related to respondents' willingness to accept a facility in their community. Previously designed Protestant ethic (PE) and Humanitarian-Egalitarian (HE) scales were used to measure two basic values (Katz & Hass, 1988). Scales to measure attitudes toward the homeless and beliefs about a planned facility were developed. Value, attitude, and belief scales were interrelated with each other as expected, so that HE, pro-homeless attitudes, and positive beliefs about the plan were correlated, while PE, anti-homeless attitudes, and negative beliefs about the plan were correlated. As predicted, values, attitudes, and beliefs were related to plan acceptance, so that HE, pro-homeless attitudes, and positive beliefs about the plan were positively related to acceptance, and PE, anti-homeless attitudes, and negative beliefs about the plan were positively related to rejection. Also as predicted, four proximity measures were all related to acceptance of the plan.

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1. INTRODUCTION

For several years the media have given much attention to the problem of homelessness and the lack of reasonable solutions. Although people will express concern for the homeless they are nonetheless generally unwilling to have facilities for them in their neighborhood. This phenomenon has been given the acronym NIMBY, Not In My BackYard, and examples of it are found repeatedly in the news. But there have been few studies examining the components of NIMBY. Just why do people reject facilities for the homeless, and why do some people accept them?

A mixture of sympathy for and rejection of outgroups is often found in United States culture and may well have its roots in American core values (e.g. Katz, Wackenhut, & Hass, 1986). The importance of these values, how they interact with attitudes toward the homeless and with beliefs about a proposed facility, and their relationship to the NIMBY response encompassing beliefs and feelings about threat to one's self interest, are the foci of this study.

National Homelessness

Estimates of the number of homeless people in the United States range greatly. A 1984 study by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) estimated the nation's homeless at between 250,000 and 350,000; and a 1984 study by the Community for Creative Non-Violence (CCNV) estimated the number at between 2,000,000 and 3,000,000 (General Accounting Office, 1985; Peroff, 1987). Whatever the actual number, the frequent news coverage and the visible presence of disheveled, often dirty, ill looking people, wandering the streets or sleeping in public places with shopping carts or bags

of belongings, has made the public aware that there are indeed a substantial number of homeless people in this country.

The problem has been ascribed to a number of factors. For example, programs for deinstitutionalizing patients from mental hospitals that started in the mid 1950's often failed to relocate them in community facilities as originally planned. People who were unable to care for themselves were left on their own (Torrey, 1988). The closing down of Single Room Occupancy hotels (SRO's) depleted the supply of available housing to those ex-mental patients and other marginal people (Marriott, 1988). The recession in the late 1970's left many people without the financial means to pay for housing and other basic needs. Also, the process of gentrification in cities like New York has left less and less housing available for the poor. Lastly, Reagan administration cuts in social welfare programs such as support for low income housing have also decreased prospects for housing the poor. Support for subsidized housing went from 32.2 billion in 1981 to 7.5 billion in 1988, (Philips, 1988).

Resistance to Housing for the Homeless

The NIMBY phenomenon has been observed in the press repeatedly. It consists of an expression of sympathy for an outgroup along with refusal to allow a residence or other facility for the outgroup to be located in close proximity to one's home. Generally this involves vociferous protests at local meetings along with legal actions against a proposed facility, but in its more extreme forms has involved actual violence (e.g. Daley, 1987; Schmitt, 1987). Winerip (1987) wrote about the town of Glen Cove Long Island, which contained homes ranging in value from \$300,000 to

\$500,000. When a home for twelve recovering psychiatric patients was proposed, residents expressed sympathy for these people, but loudly protested having the facility in their neighborhood. Winerip noted the frequent opposition in New York State communities to proposed group homes (seven opposed out of every nine proposed). Other evidence for the NIMBY phenomenon has been reported by Benedict, Shaw, and Rivlin (1988) in a study of New York City and suburban residents. The phenomenon was also examined by Rothbart (1973). In studying community reactions to a proposed residence for prisoners on good behavior and a proposed public housing project, he found that those who lived closer to the proposed sites were more opposed to the housing than those who lived at a distance.

Factors Contributing to Resistance

Negative Attitudes toward Blacks, the Poor, and the Mentally Ill

In many communities a large proportion of the homeless consist of blacks and other minorities, raising the possibility that community resistance to having a facility for the homeless is based on racial prejudice. The United States seems to have become a more tolerant society than it was when Katz and Braly (1933) did their study of racial and ethnic stereotypes. But despite marked changes in public attitudes, prejudice still exists. This has been documented by numerous recent attitude surveys (cf. reviews by Lipset & Schneider, 1978; Schuman, Steeh, & Bobo, 1985; Smith & Sheatsley, 1984). Further evidence of prejudicial racial attitudes comes from laboratory studies using unobtrusive measures done mainly in the 1970's (reviewed by Crosby, Bromley, & Saxe, 1981).

It has long been argued that differences in race may be the most apparent distinction, but that other issues such as status and class may be at least as important in the acceptance or rejection of others. Brigham (1971) concludes that the term "Negro" by itself may connote "the lower-class Negro" and that what appears to be prejudice against "Negroes" may really be against lower class "Negroes". Besides ethnic groups Allport (1954) mentions occupation and residence as indicators of social class and status. Rokeach's (1968) theory of racial prejudice is based on assumed dissimilarity of beliefs among different classes and assumed differences in class among racial groups. Thus what appears to be racial prejudice is really class prejudice. The importance of class distinctions in choosing with whom one associates has been noted in the past and there are no indications these distinctions are not still of importance (Davis, Gardner, & Gardener, 1965; Centers, 1965).

It has been noted that a significant part of the homeless problem is associated with deinstitutionalization of the mentally ill and attempts to keep only those who are acutely ill and an immediate threat to themselves or others in psychiatric hospitals (see, for example: Bassuk, 1984; Baxter & Hopper, 1981; Fustero, 1984; Morgenthau, 1986). As a result there are mentally ill people in the community who are too confused and upset to provide for themselves. Numerous empirical studies have documented the prevalence among adults of negative attitudes and avoidant reactions to the mentally ill (cf. review by Farina, 1982). Other studies have looked specifically at people's willingness to have the mentally ill cared for outside mental institutions and found that

exclusionary attitudes were commonplace (Aviram & Segal, 1973; Linsky, 1970). The strong media connections that have been made between homelessness and mental illness, make it likely that the stigma of mental illness could have an effect on people's willingness to have a facility for the homeless in their community.

Negative Image of the Homeless

There are reports regularly in the popular news media of widespread social pathology, including drug use, crime, and child abuse in welfare hotels and housing projects for the poor (Barbanel, 1988; Mokilop, 1988; Rimer, 1988). The "homeless" population may contain many different types of individuals including "the working homeless", those who have jobs but cannot afford the high cost of housing. But the most salient group of homeless people tends to be those on the streets, who are often dirty, disoriented, and unpredictable in behavior. Their salience contributes disproportionately to the homeless stereotype. Rivlin (1985) refers to "the generic name of 'homeless' applied to the group, the tendency of the press and people alike to see them in an undifferentiated form rather than as mothers, children, fathers, sons and daughters" (p.15). Once a stereotype has been established there is a strong tendency for it to persist even in the face of contrary evidence (Hamilton & Rose, 1980; Jones, 1982; Ross, 1977; Rothbart, Evans, & Fulero, 1979; Tajfel, 1969).

If the homeless are perceived as being responsible for their condition, then this would further engender a negative view of the homeless. Wright (1960), in discussing physical disability, uses concepts from Heider and others to explain a connection between

"evil and punishment or suffering" and further says "with illness and disability both the perceived cause and the perceived effects often match the negative qualities of illness and disability" (p. 261). When applied to the homeless the negative condition of homelessness could be seen as caused by qualities of the homeless themselves. Ross (1977) writes of a fundamental attribution error in which negative occurrences to others are perceived as due to their personal failings rather than to external events. And Lerner (1980) attributes the propensity to "blame the victim" to a need to maintain a view of the world as a just place.

Beliefs About a Facility and Threat to Self Interest

The functional approach to attitudes maintains that attitudes serve various needs and purposes for the person holding them (Herek, 1986; Katz, 1960; Rokeach, 1968; Smith, Bruner, & White, 1956). This concept generalizes to beliefs as well as attitudes (Fishbein & Ajzen, 1975; Rokeach, 1968). In his neofunctional approach to attitudes Herek (1986) describes an evaluative function based on rewards and punishments for the attitude holder from the attitude object, and an expressive function in which the attitude object "provides a vehicle for securing social support, for increasing self-esteem, or for reducing anxiety" (p.105).

For those who live closest and would be the most affected by a proposed facility for the homeless, the possible consequences associated with negative evaluations of the homeless such as drug use, crime, lowered property values, and problem children in the local schools, would have negative evaluative effects and could be felt as a threat to their self-interest. It is thus likely that

beliefs about the facility would support self-interest and tend to be negative. The less directly affected someone would be by the facility, the less significant would be the instrumental functions and the more significant the expressive functions.

In contrast to this multi-functional view of attitudes, Sears has suggested that present attitudes are mainly influenced by preadult socialization resulting in "symbolic racism" (Herek, 1986; Kinder & Sears, 1981; Sears, Hensler, & Speers, 1979; Sears, Lau, Tyler, & Allen, 1980). According to this concept, where people lived in relationship to a proposed facility for the homeless would have little bearing on how they felt about the facility. These feelings would be mainly influenced by conservative and racist ideologies. But even Sears allows that there are circumstances in which self-interest might play a part in peoples' attitudes, such as "conditions of great uncertainty and anxiety" or in "proximal, local political issues" (Sears et al., 1979, p. 380).

Factors Contributing to Acceptance

Stigma, Sympathy, and Empathy

Although stigmatized groups can evoke negative and rejecting responses in others, it is important to note that an opposite response of sympathy and concern can also be found (e.g. Farina, 1982; Goffman, 1963; Jones, Farina, Hastorf, Markus, Miller, & Scott, 1984; Katz, 1981). Rivlin (1985) reports findings of research on attitudes toward the homeless in which respondents expressed feelings of "pity, sadness, sympathy, compassion" along with "shame, fear, disgust, sense of being threatened and anger... at circumstances that result in homelessness" (p. 19).

It is uncomfortable to realize there are people without homes who live in deplorable conditions. Identification with the other person and the corresponding feeling of another's pain can lead to empathic feelings. Rugierro (1987), in a discussion and review of literature on the facets of empathy, concludes that empathy involves both feeling and cognitive understanding. She believes that in order to empathize with another one must be able to separate oneself from one's feelings enough to understand and analyze them, rather than just react. This would be easier to do if one were living some distance from a proposed site for the homeless. Those living closer to the proposed site, hence potentially more affected by it are likely too caught up in their own feelings of threat to self to be able to empathize with the homeless, and are likely to dismiss or deny their suffering.

Helping Behavior

The arousal: cost-reward model for helping behavior developed by Piliavin, Rodin, and Piliavin (1969), further elaborated by Piliavin, Dovidio, Gaertner, and Clark (1981, 1982), and used as the basis for Dovidio's overview of helping behavior and altruism (1984) emphasizes emergency intervention and active helping. It is also applicable to this situation of supporting a plan to help the homeless.

As noted above, the unfortunate circumstances of homeless people arouse uncomfortable feelings in people. If perceived costs are not too high and rewards evident then acceptance of the plan is likely. Rewards for helping include feeling like a generous, caring person, and satisfaction of being appreciated by those in need.

There is also the sense that one is contributing to a solution of a very financially costly problem. But costs for helping could be quite different for those more or less affected by this plan. For those close by and in the school district negative stigma associated with homelessness would contribute to a fear of increased neighborhood crime and drugs, decreased property values, drain on services and schools, and exposure to disapproved behavior, e.g. idleness, sloppy dress, loudness and profanity. Except for the increased expense of some public services, these costs associated with the homeless would not apply to those living farther from the site.

Those who are closer to the site have paid a cost for opposing the plan; they have been accused of narrow, overly fearful, racist attitudes. These are unpleasant labels, but are not concrete in the way costs for helping might be. Those farther from the site have much less at stake and risk little by opposing the plan. There is less focus on them and since self-interest is not assumed to be a factor in their opposition, accusations of racism are less likely. Since the nature of the helping behavior need not be active, i.e. just allowing and not protesting a proposal, the rewards for not helping in terms of lack of exertion, are minimal. This model suggests that cost issues for supporting the plan might dominate for those most affected by this plan, while other issues such as empathy, attitudes, values, and assessment of the worth of this plan might take over for those at a distance. In his study of proximity and willingness to accept proposed facilities for outgroups Rothbart (1973) concluded that the balance between expected benefits of

change and expected costs in social reform was the significant factor in opposition to those facilities.

Berkowitz refers to middle class standards of conduct that prescribe helping others dependent on them (1972): "For many people in our society, the perception that other people are dependent on them for their rewards theoretically arouses feelings of responsibility to those others" (p. 68). But after citing numerous studies of helping behavior he warns "many normative conceptions of social behavior are vastly oversimplified" and concludes "[situational] conditions affect the extent to which the individual is aware someone is dependent on him, recalls the pertinent social ideals, believes that dependency is proper or improper, and is willing to accept the psychological costs of being helpful" (p. 106).

Two Basic Values

It is generally believed that attitudes are related to broader, underlying values (see Katz & Hass, 1988). Two values that seem basic to our culture and have strong implications in people's attitudes toward outgroups, in this case the homeless, are those associated with individualism, the so-called Protestant ethic (Weber, 1976), and those associated with an humanitarian-egalitarian ethic. Bakan (1966) sees them as two sides of a duality which he has labeled "agency" and "communion"

The Protestant Ethic Value Outlook

The Protestant ethic was originally written about by Weber (1904-05, 1976) and was linked by him to the growth of capitalism in the West. He made a strong case for the contribution of Protestant

thought, particularly the Calvinistic Protestant outlook, to the ethic that promoted hard work puritanism. Also associated with this ethic is a strong sense of the individual's importance over the group. Duty to the social order was performed only for the higher purpose of individual salvation (Weber, 1976). Spence (1985) commented on this aspect of the Protestant ethic: "the failure to thrive was often interpreted as a moral failure, as a sign of some deficiency in character". She also linked this life view with a strong emphasis on achievement tied to the American dream: "With hard work, it was believed, anyone with the proper moral fiber could succeed."

