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Homeless individuals who are diagnosed with a double problem of mental disorder and substance abuse need special care. This is because such individuals are often in a state of unawareness due to lack of mental soundness. They cannot make decisions in a reasonable manner and are often not in a position to take good care of themselves. While the government initiates programs and allocate funding meant to help the dual-diagnosis population, the special needs of this group of people should be a critical factor for consideration.   
The provision of services to dual-diagnosed people involves eight fundamental principles. These comprise of an integrated treatment, intensive case management, and group treatment, phases of treatment, substitute activities, cultural relevance, training and families. These principles are the outcome of a meeting of views by both administrators and experienced health practitioners.   
Although the eight principles work to complement each other, the presence of family is very essential in facilitating the recovery process for the patients. Dual-diagnosed persons who are without a home are often separated from their families. This presents the most difficult problem to their recovery because relating to new people may not be easy. Close family attachment may make it hard for them to respond positively to treatment.   
On the other hand, cultural relevance is the least important of the eight principles. This is because dual-diagnosis of mental disorder and substance abuse is not a cultural issue. Instead, it is a medical condition that requires well-trained personnel to assist patients get better rapidly. The problem should therefore be tackled from a professional perspective rather than a cultural one. In addition, it is important to solve legislative and legal matters, and current research concerns surrounding dual diagnosed persons.   
In conclusion, homeless dual-diagnosed people require to be specially handled. It is vital to realize that these people are not able to properly take care of themselves due to the instability of their state of mind. It will take the concerted effort of the government, health professionals and other stakeholders to help this group of people.

## References

Drake, R. E., Osher, F. C., & Wallach, M. A. (1991). Homelessness and Dual Diagnosis. American Psychologist, 46(11).