The Protestant Ethic Scale, embodying the value outlook Weber wrote of, was devised and validated by Mirels and Garrett (1971). It contains items such as: "Most people spend too much time in unprofitable amusements", "People who fail at a job have usually not tried hard enough", and "Life would have little meaning if we never had to suffer". Internal consistency measured by Kuder-Richardson reliability was .79. Feather (1984) found positive correlations between the Protestant Ethic Scale and the relative importance assigned to some values on the Rokeach Value Survey (1973) such as salvation, being obedient, and being self-controlled. Negative correlations were found with measures of a person's valuation of a world of beauty, mature love, being broad minded, and being imaginative. These findings are in keeping with Weber's definitions and with Bakan's concept of agency.

The Humanitarian-Egalitarian Value Outlook

A humanitarian value outlook, encompassing the notions of egalitarianism and democracy, is also a very important aspect of United States culture. The Preamble of the Constitution, in laying out the purposes of that document, uses the phrase "to . . . promote the general welfare". Equality of opportunity for everyone is endorsed verbally and represented in our laws. Segalman (1968) points out, "The Eugene V. Debs labor efforts, the rural and urban cooperative societies, the Grange movement, the Populists, all emphasized that the individual is not necessarily responsible for the poverty which besets him." As further evidence of an egalitarian stand in American society he cites commitment to public education, graduated income tax, anti-slavery movements, collective marketing by farmers and land grants to colleges and homesteaders. Egalitarianism was also an important factor behind the success of the civil rights movement. It is not difficult to see that if one held to this value orientation one might have a particular attitude toward the homeless. In fairness one would have to allow for the possibility that unfortunate circumstances had contributed to a homeless person's situation and that he/she would be entitled to help and support. "In present-day America, to embrace the egalitarian precepts of equality of opportunity, social justice, and the worth of all human beings is to be disposed to identify with the needs and aspirations of minority underdogs, to feel sympathy for them, and to support efforts to improve their lot" (Katz et al, 1986). The homeless appear to fit this category of minority underdogs.

The Humanitarianism-Egalitarianism Scale was devised by Katz and Hass (1988). The ten items on this scale have an internal consistency (coefficient alpha) of .83 (Katz & Hass, 1988). Some examples of these items are: "A person should have a deep love of all people, whoever they are", "One should be kind to people, even if they do things contrary to one's beliefs", "There should be equality for everyone -- because we are all human beings", and "Everyone should have an equal chance and an equal say on most things". Katz and Hass found that the relationship between the Protestant Ethic and Humanitarianism scales was close to zero.

Interaction of Values and Attitudes

Along with the notion that people can hold these two values that may seem to contradict each other, there is general support for the idea that people hold both positive and negative attitudes toward many stigmatized outgroups (e.g. Goffman, 1963; Jones et al., 1984; Katz, 1981; Katz & Hass, 1988). The homeless fit into this definition. According to Rivlin (1985) "Homeless strangers have been the object of pity, charity and hospitality, but they have also been feared, rejected and abused" (p. 14).

An individual holding to the Protestant ethic might have a strong negative attitude toward the homeless, see their poverty as deserved, and believe that if they have not and do not in the future improve their condition, others bear no responsibility to help them. In suggesting why this value should be related to attitudes toward blacks, Katz et al. (1986) state ". . . a commitment to the individualistic, Protestant ethic ideal of freedom, self-reliance, devotion to work, and achievement should sensitize the observer to

minority behavior patterns that deviate from and thereby threaten these cherished values" (p.44). Feather (1984) found positive correlations on the Protestant Ethic Scale with a scale of conservative social attitudes (Wilson & Patterson, 1968). MacDonald (1972) reports a relationship between the Protestant ethic and attitudes toward the poor and poverty. Clearly the homeless, with their apparent poverty, lack of industriousness, and passivity, fit into this definition of a group that threatens cherished values.

But on the other hand, an individual holding a humanitarian outlook would likely see the homeless from another perspective. They might evoke sympathy, a sense of possible injustice done and misfortune suffered. They might be seen as ill, deserted by family and society, and desperately in need of caring and help. If this perspective predominates, then it is likely that others will be seen as having a responsibility to help correct the situation and attitudes will be more positive.

Using a short version of the Protestant Ethic Scale with the Humanitarianism-Egalitarianism Scale in a study of values and attitudes toward blacks, Katz and Hass (1988) found as predicted that Protestant Ethic scores were positively related to anti-black attitudes, but unrelated to pro-black attitudes, and that Humanitarianism scores were positively related to pro-black attitudes but either unrelated or weakly (and negatively) related to anti-black attitudes.

In an unpublished study (1986) the present researcher used Katz's value scales and obtained similar results when examining attitudes toward the homeless. People's attitudes toward the

homeless were measured by the tendency either to hold them responsible for their condition or to hold society responsible. Protestant Ethic scores correlated positively with attribution of personal responsibility, and negatively with attribution of society's responsibility, while a non-significant tendency toward the reverse correlations was found for Humanitarianism scores. ANOVA results suggested that people's values generally bear a relationship to their attitudes toward the homeless, and that the two values may interact so that those high in humanitarianism and low in the Protestant ethic would have the strongest Pro-homeless attitudes.

Ambivalence of Values and Attitudes

Despite the apparent inconsistency represented by the Protestant Ethic and Humanitarian values, philosophical argument and experimental evidence indicates that to hold one value does not preclude also holding the other value (Bakan, 1966; Katz & Hass, 1988; Reid, 1963). Since people can simultaneously hold both values it seems likely that they might also have ambivalent attitudes about issues that evoke both these values. The significance of ambivalent values and attitudes toward outgroup members was demonstrated by Katz (1981). He found that ambivalence created a tendency to show extreme behavior toward members of the outgroup, either positive or negative depending upon the situation.

As has been noted above, people can have both positive and negative attitudes toward the homeless. When both perspectives can be taken the conditions for ambivalence and conflict are present. The NIMBY phenomenon is associated with reactions from those who might express general compassion for the more unfortunate, but not

when it comes to group homes and other social programs planned in their own neighborhood. When the issues affect people directly, as in a case where there is a proposal to build a facility for the homeless nearby, conflict and ambivalence are likely to become more intense. In other words, when there are real social pressures people become more aware of their conflicting attitudes, and the pressure to resolve that conflict is greater.

Beliefs

Just as attitudes tend to be related to values, beliefs tend to be related to underlying values and attitudes (Bem, 1970; Fishbein & Azjen, 1975; Rokeach, 1968, 1973). But it is also possible that beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless are based on objective information about the planned facility. For example, the plan might be clearly unsound and so beliefs about it would be negative regardless of held values or attitudes toward the homeless. In this case, i.e. the plan is clearly good or bad, we would not expect beliefs about it to be related to values or attitudes.

Demographic Variables

Demographic variables are possible contributors to willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in a community. For example, ethnicity might be a factor in acceptance. Being a member of a minority group could increase identification and empathy with the homeless, but it could also increase the need to distance oneself from them. Income should also play a part in this study since those with less wealth are more likely to feel the threat of poverty and potential homelessness. Having young children makes people more protective and the threats to security may be more keenly felt.

Having children in a school system that homeless children might attend would even further intensify this protectiveness. Political views are closely tied to one's values and attitudes so correlations would be expected here too. Commitment to the community as measured by items like length of time in the community and activeness in the community might have bearing on intensity of feelings about the plan.

Summary of Background Literature

From the literature it can be inferred that there are forces pushing people to accept and resist a facility for the homeless in their community. Resisters are more likely to be those with a strong Protestant ethic, those with negative and emotionally distancing attitudes toward the homeless, and those whose beliefs about the facility are negative. Acceptors are more likely to be those with a strong humanitarian outlook, those with positive and empathic attitudes toward the homeless, and those who have positive beliefs about the facility. Issues that affect feelings of threat to one's self interest such as proximity to the site of a proposed facility, will also exert pressure to resist. The desire to relieve unpleasant arousal will exert pressure to accept the facility as long as costs do not appear too high. Ambivalence in those most affected by a proposed facility for the homeless will create conditions for response amplification. It is my intention to test these inferences by exploring differences in those people who support a facility for the homeless and those people who do not.

The Greenburgh Site

A facility for the homeless has been proposed for the Town of Greenburgh, in Westchester County, a suburb just north of New York City, by a nonprofit organization called Homeless Emergency Leverage Program (HELP), Inc. (see Appendices A, B, and C). It is to be situated on 33 acres of county owned land adjacent to Westchester County Community College, amidst a middle class residential community. Temporary housing for 108 homeless families is planned, with services to help the residents find employment, permanent housing, and fulfill other needs with the aim of promoting their independence. Security against crime and drugs and careful screening of residents is also planned (Feron, 1988, March 20, April 24, May 15, September 16; Liebson, 1988).

The Greenburgh plan has been rejected by many nearby residents. The combination of a liberal community with a proposal to house the homeless receiving strong negative community reaction provides fertile ground for a study. I gathered data from a sample of community residents by means of a questionnaire to test the following hypotheses.

Hypotheses

1. The Protestant ethic will be negatively related and humanitarian values will be positively related to willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in one's community.

2. Positive attitudes toward the homeless will be positively related and negative attitudes toward the homeless negatively related to willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in one's community.

3. Favorable beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless will be positively related and unfavorable beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless negatively related to willingness to accept that facility in one's community.

4. The more directly affected by a proposed facility for the homeless one might be, the more resistance one will have to that facility.

5. The more empathic toward the homeless one is, the more accepting one will be of a facility for the homeless in one's community.

6. The more committed to a community one is, the stronger one's feelings will be about a proposed facility for the homeless in that community.

7. The more directly affected by a proposed facility for the homeless one might be, the more familiar one will be with information about it.

8. One's Protestant ethic and humanitarian values, attitudes toward the homeless, and favorable and unfavorable beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless in one's community will all be interrelated; thus, (a) the Protestant ethic, negative attitudes toward the homeless, and negative beliefs about a facility for the the homeless will be positively related to each other, and (b) the Humanitarian-egalitarian value, positive attitudes toward the homeless, and positive beliefs about a facility for the the homeless will be positively related to each other.

9. Positive and negative attitudes toward the homeless will be largely independent of each other.

10. Positive and negative beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless will be largely independent of each other.

11. For those who feel most directly affected by a proposed facility for the homeless, ambivalently held values will increase the need to resolve the felt conflict by justifying one's position.

12. For those who feel most directly affected by a proposed facility for the homeless, ambivalently held values will increase the need to resolve the felt conflict by amplification of the rejection of the facility.

13. Those who feel most directly affected by a proposed facility for the homeless will have the most negative beliefs about the facility, and the fewest positive beliefs about the facility, but attitudes and values will not show a relationship to this variable.

14. Comparing the four types of prediction variables on the extent to which they are related to willingness to accept a facility for the homeless, the following rank order (from strongest to weakest relationship) will be shown: feeling of direct effect, beliefs, attitudes, and values.

2. METHOD

Site of Study and Sampling Procedure

The HELP II plan to house the homeless was proposed and accepted by the Greenburgh Town Board in January, 1988. Almost immediately there was a hue and cry from the community and on January 21 at a huge public meeting, promoters of the plan presented their reasons for supporting it and community members were given the opportunity to speak out. The most vociferous comments from the community came from those opposed to the plan.

In June sentiments had reached a fairly steady level. The data for this study were gathered from June until September with attempts to balance the sample in October by adding nonwhite and proximal respondents. About this time some legal decisions were made by the court and sampling was stopped with the assumption that these decisions could be affecting community reactions. The sample size was 154.

The sample was essentially one of convenience except for an intentional attempt to have some representation from each village in the Town of Greenburgh and a significant portion of the sample from the area closest to and potentially most affected by the proposal. Some of the neighborhoods near the site were canvassed by knocking on doors and returning to collect questionnaires. Because of strong emotions aroused by the proposal there was resistance to filling out questionnaires. Assuming people would be more trustful of those they knew, community leaders and other active members of the community were contacted to assist in getting people to fill out questionnaires. Some questionnaires were distributed at Civic

Association meetings, i.e. meetings of local area groups that serve to protect community interests. Libraries and village halls were also used to leave questionnaires for people to fill out and return. Some networking was utilized so that individuals who were contacted were asked to give a questionnaire to one or a few neighbors or friends in the community or to give the name of someone they believed might be willing to fill out a questionnaire. The importance of giving one's own views without discussion with others, even family members, was stressed. (For a full description of sample, see RESULTS.)

Questionnaire

Overview of Instruments

A questionnaire was constructed and pretested on a sample of 16 Greenburgh residents. The final product contained the following elements: 1. Introduction, 2. Items testing information about the HELP II plan, 3. Degree of acceptance or rejection of the plan, 4. Beliefs about the plan, 5. Attitudes toward the homeless, 6. Protestant Ethic and Humanitarianism scales, 7. Demographic information, 8. Space for writing optional comments about the plan, and 9. Distance from the planned site and optional name and address.

Description of Questionnaire Items and Conceptual Rationale

The entire questionnaire is presented verbatim in APPENDIX D, pp. 98-113.

Introduction. On the first page of this questionnaire is an introduction. The first paragraph briefly states the purpose of the study and introduces the investigator. The next two paragraphs present an incentive for subjects to respond to the questionnaire.

They are told that their views will be made known anonymously to significant community leaders. The last part of the introduction contains some suggestions on taking the questionnaire, for the purpose of encouraging spontaneity and discouraging people from going back over their responses in order to change answers.

Information. Page 2 contains items meant to ascertain how much information subjects have about the HELP plan. The first item concerns sources of information about the plan. The remaining six items request information about location, residents, and management of the facility. Familiarity with the HELP plan was scored according to the number of items, 2-7, that were answered correctly. Scores could range theoretically from 0 to 6. Since item 1 did not test information about the plan it was eliminated.

Acceptance of HELP and exposure to the homeless problem. Item 1 on page 4 measures the main dependent variable by asking respondents whether or not they accept the HELP II plan and the degree of their acceptance or rejection. It is a forced choice item containing six possible responses ranging from strong rejection to strong acceptance and was scored -3 (strongly against) to +3 (strongly for), converted to 0 to 5 for analysis.

Item 2 asks how frequently people have attended meetings about the HELP plan, and was scored by recording number of meetings attended.

Items 4 and 5 explore previous experiences with the homeless. These were scored as positive, negative, or neutral.

Proximity measures. Distance from the proposed site of the HELP plan was measured in four ways: (a) actual distance, i.e.

measured physical distance from proposed site using actual addresses, reported school district, and information from community members who distributed questionnaires, (b) respondent's estimate of how far he or she is from the site, as requested in item 3 on page 4, (c) psychological distance determined by significant boundaries around the site and information on respondent's location; and (d) whether or not respondent lives within the same school district as the proposed facility (the Valhalla school district), as determined by information given on children's school district on page 12, by address, and by information from community members who distributed questionnaires.

The significant outer boundaries were determined by driving around the community and looking at maps. There are four and six lane highways and expressways surrounding the proposed HELP site, all difficult to cross on foot and ranging from about 3/4 of a mile to 1 1/4 miles in actual distance, with the majority of respondents within a mile of the site. Outside of the major boundaries lies the rest of the Town of Greenburgh, the farthest reaches of which are about 18 miles from the proposed site of HELP.

Whether or not a respondent is within the Valhalla school district was also expected to affect his or her response to the facility. The Valhalla school district includes some of the area within the boundaries mentioned above, but also includes an area outside those boundaries and actually outside the Town of Greenburgh. Thus the sample included an exception to the general rule that respondents be within the town borders. The map on page 114 shows psychological and Valhalla school district boundaries.

Distance measures were recorded to the nearest tenth of a mile; the boundaries measures were scored as either inside or outside.

Beliefs about the plan. Pages 5-7 contain items pertaining to people's beliefs about the project and are in the form of "reasons for opposing" and "reasons for supporting" the HELP plan. The 16 Reasons for Opposing were derived from arguments given against the proposal at a public meeting on January 21, 1988, in newspaper articles, and in letters to the editor. They concern issues of fairness to the community (items #1, 4, 5, 13, 18, 20, 22, & 26), or actual threat to the community (items #2 & 17), fairness to the homeless (items #11, 14, 23, & 27), and ineffectiveness (items #10 & 21).

The 11 Reasons for Supporting were derived from statements made by community leaders supporting the plan, often in response to objections made to the plan. These items concern helping the homeless for their own sake - with moral implications (items #7, 8, 15, 24, & 25), helping the homeless in order to protect the community (item #3), arguments supporting effectiveness of the project (items #6, 9, & 12), an item refuting a claim made by opposers (#19), and one item that disparages reasons given against the plan (#16).

These items were scored on a Likert scale. Each item was a forced choice item containing six possible responses ranging from strong disagreement to strong agreement and was scored -3 (strongly disagree) to +3 (strongly agree), converted to 0 to 5 for analysis.

Attitudes toward the homeless. The next scale, on pages 8 and 9, concerns people's attitudes toward the homeless. There are 11

Anti-homeless items (#1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 14, 19, & 20) which all suggest a distancing by the respondents from the homeless either by blaming the homeless for their plight and rejecting any responsibility on the respondents' part (items #1, 3, 7, 10, 14, & 20), by implying the situation is hopeless and beyond help (items #6, 11, & 19), or by the denial of suffering and thus the need to do anything (items #4 & 8). Many of these items suggest a strong Protestant ethic outlook, particularly those that depict the homeless as being in that state because they are not hard working.

The 10 Pro-homeless items (#2, 5, 9, 12, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18, & 21) have a sympathetic quality to them. Many of these items imply the homeless are victims of circumstance who would choose to be in a different situation if given the opportunity. Item #5 does this directly while others do it more indirectly (#9, 12, 15, 16, 17, & 18). The circumstances that the homeless are victims of may be internal - essentially mental illness (#9 & 15), or external (#12, 16, 17, & 18). Items dealing with external misfortunes emphasize causal aspects (#16, 17, & 18) and/or society's responsibility to help (#12 & 16). Items #2 and 13 are empathy items, i.e. is respondent likely to identify with the feelings of the homeless person? Items #9, 12, and 21 all tap the element of hope about finding solutions for the problem of homelessness.

As with beliefs about the HELP plan, attitude items were scored using a Likert scale.

Value orientations. The Protestant Ethic and the Humanitarianism-Egalitarianism Scales are on pages 10 and 11. These

scales were scored according to the method described by Katz and Hass (1988).

Demographic information. Pages 12 and 14 cover many of the demographic variables often found to be significant in people's social attitudes such as age, sex, education, ethnicity, and marital status.

Community Commitment. Items 7-13 on page 13, were combined to give a Community Commitment score. Two dimensions were established for each item to keep weights equal, and coefficient alpha was used to check internal consistency.

Voluntary information. Pages 4, 7, and 15 asked respondents to make additional comments. Since writing these comments was not required by questionnaire instructions, the amount of writing varied from person to person, and could thus be used to constitute a behavioral measure.

Confidentiality. The final page requested respondent's name and address for possible follow-up study and to send out results. This was optional and respondents were assured of confidentiality and made to understand that no names would be used in the presentation of material. The promise of receiving feedback from this questionnaire was expected to act as an incentive to give this information. A brief summary of the results of this study was sent out to those who gave their name and address and to community leaders, as promised.

Predictions

1. Values will be related to one's willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in one's community so that Protestant Ethic scores will be negatively related to acceptance of the HELP II plan, and Humanitarianism scores will be positively related to acceptance.

2. Attitudes will be related to one's willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in one's community so that anti-homeless attitude scores will be negatively related to acceptance of the HELP II plan, and pro-homeless attitude scores will be positively related to acceptance.

3. Beliefs will be related to one's willingness to accept a facility for the homeless in one's community so that the Reasons for Opposing scores will be negatively related to acceptance of the HELP II plan, and the Reasons for Supporting scores will be positively related to acceptance.

4. Reaction to the HELP II plan will be more negative the more directly affected by it people feel. (a) Those living closest to the HELP II site will be most strongly against the facility. (b) Those living within the psychological boundaries will be more strongly against the facility than those living outside the boundaries. (c) Those living within the Valhalla school district will be more strongly against the facility than those living outside this school district. (d) Of those in the Valhalla school district, those with children in the schools will be most against the facility.

5. Empathy scores will be positively related to acceptance of the HELP II plan.

6. Community Commitment scores will be positively related to (a) the strength of feelings about the HELP II plan, whether for or against it, and (b) amount of knowledge respondents have about the HELP II plan.

7. Those most affected by the HELP II plan will be most familiar with it.

8. The following scores will be positively interrelated: Protestant Ethic, anti-homeless attitude, and beliefs opposing the facility.

9. The following scores will be positively interrelated: Humanitarian value, pro-homeless attitude, and beliefs supporting the facility.

10. Those most affected by the HELP II plan will have the highest scores on negative beliefs about the facility and the lowest scores on positive beliefs, but the degree to which one is affected will not bear a relationship to values or to attitudes toward the homeless.

11. It is assumed that people who are relatively high on value ambivalence will tend to be polarized in the extent to which they accept or reject the HELP plan. Therefore, ambivalence scores should be more predictive of the degree of rejection of this plan by people who are highly predisposed to reject the plan (i.e. who live close to the proposed site or are in the Valhalla school district) than by people who are not highly disposed to reject this plan.

12. Ambivalence will show a relationship to the number of optional comments made on the questionnaire. In the current research the naturally arising conditions that would intensify conflict due to ambivalence, would then produce the need to resolve the conflict. It is predicted that ambivalent people most affected by the HELP plan will have the most need to resolve conflict and therefore write the most.

13. The order of importance of the explanatory variables will be as follows: Proximity of residence to proposed site, beliefs about the plan, attitudes toward the homeless, general values.

3. RESULTS

Sample Characteristics

The sample consisted of 154 respondents, of whom 60 percent were women and 40 percent men, with a mean age of 51. The highest educational levels attained were as follows: Graduate or professional degree, 41 percent; college graduate 29 percent; high school graduate, 29 percent; some high school, 1 percent. Seventy-nine percent were married, with the remainder separated or divorced, widowed, living with someone, or single. Fifty-seven percent had no children under 18 years of age, 16 percent had one child, 20 percent had two children, and 7 percent three or more. Ninety-six percent owned their own homes, with the remainder renting their homes. Respondents had lived in the community an average of 20 years.

Religious preferences were 25 percent Protestant, 30 percent Catholic, 34 percent Jewish, and 11 percent "other", which included Muslim, agnostic, and unaffiliated. Whites made up 88 percent of the sample, blacks 9 percent, Hispanics 2 percent, and Asians 1 percent. Attesting to the "liberalness" of the community, political alignments were 63 percent Liberal or Democrat and 26 percent Conservative or Republican, with 11 percent unaligned. The sample, not surprisingly, was generally affluent, with 16 percent receiving family incomes over \$100,000, 25 percent between \$60,000 and \$100,000, 26 percent between \$40,000 and \$60,000, 27 percent between \$20,000 and \$40,000, and 7 percent less than \$20,000.

Of the 154 respondents, 34 lived within the proximal boundaries surrounding the HELP II site, 120 outside. Twenty-seven

respondents were in the Valhalla school district and 127 outside. (See map on p.114) Seventeen of the 34 respondents who lived within the boundaries also lived within the Valhalla school district.

Descriptive Statistics for the Measuring Instruments

Protestant Ethic and Humanitarian-Egalitarian Scales

The Protestant Ethic (PE) and Humanitarian-Egalitarian (HE) scales had been previously developed and validated by Katz and Hass (1988). In the present sample the mean for the PE scale was 27.66, the median was 28.00, and the standard deviation 8.75. On the HE scale the mean was 33.75, the median was 34.50, and the standard deviation 7.81.

Attitudes toward the Homeless Scales

To determine reliability on the 10 item Pro-Homeless Attitude Scale and the 11 item Anti-Homeless Attitude Scale, corrected item-total correlations were done. On the Pro-Homeless scale the corrected item-total correlations ranged from .38 to .73, with the exception of item 12 ("If programs to show the homeless how to take care of themselves were set up, the situation would be much improved") which correlated only .06. By removing this item Cronbach's coefficient alpha increased from .83 to .86, leaving this scale with 9 items. On the revised scale the corrected item-total correlations ranged from .39 to .74.

On the Anti-Homeless scale the corrected item-total correlations ranged from .22 to .70 with the exception of item 14 ("When I see a homeless person I find it difficult to imagine how they must feel") which correlated only .01. When this item was

removed Cronbach's coefficient alpha increased from .78 to .81, leaving the scale with 10 items. On the revised scale the corrected item-total correlations ranged from .26 to .71.

The correlation between the Pro-Homeless and Anti-Homeless scales was .68, indicating only moderate independence. For the remainder of the analysis these attitude items will be treated both as two separate scales and as one composite scale, derived by subtracting total anti scores from total pro scores. Cronbach's coefficient alpha on a combined attitude scale (arrived at by reversing scores on the Anti-Homeless scale), was .89.

A factor analysis using oblique rotation was done on all attitude items. The first factor accounted for 33.5 percent of the explained variance. Using a loading criterion of .35 or higher, all but three items loaded on this factor. Of the three that did not load, two were eliminated (Items 12 and 14, as mentioned above). The third, Item 19, loaded above .30. Factor 2, accounting for 7.6 percent of the explained variance, contained five items, three of which loaded higher on the first factor. Factor 3 also contained five items, accounted for 7.3 percent of the explained variance, and of the three items that loaded higher on this factor than on Factor 1, two were those eliminated from the scale (i.e. Items 12 and 14). There were two more factors, each accounting for less than 6 percent of the explained variance. Besides Factor 1, the other factors seemed to have no discernable conceptual basis. The strength of Factor 1 provides further evidence that the pro and anti items were not highly independent.

For the 9-item revised Pro-Homeless scale the mean score was 35.05, with a standard deviation of 7.02. The item mean was 3.89 suggesting respondents were clearly more in agreement than disagreement with pro-homeless items (2.5 being the midpoint between disagree and agree). For the 10-item revised Anti-Homeless scale the mean score was 23.15 with a standard deviation of 8.92. The item mean was 2.32, suggesting that respondents were slightly more likely to disagree than agree with anti-homeless items. Thus attitudes toward the homeless can be seen here as generally "sympathetic".

Belief Scales: Reasons for Supporting or Opposing the HELP II Plan

Reliability was assessed on the 11-item Supporting Beliefs scale and the 16-item Opposing Beliefs scale. Cronbach's coefficient alpha was high for each: alphas = .92 and .93, respectively. For Supporting Beliefs the corrected item-total r s ranged from .51 to .82, and for Opposing Beliefs from .22 to .81.

The correlation between the Supporting Beliefs scale and the Opposing Beliefs scale was $-.88$, indicating little independence. As with the attitudes about the homeless items, beliefs will be treated both as two separate scales and as one composite scale, derived by subtracting the respondent's opposing beliefs score from his or her supporting beliefs score. Cronbach's coefficient alpha on a combined belief scale (arrived at by reversing scores on the Opposing Beliefs scale), was .96.

A factor analysis using oblique rotation found that the first factor accounted for 49.3 percent of the explained variance. Using

a loading criterion of .35, only Item 23 did not load on this factor. Factor 2 had five items. Three of these (Items 11, 21, and 23) loaded more strongly on Factor 2 than on Factor 1. (All three presented reasons why the HELP II plan would be bad for the homeless.) Factor 2 accounted for only 6.3 percent of the explained variance. Two other factors, each accounting for less than 5 percent of the explained variance, and having only three items (Factor 3) and one item (Factor 4), contained items that loaded higher on the first factor with just one exception.

For the 11 Supporting Beliefs items the mean score was 33.53, with a standard deviation of 12.63. This would put the item mean at 3.05, just above the value (3.0) corresponding to "agree slightly". For the 16 Opposing Beliefs items the mean score was 45.61, and the standard deviation was 17.72. The item mean of 2.85 is just a little below "agree slightly". It would seem from these results that the sample as a whole showed a slight bias toward agreeing with supporting beliefs and also with opposing beliefs. In Table 1 are presented the mean scores and standard deviations for the 11 individual supporting belief items. It can be seen that respondents on average were inclined to agree with eight of the items and to disagree with three. Table 2 presents data for the 16 opposing belief items. Twelve means were on the "agree" side of the scale and four were on the "disagree" side.

Table 1

Means and Standard Deviations for Items on Beliefs Supporting the Plan

Supporting Beliefs	M	SD
3. It is in our best interest to help	4.01	1.29
6. Community can make plan work	2.79	1.74
7. Obligated because of harm now being done	2.89	1.76
8. Plan gives homeless hope	3.25	1.52
9. Tight security would prevent crime	2.02	1.55
12. Plan less costly than motel rooms	4.12	1.09
15. Meets homeless needs better than motels	3.93	1.27
16. It's racist not to support plan	2.20	1.82
19. Property values won't necessarily fall	2.05	1.70
24. Services help homeless support themselves	2.94	1.40
25. Plan needed until there is a better plan	3.63	1.41

Note. Replies were scaled from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), with 2.5 as the neutral point.

Table 2

Means and Standard Deviations for Items on Beliefs Opposing the Plan

Opposing Beliefs	M	SD
1. Some homeless not from our community	2.88	1.90
2. Plan will bring crime and drugs	2.86	1.64
4. Property values will decrease	3.22	1.67
5. Schools can't handle all the children	3.05	1.67
10. Too short term	3.03	1.48
11. Too far away from stores and services	3.44	1.38
13. Leaders don't care about community	2.40	1.70
14. Leaders don't care about the homeless	2.03	1.52
17. Leaders won't keep promises of safety	3.15	1.58
18. Leaders did not consult community	3.48	1.45
20. Plan would upset social balance	2.54	1.64
21. No housing available after homeless leave	3.96	1.10
22. Plan will strain services like police	2.88	1.66
23. Busing children is bad for them	3.11	1.38
26. Location will be bad for the college	2.35	1.85
27. Plan will make homeless more dependent	2.07	1.72

Note. Replies were scaled from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree), with 2.5 as the neutral point.

Knowledge Scale

Seven items concerned information about the HELP II plan. Since the first of these items asked about sources of information and did not directly ascertain whether the respondent knew something about the plan, it was not included in this scale. The remaining six items requested actual knowledge about the HELP II plan. Cronbach's coefficient alpha for these items was .80, indicating that the items made up an internally consistent knowledge scale. Out of a possible total score of 6.00 the mean score was 2.90 with a standard deviation of 1.99. Table 3 presents each of these items with the percent correct on each item.

Table 3

Percent Correct for Items on Information About the HELP Plan

Item	% Correct
2. HELP II plan's location?	66
3. Who would be eligible to live there?	44
4. What services are planned for residents?	39
5. How many units of housing are planned?	44
6. Is housing to be temporary or permanent?	76a
7. Who is supposed to run it?	21

a. This is a dichotomous choice item and would be expected to be correct by chance 50% of the time. All other items were fill-ins.

Community Commitment

The questionnaire had eight items for measuring respondents' commitment to their community. Eighty-two percent of the respondents planned to remain in the community indefinitely, with the remaining 18 percent planning to leave within the next few years. Half the sample said they felt very attached to the community, 40 percent were at least moderately attached, and 10 percent were either slightly or not at all attached. Fifty-eight

percent said they had an equal number of friends living inside and outside of the community, 23 percent reported that most of their friends were outside of the community, and 19 percent said most of their friends were within the community. Thirty-one percent reported engaging in no community activities, 20 percent in one activity per month, 23 percent in two, 17 percent in three, and 9 percent in four or more. The mean activity frequency was 3.3 times per month and the median was 2.0. Ninety-six percent of the respondents owned their homes, while four percent rented. The mean number of years respondents had been at their present address was 17.2 and the median was 14.5. The mean number of years they had lived in the community was 20.0 and the median was 18.5.

A Commitment to the Community score was derived by combining these eight items, which seemed to have face validity for this concept. The individual items generally did not correlate significantly with each other, except for two pairs of overlapping items (number of community activities and frequency of community activities, and number of years at present address and number of years in the community). The alpha coefficient for the eight items was .48, indicating only marginal reliability.

Empathy

Two measures of empathy were used. One utilized three items from the attitude scale, Items 2, 13, and 14 (reversed). These items suggested sympathetic identification with the homeless (or lack of identification as in Item 14). The second method was based on the assumption that low-income status and racial minority status

would enhance one's sympathetic identification with the homeless. It combined two indicators: family income under \$40,000 and non-white race. However these responses were not correlated, $r = .00$. Family income under \$40,000 was chosen, because it was lowest cut off point that would allow for a large enough number of respondents to reasonably produce significant results.

Proximity to Proposed Facility Site

Proximity to the proposed site for the facility was measured in four ways: 1. whether or not a respondent lived within the psychological proximity boundaries shown in the map on p. 114, 2. distance between the respondent's residence and the site as estimated by the respondent, 3. actual distance between the respondent's residential address and the site, and 4. whether or not respondent lived within the Valhalla school district (also shown in the map on p. 114). All four measures correlated significantly with each other (see Table 4).

Table 4

Correlations of Four Measures of Proximity to the HELP II Plan

	1	2	3	4
1. Psychological Boundaries	1.00			
2. Estimated Distance	.31	1.00		
3. Actual Distance	.40	.71	1.00	
4. Valhalla District	.45	.29	.35	1.00

Note. N = 154, except for Estimated Distance, where n = 144.
For all correlations $p < .001$.

Acceptance of the HELP II Plan

Respondents were asked to state degree of acceptance or rejection of the HELP II plan. Table 5 shows the breakdown of scores for the six possible responses.

Table 5

Degree of Acceptance of the HELP II plan

Value	Frequency	%	Cumulative %
0 (Strongly against plan)	36	23.4	23.4
1 (Against plan)	11	7.1	30.5
2 (Leaning away from plan)	16	10.4	40.9
3 (Leaning toward plan)	30	19.5	60.4
4 (For plan)	25	16.2	76.6
5 (Strongly for plan)	36	23.4	100.0

Note: The higher the value the greater the acceptance.

Voluntary Comments

Respondents were given the opportunity to comment about the HELP II plan or the homeless situation on three pages of the questionnaire (pp. 4, 7, & 15). Since these comments were not required and varied greatly from respondent to respondent they could be used as a measure of behavior. Of the 154 respondents, 27 percent wrote no words, 47 percent wrote from 1 to 100 words, and 26 percent wrote from 101 to 709 words. The mean was 67 words.

Predictions

Predictions 1-3

In testing predictions, all significance levels for correlations and t tests are based on two-tailed tests. Predictions 1-3 stated that values, attitudes, and beliefs would be related to willingness to accept the HELP II plan. Specifically, it was predicted for values that HE scores would be positively related and PE scores negatively related to acceptance, for attitudes that Pro-Homeless scores would be positively related and Anti-Homeless scores negatively related to acceptance, and for beliefs that Supporting Beliefs scores would be positively related and Opposing Beliefs scores negatively related to acceptance. Results are presented in Table 6. As can be seen, all of the predicted correlations are significant and all relationships were in the expected direction.

Table 6

Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs Correlated with Plan Acceptance

	HE	PE	Pro- Homeless	Anti- Homeless	Supporting Beliefs	Opposing Beliefs
HELP II						
Acceptance	.44	-.40	.55	-.67	.89	-.87

Note: All ps are below .001. All ns = 154.

Prediction 4

Prediction 4 stated that the more directly affected one might feel by the proposed HELP II plan, the more resistance one would have to the plan. Proximity to the plan site and whether or not one had children in the Valhalla schools were included here. Proximity was measured by the three indices of distance and by whether or not the respondent lived in the Valhalla school district. As shown in Table 7, all measures were significantly related to degree of acceptance of the HELP II plan. That is, respondents were more willing to accept the HELP II plan if they lived outside rather than inside the proximal boundaries or outside rather than inside the Valhalla school district. Also, they were more willing to accept the

Table 7

Correlations Between HELP II Acceptance and Four Proximity Measures

	Psychological Boundaries	Estimated Distance	Actual Distance	Valhalla District
HELP II Acceptance	.34	.27	.41	.39

Note: All *ps* are below .001. All *ns* = 154, except for Estimated Distance, where *n* = 144.

plan the farther away they lived from the proposed site, whether distance was based on their own estimates or objective measurements. To further illustrate the relationship between psychological proximity and acceptance of the HELP II plan, Table 8 presents a cross tabulation of the number of respondents living inside or outside of the psychological boundaries of proximity who accepted or rejected the plan. Those living outside the boundaries agreed with the plan almost 2:1 and those inside the boundaries disagreed almost 2:1.

Table 8

Crosstabs: Residence Inside/Outside Boundaries with HELP II Plan Acceptance/Rejection

	Residence		
	Inside Boundaries	Outside Boundaries	Total
HELP II			
Accept	12(.35)	79(.66)	91
Reject	22(.65)	41(.34)	63
Total	34	120	154

Note: Numbers in parentheses are proportions for those inside and outside of the boundaries.

To compare the effect that having children in the Valhalla school district would have on acceptance of the HELP II plan, those living within the Valhalla school district were divided into those with and those without children and means were compared. Based on an acceptance score of 0 to 5, those with children, $n = 10$, had a mean acceptance of 1.50, and those without children, $n = 17$, had a mean of .88. Using a t test comparison the difference between these means was not significant.

Prediction 5

Prediction 5 stated that measures of empathy would be related to acceptance of the HELP II plan. Empathy as measured by three attitude items was significantly related to acceptance of the plan, $r = .26$. However, there is no independent evidence that these three items measure empathy as distinguished from a more general pro-homeless attitude. Measuring empathy indirectly as minority racial identity and low family income did not correlate with acceptance of the plan, $r = .03$, ns. Since income and race did not correlate with each other they were looked at individually. Neither was significantly related to acceptance of the plan; for income $r = .10$, and for race $r = .12$, both ns. However, since there were only 18 non-white respondents the results remain somewhat inconclusive.

Empathy was also expected to be related to beliefs about HELP II. The correlation between the attitude measure of empathy and beliefs was $.31$, $p = .000$.

Prediction 6

Prediction 6 stated that the more committed one was to the community, the stronger one's feelings would be about the HELP II plan and the more knowledge one would have about the plan. Community commitment was marginally related to the amount of information respondents had about the plan, $r = .17$, $p = .04$. But community commitment was not significantly related to degree of acceptance of the plan. Since the reliability of the composite community commitment score was low, the items were looked at individually. "Number of years at present address" and "Number of

years in the community" were marginally related to degree of acceptance or rejection of the HELP II plan, $r = .16$, $p = .06$, and $r = .13$, $p = .10$, respectively. "Frequency of participation in community activities" showed a weak trend in this direction, $r = .13$, $p = .13$.

Prediction 7

Prediction 7 stated that the closer one lived to the proposed HELP II site the better informed one would be about the plan. To test this prediction, each of the four proximity measures was correlated with respondents' total information scores. As shown in Table 9, all correlations were significant except that involving actual distance.

Table 9

Correlations Between Amount of Information and Proximity Measures

	Psychological Boundaries	Estimated Distance	Actual Distance	Valhalla District
Information on HELP II	.33*	.25*	.10	.21*

Note. N = 154, except for Estimated Distance, where n = 144.

* $p < .02$

To further support this, meeting attendance where information was dispensed showed $r = 3.1$ for those within the boundaries and Valhalla school district, but for those outside the boundaries and the school district, $r = .2$. The correlations for number of meetings attended with the four proximity measures are shown in Table 10.

Table 10

Correlations Between Number of Meetings Attended and Proximity Measures

	Psychological Boundaries	Estimated Distance	Actual Distance	Valhalla District
Meetings				
Attended	.46**	.29**	.24*	.48**

Note. $N = 154$, except for Estimated Distance, where $n = 144$.

* $p < .002$ ** $p < .001$

Next, information items 2 through 6 were looked at individually and respondents within and outside of the psychological boundaries were compared for differences in knowledge about the HELP II plan. A chi-square procedure was used for each comparison. Results are shown in Table 11. On all items the proportion of correct responses were significantly higher for those within the boundaries close to the HELP II site than for those outside those boundaries.

Table 11

Number of Correct Responses to Each Information Item by Residents
Inside and Outside Boundaries

Information Item	Psychological Boundaries		Diff.	Chi-square Value
	Inside n = 34	Outside n = 120		
2. Location?	30(.88)	72(.60)	.28	9.44**
3. Eligibility?	20(.59)	47(.39)	.20	4.17*
4. Services?	20(.59)	40(.33)	.26	7.24**
5. N apartments?	25(.74)	42(.35)	.39	16.00**
6. Temp or perm?	33(.97)	84(.70)	.27	10.63**
7. Who runs it?	12(.35)	21(.18)	.17	4.98*

Note. Numbers in parentheses are proportions.

*p < .05, **p < .01.

Predictions 8 and 9

Predictions 8 and 9 stated that value, attitude, and belief scores would be interrelated so that Protestant Ethic (PE), anti-homeless attitudes, and beliefs opposing the HELP II plan would all be positively related, and Humanitarian-Egalitarianism (HE), pro-homeless attitudes, and beliefs supporting the HELP II plan would all be positively related. The correlations, as presented in Table 12, fully uphold both sets of predictions. In addition, PE, anti-homeless, and opposing beliefs were always negatively related to HE, pro-homeless, and supporting beliefs.

Table 12

Interoorrelations of Value, Attitude, and Belief Scores

	1	2	3	4	5	6
1. PE	1.00					
2. Anti-Homeless	.69	1.00				
3. Opposing Beliefs	.47	.74	1.00			
4. HE	-.29	-.44	-.42	1.00		
5. Pro-Homeless	-.57	-.66	-.54	.56	1.00	
6. Support Beliefs	-.42	-.72	-.88	.50	.61	1.00

Note: All $ps < .001$.

Prediction 10

Prediction 10 stated that those living closest to the site of HELP II will have more negative beliefs about the facility and fewer positive beliefs than those living farther away, but proximity would not have an effect on values or attitudes toward the homeless. Table 13 shows the relationships between the value, attitude, and belief scales on the one hand, and measures of distance from the proposed HELP II site on the other hand. As predicted, those living closest to the proposed site of the HELP II plan have the strongest beliefs opposing the plan, and the weakest beliefs supporting it. But not in keeping with predictions, proximity to the HELP II site was also correlated with attitudes toward the homeless and even with values in some instances. Living inside or outside the proximal boundaries and also reported distance were most in keeping with predictions (i.e. significantly related to beliefs, but not to attitudes or values). Living inside or outside the Valhalla school district was related to beliefs and attitudes, but not to values. Actual distance showed a relationship to beliefs, attitudes, and values.

Table 13

Correlations of Value, Attitude, and Belief Scores with Proximity Measures

	Correlations			
	Psychological Boundaries	Estimated Distance	Actual Distance	Valhalla District
HE	.12	.11	.21**	.06
PE	.01	-.05	-.17*	-.12
Pro-Homeless	.08	.11	.30***	.16*
Anti-Homeless	-.14	-.13	-.33***	-.23**
Supporting Beliefs	.33***	.24**	.40***	.34***
Opposing Beliefs	-.29***	-.26**	-.41***	-.38***

Note. The ns were 154 for all correlations except those involving the Estimated Distance measure, where n = 144.

*p < .05, **p < .01, ***p < .001.

In order to look further at relationships between differences in proximity on the one hand, and on the other hand scale scores, HELP II plan acceptance/rejection, and number of voluntary comments written on the questionnaire, t test comparisons of means were done. Table 14 demonstrates that results were generally as predicted. Not in keeping with predictions but consistent with correlation results shown in Table 13, those within the Valhalla school district had significantly more negative attitudes toward the homeless than those outside the district.

In addition, the proportion of respondents, inside and outside the boundaries, who said they most often agreed with the Liberal or Democratic party was compared with the proportions who agreed with the Conservative or Republican party. Chi-square tests showed no significant differences. Political preferences were examined to eliminate the possibility that differences in the relationship between proximity and scale scores were due to political views. Chi-square comparisons were also done for religion, income, and education, inside and outside the boundaries, and these too proved not significant.

Table 14

Comparisons: Proximity Effects on HELP II Acceptance, Beliefs, Attitudes, Values, and Voluntary Comments

	Psychological Boundaries				Valhalla District			
	In	Out			In	Out		
	(n=34)	(n=120)	diff	t	(n=27)	(n=127)	diff	t
HELP II								
Accept								
M	1.5	3.0	1.5	4.41**	1.1	3.0	1.9	5.19**
SD	1.9	1.7			1.7	1.7		
Belief								
M	-1.1	.6	1.7	4.12**	-1.5	.6	2.1	4.88**
SD	2.2	2.1			1.8	2.1		
Attitude								
M	1.2	1.6	.4	1.45	.8	1.7	.9	2.73*
SD	1.5	1.5			1.6	1.5		
HE								
M	31.9	34.3	2.4	1.54	32.7	34.0	1.3	.77
SD	8.8	7.5			6.3	8.1		
PE								
M	27.9	27.6	-.3	-.17	29.9	27.2	-2.7	-1.46
SD	10.1	8.4			9.5	8.6		
Comments								
M	123.0	50.7	-72.3	-3.92**	83.9	63.0	-20.9	-.99
SD	146.8	74.4			85.0	102.0		

Note. Belief scores represent the difference between supporting beliefs and opposing beliefs. Attitude scores represent the difference between pro-homeless and anti-homeless attitudes.

*p < .01, **p < .001.

Prediction 11

Two predictions involved ambivalence scores. Prediction 11 stated that those high on value ambivalence would tend to be polarized in the extent to which they accepted or rejected the HELP II plan. This should be reflected in greater between-subjects variance of acceptance scores by subjects relatively high in ambivalence than in subjects lower in ambivalence. This was tested by splitting the HE scores and the PE scores at their respective medians to create four groups of subjects: high HE/high PE, high HE/low PE, low HE/high PE, and low HE/low PE. Subjects in the high HE/high PE group were defined as ambivalent.

In order to look at differences in variance univariate homogeneity of variance tests were done using the high-low PE and high-low HE scores. For the total population Cochran's test $\chi^2(38,4) = .27$, $p = 1.00$, and Bartlett-Box test $F(3,37401) = .23$, $p = .87$, both show that the variances were not significantly different. For those outside the boundaries Cochran's test $\chi^2(29,4) = .30$, $p = .66$, and Bartlett-Box test $F(3,22594) = 1.40$, $p = .24$, again show that the variances were not significantly different. For those within the boundaries Cochran's test $\chi^2(8,4) = .32$, $p = .95$, and Bartlett-Box test $F(3,1366) = .14$, $p = .94$, show that the variances were not significantly different in this case either. The standard deviations for the four ambivalence groups in three boundary conditions are presented in Tables 15-17.

Table 15

Means and Standard Deviations on HELP II Acceptance for High-Low Value Groups in Total Sample

Protestant Ethic				
Humanitarian-				
Egalitarian Value				
		High	Low	Total
	M	2.63	3.77	3.32
High	SD	1.69	1.55	1.69
	M	1.48	2.79	2.04
Low	SD	1.72	1.75	1.84
	M	1.95	3.36	2.68
Total	SD	1.79	1.69	1.87

Note. Possible range of scores was from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Cell *n*'s ranged from 30 to 47.

Table 16

Means and Standard Deviations on HELP II Acceptance for High-Low Value Groups Outside Boundaries

Protestant Ethic				
Humanitarian-				
Egalitarian Value				
		High	Low	Total
High	M	2.88	4.10	3.62
	SD	1.65	1.20	1.51
Low	M	1.70	3.27	2.39
	SD	1.65	1.43	1.73
Total	M	2.19	3.76	3.02
	SD	1.74	1.35	1.73

Note. Possible range of scores was from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Cell n's ranged from 24 to 37.

Table 17

Means and Standard Deviations on HELP II Acceptance for High-Low Value Groups Inside Boundaries

Protestant Ethic				
Humanitarian-				
Egalitarian Value				
		High	Low	Total
High	M	1.67	2.50	2.19
	SD	1.63	2.07	1.91
Low	M	.82	1.00	.89
	SD	1.83	1.73	1.75
Total	M	1.12	1.88	1.50
	SD	1.76	2.03	1.91

Note. Possible range of scores was from 0 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree). Cell n's ranged from 6 to 11.

Prediction 12

Prediction 12 stated that ambivalence would show a relationship to the number of optional comments made on the questionnaire. It was expected that ambivalent respondents would write more optional comments than nonambivalent respondents. As for Prediction 11, respondents were divided into four groups based on high and low HE and PE scores and 2x2 ANOVAs were used to test this prediction.

A 2x2 ANOVA for the entire sample showed no main effects for either value and no interaction. Table 18 shows the means and standard deviations for number of optional words written by each ambivalence group in the total population.

For those outside the psychological boundaries there was a significant main effect for values $F(2,116) = 4.15$, $p = .018$. This effect is seen mostly for Humanitarian-Egalitarianism, $F(1,116) = 6.51$, $p = .012$, with only a trend for the Protestant Ethic, $F(1,116) = 3.05$, $p = .084$. The interaction of these values was not significant. Means and standard deviations are shown in Table 19.

For those within the psychological boundaries, ANOVA results show no main effects but a trend toward an interaction effect, $F(1,33) = 2.656$, $p = .114$. Table 20 shows the breakdown of means and standard deviations for the four ambivalence groups. It can be seen that the most ambivalent group tended to write the fewest comments.

Table 18

Mean Number of Words Written: Optional Comments for High-Low Value Groups in Total Sample

Protestant Ethic				
Humanitarian-				
Egalitarian Value				
		High	Low	Total
High	M	71.53	72.06	71.86
	SD	104.42	93.10	96.99
Low	M	77.73	39.88	61.51
	SD	123.22	58.45	101.91
Total	M	75.22	58.79	66.68
	SD	115.26	81.76	99.29

Note. Cell n's ranged from 30 to 47.

Table 19

Mean Number of Words Written: Optional Comments for High-Low Value Groups Outside Boundaries

Protestant Ethic				
Humanitarian-				
Egalitarian Value				
		High	Low	Total
High	M	80.58	56.05	65.70
	SD	112.96	73.24	90.86
Low	M	45.18	22.62	35.24
	SD	56.99	30.87	48.28
Total	M	60.09	42.25	50.73
	SD	86.07	61.44	74.38

Note. Cell n's ranged from 24 to 37.

Table 20

Mean Number of Words Written: Optional Comments for High-Low Value
Groups Inside Boundaries

Protestant Ethic			
Humanitarian-			
Egalitarian Value	High	Low	Total
M	35.33	131.30	95.31
High SD	50.81	133.74	117.88
M	175.36	104.00	147.61
Low SD	202.27	90.34	168.01
M	125.94	120.06	123.00
Total SD	176.45	115.39	146.83

Note. Cell n's ranged from 6 to 11.

No optional comments were written by 27 percent of the total sample, by 30 percent of those outside the psychological boundaries, and by 15 percent of those inside the boundaries.

To be sure that value ambivalence was not measuring an acquiescent response, ambivalence was looked at in relationship to education. A 2x2 ANOVA found that education was significantly related to PE, $F(1,152) = 20.32$, $p = .000$, but not to HE nor to an interaction of the values.

Prediction Thirteen

It was predicted that the order of importance of the explanatory variables for predicting acceptance of the HELP II plan would be: Proximity of residence to proposed site, beliefs about the plan, attitudes toward the homeless, and general values. A multiple regression analysis using actual distance from the proposed site, the total belief score, the total attitude score, and each of the value scores was done. The only variable found to contribute significantly to the equation determining acceptance of the HELP II facility was the total belief score. Since the belief score is intercorrelated with attitude and value scores and also strongly correlated with proximity scores this multiple regression does not really give more information than the Pearson correlations. This suggests that the belief score may be combining the impact of the other scores in predicting degree of acceptance of the HELP II facility.

Another multiple regression analysis eliminating the belief scores resulted in a beta for total attitude scores of .59, $t(2,151)$

= 9.46, $p = .000$; compared with a beta for distance from site of .21, $t(2,151) = 3.29$, $p = .001$. These results suggest that attitudes have the greatest impact on acceptance of the HELP II plan and distance from the proposed site would be next. Neither the PE nor HE value was considered significant in the equation, but correlations between values and attitudes may again be affecting these results.

Multiple regressions were done using the distance measure and each of the value scales separately. Using distance and HE resulted in a beta for HE of .37, $t(2,151) = 5.29$, $p = .000$; beta for distance was .33, $t(2,151) = 4.81$, $p = .000$. Using distance and PE resulted in a beta for PE of $-.34$, $t(2,151) = -4.86$, $p = .000$; and beta for distance was .35, $t(2,151) = 5.04$, $p = .000$. Since values are the least highly correlated scales with distance measures, these last two multiple regressions probably give the most accurate idea of relative contribution to HELP II acceptance.

To further examine these results several demographic items, converted to dummy variables when necessary, were entered in a hierarchical multiple regression with the distance and value measures. Demographic items were significant in determining HELP plan acceptance, $F(13,129) = 2.28$, $p = .010$, with religion and political alignment contributing the most, but values and distance remain the strongest contributors, $F(2,129) = 23.03$, $p = .000$. With demographics included, beta and t values are slightly diminished for values and increased for distance, (beta for HE of .28, $t(15,129) = 3.67$, $p = .000$, beta for distance .35, $t(15,129) = 4.82$, $p = .000$;

beta for PE of $-.28$, $t(15,129) = -3.55$, $p = .001$, beta for distance $.39$, $t(15,129) = 5.37$, $p = .000$). This is likely due to the correlation of significant demographics (religion and political party) with values.

A 2x2 ANOVA looking at the value scales and degree of acceptance of the HELP plan showed clear main effects (consistent with correlations shown in Table 6); for PE, $F(1,150) = 19.95$, $p = .000$; for HE, $F(1,150) = 15.11$, $p = .000$, but no interaction effect, see Table 15. When this is broken down for those inside and outside the designated boundaries it can be seen that most of the effect of the values is found outside the boundaries. ANOVA results for those outside the boundaries also show main effects; for PE, $F(1,116) = 26.32$, $p = .000$; for HE, $F(1,116) = 13.42$, $p = .000$, and no interaction effect, see Table 16. But for those inside the boundaries neither main effects nor interactions were found. There was a trend for HE, $F(1,30) = 11.21$, $p = .081$, see Table 17. (Also see correlation Tables 21 and 22.)

Table 21

Values, Attitudes, and Beliefs Correlated with Plan Acceptance for Those Outside the Boundaries

	HE	PE	Pro- Homeless	Anti- Homeless	Supporting Beliefs	Opposing Beliefs
HELP II						
Acceptance	.42	-.50	.63	-.71	.89	-.86

Note: All p s are below .001. All n s = 120.

Table 22

Values, Attitudes and Beliefs Correlated with Plan Acceptance for Those Inside the Boundaries

	HE	PE	Pro- Homeless	Anti- Homeless	Supporting Beliefs	Opposing Beliefs
HELP II						
Acceptance	.44**	-.21	.31*	-.52***	.87***	-.87***

Note: *** p < .001, ** p < .01, * p < .05. All n s = 34.

These results suggest that for those outside the immediate area of the HELP II site values play a strong part in the decision to accept or reject a facility, but for those who live close to the site values, and particularly the Protestant ethic, have less potency.

Other Results

Belief Scale

All belief items were highly correlated with respondents' degree of acceptance or rejection of the HELP II plan. Twenty-two of the 27 belief items were significantly different for those inside and outside the psychological boundaries. The five items that were not different were 1, 3, 4, 14, and 19.

Demographic Items

Demographic items that showed some interesting patterns included the relationship between degree of acceptance of the HELP II plan and religion. Catholics in this sample were most likely to reject the plan: 57 percent rejected and 43 percent accepted. Jews were more accepting: 37 percent versus 63 percent. And Protestants were the most accepting: 29 percent versus 71 percent. A one-way ANOVA done on HELP II acceptance scores showed significant main effects for religion, $F(3,147) = 5.17$, $p = .002$. To be sure that the high Protestant acceptance was not affected by the relatively large number of non-whites in this group, religion and HELP II acceptance was looked at eliminating non-whites. The proportion of Protestant acceptors remained high, 68 percent, and a one way ANOVA was significant, $F(3,130) = 4.41$, $p = .005$.

Political groups were divided into Liberal or Democrat versus Conservative or Republican. The politically liberal group was more likely to accept the HELP II plan (29 percent rejected and 71 percent accepted), compared to the more conservative group (64 percent versus 36 percent). A t test comparison of HELP II acceptance means showed these political groups to be significantly different, $t(131) = 4.02$, $p = .000$.

Education level correlated significantly with HELP II acceptance, $r = .23$, $p = .002$, and the order of group rejection-acceptance was as would be expected from this correlation with the exception of a reversal of "high school graduate" with those that had "some college" (see Table 23).

Table 23

Education Level and Rejection-Acceptance of HELP II Plan

	Some H.S.	H.S. Grad	Some Coll	Coll Grad	Grad/Prof
Reject	2	9	15	18	18
Accept	0	12	9	26	44

Contact With Homeless

Statements made by respondents about their contact with the homeless in the past year (item 5 on p.4) were coded for being positive, negative, or neutral by two coders. The reliability for the two coders was .92. For the six statements where there was disagreement as to which category they belonged in, disagreement was discussed until agreement was reached. Correlation between type of contact and degree of acceptance of the HELP II plan was significant, $r = .34$, $p = .000$. The more positive respondent's reported contact the more likely he or she was to accept the facility.

Correlations of Comments

Written comments on the questionnaire were recorded by counting the number of words written. These comments correlated significantly with the designated boundaries measure, $r = .30$, $p = .000$, i.e. those inside the boundaries tended to write more than those outside the boundaries. Tables 19 and 20 show that this was true for all but the ambivalent group in which the trend was reversed.

Content of Comments

Comments made on page 7 and 15 were reviewed for content. Of the 80 respondents who wrote comments on these pages, 41 rejected the HELP II plan and 39 accepted it. Most of the comments were repetitions or elaborations of issues mentioned in questionnaire items. Respondents who rejected the plan frequently presented alternate plans; 21 of the 41 rejecters did this. Protestant ethic

statements such as references to one's own successful struggle against economic hardship, or criticism of homeless populations' laziness, were also common in this group (9 out of 41). And they suggested that other communities should house the homeless 17 out of 41 times, most often poorer communities (12 out of 17).

Those who accepted the HELP II plan tended to express doubts about it when given this opportunity. This occurred in 24 out of 39 cases and was expressed in terms of concerns the neighborhood or schools would be overwhelmed, fears of crime and drugs, or that the plan was inadequate to significantly affect the homeless problem.

Similar in both rejecting and accepting groups were statements about the need for permanent, affordable housing. Rejecters mentioned this 13 out of 41 times, whereas accepters noted it 16 out of 39 times. Both groups were also concerned about the neighborhood or schools being overwhelmed by the plan: 17 out of 41 for rejecters and 12 out of 39 for accepters.

Summary of Results

Sample

The sample of 154 respondents was generally made up of well educated, affluent, home-owners who were politically liberal, and white. Those living within the proximal boundaries surrounding the HELP II site numbered 34, leaving 120 outside those boundaries.

Scales and Measures

Paired scales tended to be negatively correlated, i.e. HE with PE, pro-homeless with anti-homeless attitudes, supporting with opposing beliefs. This was least true for values. Value, attitude,

and belief scales were highly reliable. People were generally sympathetic toward the homeless, and inclined to agree with both supporting and opposing beliefs about the HELP II plan. Scores on the knowledge scale averaged less than 50 percent correct. The community commitment scale was only marginally reliable, and the empathy measures proved unreliable. Proximity measures correlated significantly with each other. Forty-one percent of the respondents rejected the plan while 59 percent accepted it.

Predictions

As predicted, values, attitudes, and beliefs were all related to degree of acceptance of the HELP II plan. Also as predicted, the four proximity measures were all related to acceptance of the plan. Expected relationships between community commitment and degree of plan acceptance were marginal at most, as were community commitment and amount of knowledge about the plan. Proximity measures were generally predictive of amount of knowledge respondents had about the plan and of frequency of HELP II plan meeting attendance.

Value, attitude, and belief scales were interrelated with each other as expected, so that HE, pro-homeless attitudes, and positive beliefs about the plan were correlated, while PE, anti-homeless attitudes, and negative beliefs about the plan were correlated. As predicted, all four proximity measures correlated with belief scores. But not as predicted two of those measures, Valhalla school district and actual distance, correlated with attitudes and in one case with values.

Ambivalence was expected to affect polarization of HELP II acceptance. This did not prove to be true for either the total population or for those inside and outside the proximal boundaries. Ambivalence was also expected to affect the number of optional comments made on the questionnaire, so that ambivalent respondents would write more than non-ambivalent respondents. Those within the proximal boundaries showed only a trend for an effect of ambivalence with no other trends or significant results found. The trend contradicted the prediction.

It was predicted that proximity would have the greatest effect on respondents' acceptance of the HELP II plan, while beliefs, attitudes, and values, would show less. Intercorrelations of scales with each other and with proximity measures made this difficult to sort out, but results suggest that proximity and values both have strong effects on plan acceptance.

4. DISCUSSION

Predictions

Major Findings

The purpose of the present study was to identify possible contributing factors to community acceptance or rejection of a facility for the homeless. It was predicted that the Protestant ethic and humanitarian-egalitarianism value orientations, pro- and anti-homeless attitudes, and supporting and opposing beliefs about a proposed facility for the homeless, would all be related to willingness to accept a planned facility for the homeless in one's community. These predictions were confirmed, but since the six scales were all related to each other the question remains as to what drives each of them.

It was also expected, and demonstrated, that living close to the proposed site of the plan or in the same school district would be predictive of plan acceptance. This is in keeping with Rothbart's (1973) findings that social injustice is more easily perceived in situations distant from self than in situations proximate to self. Since proximity clearly influenced beliefs about the planned facility, beliefs appear to have been arrived at both from underlying values and attitudes as well as from proximal issues, and the influence of objective information on beliefs in this case was small. Further supporting this, results for the information measure suggest that overall community members did not know very much about the HELP II plan ($m = 2.9$ out of a possible 6). The question of the relative strength of the factors contributing to plan acceptance, and how they interact, remains.

The relationship between the value orientations and attitudes toward the homeless is in keeping with Katz and Hass' (1988) findings on values and attitudes toward blacks. The relationship of values and attitudes with plan acceptance is consistent with Sears' claim that underlying values are important in people's reaction to community issues (Kinder & Sears, 1981; Sears et al., 1979; Sears et al., 1980). But the relationship between proximal measures and plan acceptance suggests that Sears likely underestimates the contribution of self-interest issues. Herek's (1986) neofunctional theory of attitudes, that incorporates both expressive and evaluative functions of attitudes, provides a better explanation of current findings.

Relative importance of these factors was difficult to assess because of their interrelationships. Multiple regression analysis showed values, attitudes, and distance were all strong contributors to the degree of plan acceptance, but the correlations between the factors complicated interpretation. It appears that values and distance contributed about equally to acceptance.

Looking at the contribution of values for people living close to the proposed site (i.e., inside psychological boundaries), it appears that PE has little effect on plan acceptance, although HE still maintains an effect. In other words, despite living close to the site, a strong positive attitude toward the homeless or strong HE value might override the tendency to reject the facility. This can be seen in the 12 out of 34 respondents who lived within the psychological boundaries and still agreed with the HELP II plan. It was also found that for those within the boundaries estimated

distance correlated with plan acceptance, $r = .36$, $p = .02$, so that relative distance might be a contributing factor even within a one mile boundary around the plan site.

Other Factors Contributing to Plan Acceptance or Rejection

Empathy. Since no separate empathy factor was found in a factor analysis of attitudes toward the homeless, the total scale might be considered a measure of empathy for the homeless. If this were so, the prediction that empathy determines degree of acceptance of the HELP II plan would be true. Non-white ethnic group correlated at an almost significant level with acceptance of the plan, $r = .12$, $p = .06$, and is worth exploring with a larger population. Crosstabulations of race with acceptance of the plan show that 44 percent ($n = 8$) of the non-white respondents strongly agreed with the plan while only 21 percent ($n = 28$) of whites did so (see Table 24). (This race difference could not have been due to differences in where white and non-white respondents lived because, in fact, the proportion of non-whites living close to the site was greater than the proportion of whites living close to the site.)

Table 24

Crosstabs: Ethnicity with HELP II Acceptance

HELP II							
Ethnicity	Reject			Accept			Total
	0	1	2	3	4	5	
White	33	11	14	26	24	28	136
Non-white	3	0	2	4	1	8	18

The issue of income as a contributor to empathy for the homeless is unclear. Denial and lack of empathy are possible when the connection to others through similarity is unpleasant. In this sample lower income groups tended to be older retired people who are likely to feel particularly fearful of crime and thus empathy through vulnerability might be cancelled out by feeling of threat.

Community commitment. Community commitment was marginally related to the amount of information people had about the plan suggesting this measure was tapping something, but it was not related to the intensity of feelings people had about the plan. The

two items measuring length of time respondents had lived in the area had the strongest relationship to intensity of feelings about the plan.

Reliability of measures. Neither community commitment nor the empathy measures were very reliable. Commitment to the community may have less to do with external measures than to an internal sense of community, and so was not being measured by the items in the present questionnaire.

Other Predictions

The prediction that ambivalence would affect polarization of HELP II acceptance was not demonstrated. This prediction was based on the notion of response amplification as a way of dealing with inconsistencies in one's values and attitudes (e.g. Katz, 1981). Another opportunity for managing this discomfort was provided by space to write optional comments on the questionnaire. Since conflict was expected to be strongest for those high in ambivalence and within the proximal boundaries, this group was predicted to write the most.

Although significant interactions of the values were not found, a trend was noted for those within the boundaries. The lack of more than a trend may be due in part to the small numbers in each cell for those within the boundaries. Interestingly, on inspection of Table 20, we can see that rather than writing the most the ambivalent group wrote the least. It's possible that having a strong Protestant ethic outlook and also a strong humanitarian-egalitarian outlook and being in a situation where there may be a

felt threat to one's self interest produced psychological inhibition and withdrawal rather than an amplification response.

It is important to note that this was not a controlled experimental situation and so there were likely many natural ways for dealing with the discomfort caused by the situation. For example, there were, and continue to be, community meetings, neighbors to talk to, and opportunities to write letters to the editors of local newspapers. There are also religious and charitable organizations that provide help to the homeless through community volunteer efforts.

Other Findings

Demographic variables

The finding that political conservatism correlates with plan rejection is consistent with past findings that the the Protestant ethic correlates with political conservatism (Feather, 1984). If those with a strong Protestant ethic are likely to be politically conservative and also likely to reject a facility for the homeless, then it is likely that those who are politically conservative will reject a facility for the homeless. Similarly, the positive relationship between education and liberal social and political views found in the past (Adorno, T.W., Frenkel-Brunswik, E., Levinson, D.J., & Sanford, R.N., 1950; Hyman & Sheatsley, 1954) is supported by the current finding that education correlates with plan acceptance.

Degree of positive contact with the homeless correlated with plan acceptance and this is in keeping with Benedict et al.'s (1988) finding that speaking and giving money to the homeless correlates

with favorable attitudes toward the homeless. Since it is not known what determines positive or negative contacts with the homeless, (since the causality could be in either or both directions), the meaning of this correlation is difficult to interpret.

Having children was not correlated with plan acceptance except for those within the psychological boundaries, and then the correlation was in the opposite direction of what was expected ($r = .45$, $p = .002$).

Independence of Scales

The expected degree of independence of pro and anti attitude scales, and PE and HE value orientations, did not prove true. Considering the likely polarizing nature of the issue under study, i.e., putting a facility for the homeless in the community, this may not be surprising. Katz and Hass' attitudes toward blacks scales (1988) were actually designed to be orthogonal by eliminating items that were correlated with the opposite scale, and that was not done for the attitude scales in this case. But the lack of complete independence of the value scales departs somewhat from their findings. Both priming effects of the HELP II plan issue and beliefs about the plan (see Katz & Hass, 1988, study of priming effects) and differences in the sample population could have contributed to the different results. The Katz and Hass sample were college students whereas this sample had a mean age of 51. It seems worth noting that although the two value scales were significantly negatively correlated ($r = -.29$), the correlation was lower than the correlations between the two attitude scales and between the two belief scales.

For the most part, if a respondent rejected the HELP II plan he or she was likely to disagree with reasons for supporting the plan and agree with reasons for opposing the plan. The reverse was true for those who accepted the HELP II plan. Since these items were derived from arguments presented for and against the plan at public meetings and in the press there was no reason to expect that the supporting and opposing items would be independent.

Spontaneous Comments

Those within the psychological boundaries wrote significantly longer spontaneous comments on the questionnaires than those outside the boundaries. Those within the Valhalla school district did not write significantly more than those outside. (See Table 14.) The 10 respondents within the school district but not in Greenburgh wrote a particularly low number of words ($m = 38.2$ $sd = 36.0$). This likely brought down the total mean for this group. It is possible that not being in Greenburgh made them feel less involved, or perhaps they felt they would be less listened to and so did not offer their comments.

Effects of Political Views

The percent of liberal voters inside and outside the psychological and Valhalla school boundaries was examined to ensure that political differences could not be attributed to other measures. Neither of the comparisons proved significantly different and the largest difference (between those inside the school district compared to those outside: 82 percent liberal versus 63 percent conservative) was in the wrong direction, i.e. if it had an effect it would have counteracted not created the significant results.

Methodological Issues

Interrelationship of Proximity Measures

The four measures of proximity used in this study all correlated with each other and for the most part were not very different in their predictive power. Respondents' estimates of their distance from the site of the HELP II plan had a mean of 3.6 miles, while an actual measure of distance had a mean of 2.6 miles. These means are significantly different (difference = 1.0, $t = 4.44$, $p = .000$), but also correlate at $r = .71$. Upon inspection of the estimated versus the actual distances it appears that the discrepancy is caused by a tendency for those farther from the site to overestimate their distance, which was not counteracted despite the tendency of those less than a mile from the site to underestimate their distance.

A Sample of Convenience

There are obvious problems connected with using a sample of convenience. Because the issue under study was a sensitive one, particularly for those who lived close to the planned site, it was necessary to recruit helpers, people known and trusted in the community who would then give out questionnaires. These people often had biases of their own and may have been inclined to give out the questionnaires to like-minded friends and acquaintances. This was dealt with by seeking out community helpers who varied in their characteristics, particularly in their social attitudes. When only a few questionnaires were being distributed no mention was made to helpers of balancing points of view. But in one instance 40 questionnaires were distributed by one person, and in this case the

importance of seeking out both liberal and conservative respondents was discussed.

Was the resulting sample representative? The sample breakdown of 60 percent females and 40 percent males was acceptable, particularly since sex was not a determinant in any scores. The mean age of 51 reflects the aging of the Westchester population and the difficulty many young couples are having buying homes at the present high market rates in the county. It is the same situation that is contributing to homelessness. The racial make-up of the sample was 12 percent non-white compared to 17 percent non-white in the Greenburgh population (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1984; see Appendix B for discussion of racial balances in Greenburgh).

Non-white Views of the Homeless

Several attempts were made to get a substantial proportion of non-whites in the sample. This proved extremely difficult. Since the largest non-white group in this community were black it was community leaders from this group who were approached. Even when black community leaders were contacted and agreed to distribute the questionnaire, few were completed. For example, one black man, active in the community, had brought the questionnaire to a local meeting and reported that people were reluctant to get involved. He filled out one form himself, but even received criticism for this from family members. As a result only 14 blacks and 4 other non-whites responded, making it difficult to fully analyze differences between this group and the white population. An interview technique, using black interviewers would likely be more successful

in eliciting black response to the homeless and to facilities for the homeless in their community.

Proximal Respondents

An attempt was also made to get a larger sample than the resulting 34 respondents within the designated boundaries surrounding the HELP II site. Again, this group proved very reluctant to fill out questionnaires. They expressed distrust of the source of the questionnaire and even when convinced that the purposes of this study were for unbiased research, they expressed concern that information from it would be misused by those trying to put the facility in place.

Examining predictions based on ambivalence meant dividing the 34 respondents within the psychological boundaries into four groups. Cell numbers were small and created some very skewed curves resulting in unusually large standard deviations. This would put findings, in this case unsubstantiated predictions, into some question. In order to get a larger sample in this instance, where strong emotions and defensiveness were involved, it would probably be necessary to gain subjects' trust through introduction and use of an interview technique. In the present study several people who expressed distrust and reluctance to fill out a questionnaire seemed anxious to talk about their feelings concerning the HELP plan.

Questionnaire Return Rates

Three hundred and thirty-five questionnaires were given out and 171 were returned. Of the 171 returned, 17 were eliminated because large portions were either left out or incorrectly filled out, leaving 154 questionnaires that were used for this study.

Analyzing the significance of unanswered returns is particularly difficult because often several were returned by one person who had distributed none or only part of his or her allotment. Some refusals were made directly to the present researcher and so no questionnaire was handed out (see Non-white Views of the Homeless and Proximal Respondents above). If there was any bias it would seem to be that the more socially conscious community members would be more likely to fill out a questionnaire on the present topic, and that they would be more sympathetic to a social issue, i.e. there would be a bias in this sample toward accepting the HELP II facility plan.

Policy Implications

If facilities for the homeless are a necessary component of correcting the problem of homelessness, what can be done about resistance to those facilities? If attitudes about the homeless are driven by underlying values established in childhood as Sears claims, and beliefs about a facility are largely driven by proximity factors, value orientations, and attitude factors, how can the influence of these factors be modified?

The correlations between measures of proximity with the other scales suggests that proximity may have affected attitudes and values as well as beliefs about the plan (see Table 13). Although only one of the four proximity measures (actual distance) showed an effect on values it is of interest because it suggests that a salient issue might change one's basic values. In Rokeach's study (1971) when inconsistencies in values were pointed out to people they would change their attitudes and behavior reflecting those

values to be consistent with values, and also change those values. Here may be another instance of change in values. On the other hand, the evidence is only there on one of four measures and it is difficult to explain why this measure, determined by the researcher using knowledge of respondents' location and measuring distance on a map, might produce these results when other measures did not.

Can a change in values be used to promote support for a facility? Attempts to make community members feel guilty or suggesting that they are prejudiced does not seem to have been very effective in this case. This has been done in the popular press and at public meetings and actually may be fueling anger and a sense of being unjustly accused. Values were not very significant in determining degree of acceptance for those living within the psychological boundaries, so changing values in this case, even if it were possible, is unlikely to be of use. Better results might be found in looking at respondents' specific concerns.

Concerns Reflected in Attitudes toward the Homeless

In general attitudes toward the homeless were found to be sympathetic. All pro-homeless attitude items had means higher than 3.1 (just above "agree slightly"), and at least 75 percent of the respondents agreeing. On five of the 11 anti-homeless attitude items respondents agreed more than they disagreed, but on only two items was there more than 70 percent agreement. These were item 20, (71 percent agreement) "If I struggled hard enough I could find a way out of almost any situation that would threaten to make me homeless", and item 6, (89 percent agreement) "Shelters for the homeless easily become overwhelmed with problems like understaffing,

crime, and filth". Item 20 contains elements of denial, perhaps necessary to keep respondents "separate" from the frightening prospect of homelessness and possibly containing the seeds of the phenomenon for refusing facilities too near home despite expressing general sympathy for the homeless. Item 6 suggests that the negative image people have of facilities for the homeless contributes to respondents' unwillingness to take a chance on a facility nearby. These items also suggest that emphasis on the valiant efforts some people make to prevent their homeless condition, or on ways a program is designed to help the homeless help themselves, may gain community acceptance for that program. Community members need assurance that deterioration of a facility will not occur. Community members might be called upon to use their ideas about how to avoid becoming homeless to help those who are. Setting up community boards to monitor problems and prevent deterioration could also help.

Using 90 percent agreement as a cutoff, six pro-homeless items were at or above this. These were items 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, and 18. Item 9, "We could help the homeless mentally ill if we set up more community mental health services and halfway houses", is of interest since it is these services that are often resisted in neighborhoods and related services that are being resisted in this case. Item 13 is a direct expression of compassionate feelings; 15 expresses recognition that a subcategory of individuals - the mentally ill homeless - are generally not to blame for their homelessness. Agreement with items 16, 17, and 18 acknowledge there are causes of homelessness that may be beyond individual control and seem to be in

contradiction with agreement on item 20 above. Perhaps we can understand the general idea that there are circumstances beyond which we have no control, but prefer not to recognize this at a personal level.

The anti-homeless attitudes that were disagreed with the most were items 8 and 19 (81 and 84 percent respectively). Disagreement with item 8 shows people are unwilling to deny suffering of the homeless mentally ill. Disagreement with 19 is a rejection of a hopeless attitude about the homeless and along with the strong agree response to item 9 above suggests people do believe there are solutions to the problem.

Concerns Reflected in Beliefs about the HELP II Plan

Respondents tended to agree with beliefs supporting the HELP II plan ($m = 3.0$, 8 of 11 items were agreed with by more than 60 percent of the respondents) and also to agree with beliefs opposing the plan ($m = 2.8$, 12 of 16 items were agreed with by more than 50 percent of the respondents). Support for the plan, reflected in strong agreement with supporting items and some disagreement with opposing items, was found in supporting belief items 3, 12, and 15 (all had 90 percent or more respondents agreeing), and opposing belief items 14 and 27 (62 and 64 percent respondents disagreeing, respectively). Item 3 states it benefits everyone to help the homeless, item 12 that the HELP II plan is less expensive than present solutions to the homeless problem, and item 15 that the plan is better than current methods for helping the homeless. Disagreement with item 14 suggests the motives of political leaders are not necessarily distrusted and disagreement with item 27

suggests that people do not believe the plan will make the homeless more dependent.

Focusing on responses that most suggest people do not like the plan, we first look at disagreement with supporting belief items. The three strongest disagreements were for items 9 (60 percent of respondents disagreed), 16 (53 percent of respondents disagreed), and 19 (64 percent of respondents disagreed). Respondents do not believe that tight security will prevent crime and drug problems (item 9). They also do not believe that reasons given against the HELP II plan are simply covering up racist attitudes (item 16); and they do not believe that property values will remain stable (item 19). The opposing belief items that respondents agreed with most were 11 (77 percent of respondents agreed), 18 (78 percent of respondents agreed), and 21 (91 percent of respondents agreed). Item 11 states that the HELP II site is too far away from services, item 18 states that political leaders have not consulted the community before pushing the plan, and item 21 that there will be nowhere for people to live after being in the HELP facility.

In attempting to get cooperation for this facility these findings suggest first that people believe in the importance of helping the homeless (item 3), and appreciate this plan as a way to reduce costs for housing the homeless (item 12). Political leaders should also be aware that people were not necessarily cynical about political leaders' motives for coming up with this plan (item 14), but do believe that they may have been unfair in not consulting the community before coming out in favor of the plan (item 18). People need strong evidence that crime and drugs can be kept out of the

facility (item 9), that property values will not fall significantly (item 19), and probably need to know of feasible plans to put lower cost housing into Westchester (item 21). Dismissing arguments against the plan as just racist excuses will not be well received (item 16). Some information on how residents will get access to services would also help (item 11). Respondents' dissatisfaction with present methods of housing the homeless is evident (item 15).

APPENDIX A

Westchester Homelessness

Westchester County, a suburb of New York City, has one of the highest rates of homelessness in the country. Based on 1988 figures of 862 homeless families with 1,739 children, and a total of 3,973 homeless people, the county set aside 54 million dollars to be spent on the homeless. Many people and families are inadequately housed in hotels and motels at huge expense. The average monthly cost was \$3,240 in January, 1989 with 25 to 30 percent of families kept in hotels outside the county. The 1989 Westchester budget set aside \$64,000,000 to care for the homeless (Westchester County Commission on the Homeless, 1989).

The average selling price of a single family home in Westchester in the second quarter of 1988 was \$371,410 (Benezra, 1988). The average rental costs in Yonkers, White Plains, and Peekskill, three of the least expensive areas in Westchester, ranged from \$800 to \$1,100 for a two bedroom apartment compared to \$674 set aside as a "fair market" rent (Westchester County Commission on the Homeless, 1989).

APPENDIX B

Town of Greenburgh

The Town of Greenburgh contains more than 80,000 people in 31 square miles. There are six incorporated villages in which more than half the residents live. The unincorporated area, about 19 square miles, is governed by the Town Board and headed by the Town Supervisor, Anthony Veteran. Both the board and the supervisor are elected by the entire town, but the villages also have their own governments and are run independently of the town. There are ten school districts in the town (Foderaro, 1988; Lasseter, 1988).

Greenburgh is known as a town with a diverse population. It contains subsidized housing for low income residents with two story buildings on scattered sites and a high-rise building. Houses sell for less than \$200,000 to over \$1,000,000 (Foderaro, 1988). It has a reputation for racially mixed neighborhoods and lack of prejudice (Kantrowitz, 1988). This is apparently true, although most "mixing" means that there are clusters of black housing near clusters of white housing.

In the 1980 census (U.S. Bureau of Census, 1984) the tract that includes the site of the proposed HELP II plan, tract 109.01, was 82 percent white and 14 percent black. The tracts just to the east and west were both slightly over half white, and the tract just to the south was about one third white (p.56). The average percent of blacks throughout Greenburgh was about 12 percent, and of non-whites, 17 percent (p.16). The blacks that live nearest to the proposed site tend to be middle income with atleast high school education.

APPENDIX C

Homeless Emergency Leverage Program, Inc.

The Homeless Emergency Leverage Program (HELP), Inc. is a non-profit organization set up to create temporary housing for the homeless in New York State. Its president is Andrew Cuomo, the son of the Governor of New York. The first HELP residence site is in the New York City borough of Brooklyn, contains 200 units of housing for families, and is run by the Red Cross. The housing provides security, safe recreation areas for children, day care, and social services to support residents efforts to find jobs and permanent housing (Liebson, 1988).

Early in 1988, Cuomo along with County Executive Andrew P. O'Rourke announced plans to use the Brooklyn model for four projects in Westchester County and it was called the HELP II plan (the Brooklyn project then called HELP I). The projects were to be turned over to the communities in which they were located after ten years, perhaps to be used to house municipal employees or the elderly. One of the HELP II projects was very quickly rejected by the local government, and the offer of land by a non-profit agency was then rescinded. Two other projects, in White Plains and Mount Vernon, were both accepted after some opposition and modifications to appease the objectors. The fourth project was slated for the Town of Greenburgh, to be situated on 33 acres of county owned land adjacent to Westchester County Community College, amidst a middle class residential community. This HELP II project proposed housing for 108 homeless families, more than any of the other proposals in the County (Feron, 1988, March 20, April 24, May 15, September 16;

Liebson, 1988). Andrew Cuomo and Anthony Veteran, Greenburgh Town Supervisor, have stated that the temporary housing they are proposing will screen applicants and that they expect the population to be mostly single mothers and their young children.

The Greenburgh plan was rejected by many nearby residents. A proposal to incorporate the area including the community college and the land set aside for the HELP project was made by local residents so that they could control zoning and prevent the planned housing. A lawsuit was filed in the county court charging the housing was not legal (Dentzer, 1988; Rimer, 1988). The law suit was dismissed and rulings made that would eliminate an incorporated village's power to control zoning, but these rulings are being challenged (Fitz-Gibbon, 1989; Liebson, 1989).

APPENDIX D

COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY
On a Housing Plan for the Homeless

Recently several political leaders have proposed a plan to house homeless people in Greenburgh. It is called HELP II. As a social scientist at the City University of New York I am conducting a survey of how people in the community feel about this plan, and how much information has been given out about this plan.

By answering the questions in this survey you will allow your views to be heard by political leaders because I plan to send results of this survey to those who have been most actively involved in this proposal: Andrew Cuomo, the head of HELP II; Andrew O'Rourke, Westchester County Executive; and Anthony Veteran, Greenburgh Town Supervisor.

Please read items carefully, but do not spend a lot of time on any item. Please respond to each as best you can, without leaving any out. All responses are confidential. Your name will not be used in any presentation of the results and will not be available to anyone.

Please, do not forget to answer all questions.

The questions on this page are asked in order to find out how well the HELP II plan has been publicized. Please answer all questions. Answers should be brief.

1. Have you heard or read about the HELP II plan to put housing for the homeless in the Town of Greenburgh?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, where did you hear about it? (Check all that apply.)

_____ Newspapers
 _____ Local radio
 _____ Friends or neighbors
 _____ Community groups
 _____ Other (specify) _____

2. Do you know where it would be located? _____ Yes _____ No

If yes, where is that location? _____

3. Do you know who would be eligible to live there?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, who? _____

4. Do you know what services are planned for the residents?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, what are those services? _____

5. Do you know how many units of housing are planned?

_____ Yes _____ No

If yes, about how many? _____

6. Is this housing for the homeless supposed to be temporary or permanent? _____ Temporary _____ Permanent

7. Who is supposed to run it? _____

In order to answer the rest of this survey you need to know something about the NKL II plan for Greenburgh. This introduction will tell you a little about it.

Recently several political leaders have proposed the NKL II plan to build temporary apartment units for homeless families in Westchester. Some of the apartments would be located on land now owned by the county and next to Westchester County Community College. These apartments would provide shelter for 108 families, expected to be mostly young, single mothers and their children. Social services such as health, counseling, vocational guidance, and day care would be provided with the goal of helping these people become more self-sufficient so that they can support themselves and their children. Security would be provided and visitors would only be allowed in a visitors' room, not in the apartments. The average stay is expected to be about six months.

There has been a strong reaction to the proposed NKL II plan from the surrounding community. People have many concerns, both about the problem of homelessness in the county and about this plan which has been proposed to help solve the problem. The following questions are designed to find out just how people feel about these issues.

1. Which of the following best describes how you personally feel about the NKL II plan in Greenburgh?

- ☐ Strongly for the NKL II plan
- ☐ For the NKL II plan, but not strongly
- ☐ Leaning toward the NKL II plan, but not sure
- ☐ Leaning away from the NKL II plan, but not sure
- ☐ Against the NKL II plan, but not strongly
- ☐ Strongly against the NKL II plan

2. Have you ever attended a meeting about the NKL II plan for Greenburgh? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many times? _____

3. About how many feet or miles from this proposed site for NKL II in Greenburgh do you live? (Just approximate this.)

_____ feet or _____ miles

4. Are there any facilities for the homeless near you now?
☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, what kind? _____

5. Have you had any experience or contact with homeless people in the past year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please describe briefly:

Here are some reasons that people have given for supporting or opposing the HELP II plan to house the homeless in Greenburgh. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each by placing the appropriate number in the space provided next to each statement below.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 1. We should not be expected to house and provide services for homeless people who are not from our community.
- _____ 2. The HELP II plan will bring crime and drugs into our community.
- _____ 3. It is in our own best interest to help homeless people, so they can become useful members of society.
- _____ 4. The HELP II plan will cause a decrease in property values in surrounding neighborhoods.
- _____ 5. The HELP II plan will bring in more children to the local schools than the schools can handle.
- _____ 6. The people in our community can make the HELP II plan work if they are willing to put in the time and energy.
- _____ 7. We have an obligation to take a chance on the HELP II plan because of the harm now being done to the homeless.
- _____ 8. The HELP II plan will give homeless people hope.
- _____ 9. The tight security planned for HELP II would prevent serious crime and drug problems.
- _____ 10. The HELP II plan is too short term to really help the homeless.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 11. The NMLP II plan location (near the community college) is too far away from stores and services residents will need
- _____ 12. The NMLP II plan is much less costly to the taxpayer than the present practice of housing families in motel rooms
- _____ 13. Political leaders proposing NMLP II are more interested in saving money than in what is fair for our community.
- _____ 14. Political leaders proposing NMLP II are more interested in saving money than in helping the homeless.
- _____ 15. The NMLP II plan meets the needs of the homeless better than the present practice of housing families in motel rooms
- _____ 16. Many of the so-called "reasons" why the NMLP II plan won't work are really just a cover for racist attitudes.
- _____ 17. Political leaders proposing NMLP II won't keep their promise to keep criminals and addicts out of NMLP II.
- _____ 18. Political leaders have been pushing this plan without first consulting people in the community.
- _____ 19. Having housing for the needy in a neighborhood does not mean property values will fall in that area.
- _____ 20. The NMLP II plan would upset the social balance in this community.
- _____ 21. There is so little inexpensive housing available that the homeless would have nowhere to move after being in NMLP.
- _____ 22. The NMLP II project will put a severe strain on community services such as police, fire, and sanitation.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 23. Busing children to their home districts from HELP II would be bad for the children.
- _____ 24. HELP II will be able to provide services like day care and help finding jobs so the homeless can support themselves
- _____ 25. Whether or not temporary housing is the answer for the homeless, it is needed until better solutions are worked out
- _____ 26. Putting HELP II housing on Westchester Community College property will be bad for the college.
- _____ 27. The HELP II plan will make homeless people more dependent on public help and less able to get on their feet again.

Please write in any other reason(s) you may think of for or against approving the HELP II plan in Greenburgh:

Here are some statements about homeless people and their circumstances. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each by placing the appropriate number in the space provide.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 1. It isn't fair to provide free housing for the homeless while so many poor people are struggling to pay their rent.
- _____ 2. Most homeless people are very unhappy about their situation.
- _____ 3. If they really wanted to, most homeless people could find a way out of their situation.
- _____ 4. Many homeless people have found a way of life that satisfies them and that they prefer to any other.
- _____ 5. If offered an opportunity most homeless people would grab at the chance to be self-sufficient.
- _____ 6. Shelters for the homeless easily become overwhelmed with problems like understaffing, crime, and filth.
- _____ 7. Many homeless people want others to find solutions to their problems.
- _____ 8. The mentally ill homeless do not suffer the way normal people would in similar circumstances.
- _____ 9. We could help the homeless mentally ill if we set up more community mental health services and halfway houses.
- _____ 10. Many homeless are that way because they gave up trying to make it on their own.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 11. There have always been "bums" or "tramps", that is, homeless people; it's a natural part of any society.
- _____ 12. If programs to show the homeless how to take care of themselves were set up, the situation would be much improved.
- _____ 13. When I see a homeless person it makes me sad and upset.
- _____ 14. When I see a homeless person I find it difficult to imagine how they must feel.
- _____ 15. The homeless mentally ill are generally not to blame for their situation.
- _____ 16. Many homeless people have been overwhelmed by misfortunes and need a helping hand to get back on their feet again.
- _____ 17. Because of the high cost of housing even some people with jobs are homeless.
- _____ 18. Homelessness could happen to anyone who met with enough misfortune.
- _____ 19. The homeless situation is a sign of our weakening society, and there is little we can do about it.
- _____ 20. If I struggled hard enough I could find a way out of almost any situation that would threaten to make me homeless.
- _____ 21. I sometimes think about ways to help the homeless and wonder why more has not been done.

Here are some statements that represent commonly held values. Please tell us how much you agree or disagree with each by placing the appropriate number in the space provided.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 1. One should be kind to people, even if they do things contrary to one's beliefs.
- _____ 2. Most people spend too much time in unprofitable amusements.
- _____ 3. Our society would have fewer problems if people had less leisure time.
- _____ 4. One should find ways to help others less fortunate than oneself.
- _____ 5. A person should have a deep love of all people, whoever they are.
- _____ 6. Money acquired easily is usually spent unwisely.
- _____ 7. There should be equality for everyone — because we are all human beings.
- _____ 8. Most people who don't succeed in life are just plain lazy.
- _____ 9. Anyone who is willing and able to work hard has a good chance of succeeding.
- _____ 10. People should have what they need, the important things we have belong to all of us.

SCALE

- [+3] Strongly agree
- [+2] Agree
- [+1] Agree slightly
- [-1] Disagree slightly
- [-2] Disagree
- [-3] Strongly disagree

- _____ 11. People who try but are unable to provide for their own welfare have a right to expect help from others.
- _____ 12. People who fail at a job have usually not tried hard enough.
- _____ 13. Life would have very little meaning if we never had to suffer.
- _____ 14. I feel uneasy when there is little work for me to do.
- _____ 15. Everyone should have an equal chance and an equal say in most things.
- _____ 16. Acting to protect the rights and interests of other members of the community is a major obligation for all persons.
- _____ 17. A distaste for hard work usually reflects a weakness of character.
- _____ 18. In dealing with criminals the courts should recognize that many are victims of circumstances.
- _____ 19. The person who can approach an unpleasant task with enthusiasm is the person who gets ahead.
- _____ 20. If people work hard enough they are likely to make a good life for themselves.
- _____ 21. Prosperous nations have a moral obligation to share some of their wealth with poor nations.

Background Information

1. What sex are you? ☐ Male ☐ Female
2. How old were you on your last birthday? _____
3. How much education have you had?
 - ☐ Some high school
 - ☐ High school graduate
 - ☐ Some college
 - ☐ College graduate
 - ☐ Graduate or professional degree
4. Are you now employed? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, what do you do for a living? _____

5. What is your present living situation?
 - ☐ Married
 - ☐ Separated or divorced
 - ☐ Widowed
 - ☐ Living with someone in long term relationship
 - ☐ Single
6. Do you have children living in your household? ☐ Yes ☐ No
 If yes, please list each one's age, sex, and school:

CHILD	AGE	SEX	SCHOOL
#1	_____	_____	_____
#2	_____	_____	_____
#3	_____	_____	_____
#4	_____	_____	_____
#5	_____	_____	_____
#6	_____	_____	_____
#7	_____	_____	_____

7. Do you belong to any community groups, or participate in any community events? (Some examples would be political clubs or meetings, religious services, social clubs, school events, neighborhood get-togethers, book fairs, fund drives.) Please list below:

Name of activity, group, event, etc.

How often

do you attend?

8. Where do most of your friends live?

☐ In this community

☐ Outside this community

☐ About an equal number inside and outside this community

9. Do you rent or own the place you live in? ☐ Rent ☐ Own

10. How many years have you been at your present address?

Years

11. How many years have you been in your present community?

Years

12. How long do you expect to be in this community?

☐ I expect to move within the next few years

☐ I expect to remain in this community indefinitely

13. Would you say you are:

☐ Very attached to this community

☐ Moderately attached to this community

☐ Slightly attached to this community

☐ Hardly or not at all attached to this community

14. What is your religious preference?
____ Protestant (Which denomination? _____)
____ Catholic
____ Jewish
____ Other (specify) _____
15. In the past year how often have you attended religious service?
____ About once each week
____ About once each month
____ About six times
____ Once or twice
____ Never
16. How would you describe your racial/ethnic group?
____ White, not Hispanic
____ Black
____ Hispanic
____ Asian
____ Other (specify) _____
17. With which political party do you most often agree?
____ Republican party
____ Democratic party
____ Liberal party
____ Conservative party
____ Other (specify) _____
18. What is your annual household income?
____ Under \$20,000
____ \$20,000-\$40,000
____ \$40,000-\$60,000
____ \$60,000-\$100,000
____ Over \$100,000

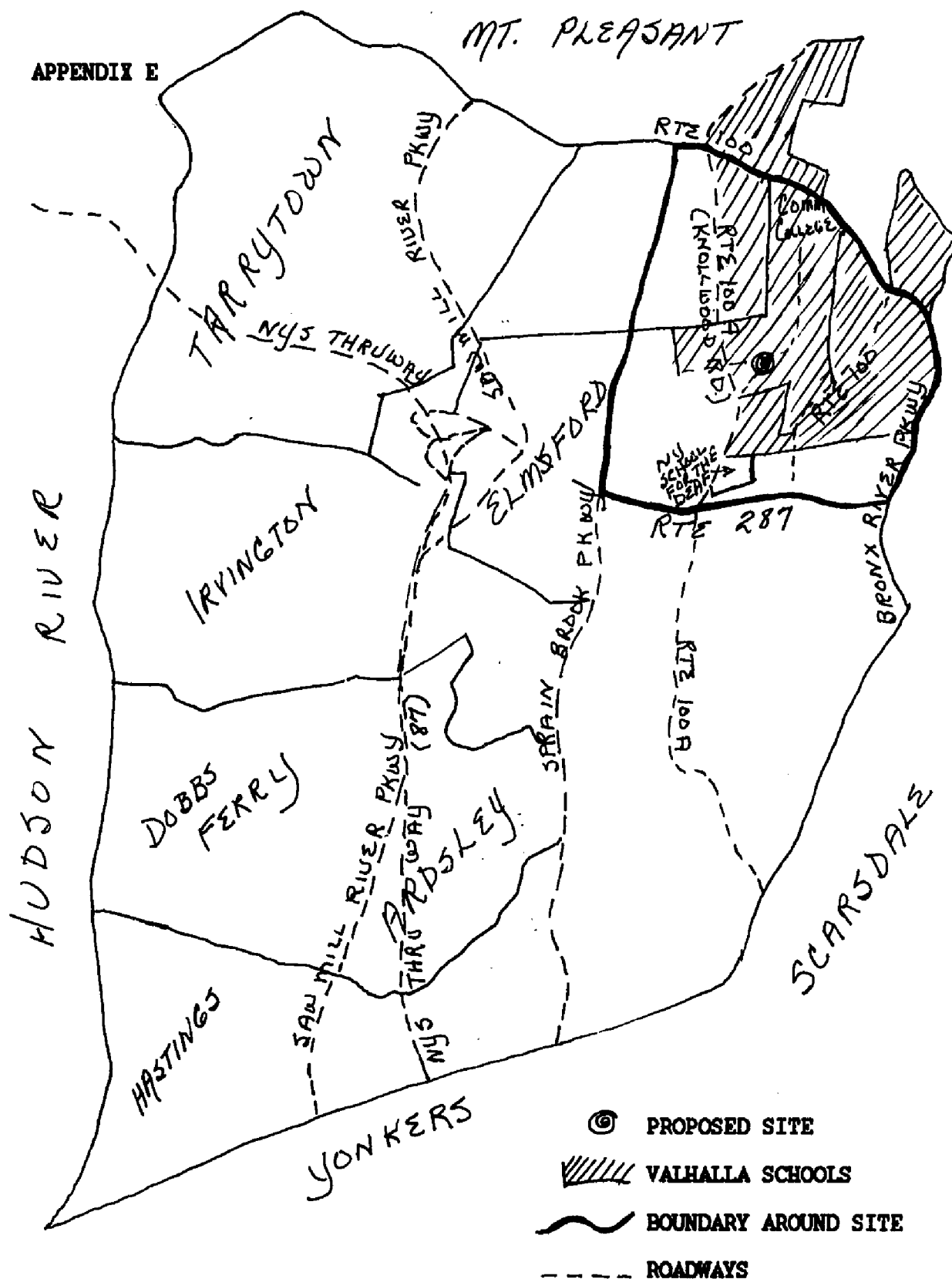
This page is for any additional comments you may wish to make about the HELP II proposal in Greenburgh, or about what can or cannot, should or should not, be done about the problem of homelessness.

May we have your name and address? (This is needed to determine your distance from the planned site of NGLP II, to recontact you for a second opinion if something important changes about NGLP II, and to send you the results of this survey. This information will be held in strictest confidence.)

Name:

Address:

APPENDIX E



MAP OF TOWN OF GREENBURGH

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