Essay for Advanced Standing Students

Taking the place of Graduate Entrance Exam (GRE), the Division of Social Work requires an academic essay as part of the admissions process. An essay for advanced standing students has been devised to assess potential applicants’ readiness for advanced graduate study. Below are the requirements for that essay.

General Essay Instructions: Please read the short description below that presents a possible social work practice situation that the essay should address. Questions are provided below.

Recently, one of the community’s low income housing buildings, housing 6 families, burned to the ground just days ago. There were 5 families living in the building, all were unharmed, but everyone is gone because the living conditions are unsafe. The Wyoming community where this occurred was shocked by this event, as the building was less than 10 years old, and appeared to be in good condition. Unfortunately, the fire was due to poor electrical wiring. The five families are now living in very temporary situations and need a great deal of support and help. The local churches have provided some immediate aid to the families, yet, no replacement housing is available. Two of the families have already left the local community, going to live with family in Cheyenne. Both families are looking for employment since their moved. The remaining three families are looking to the town’s Housing authority for help. The Housing authority worker, Tina Waters, is a BSW social worker. She will need to work with varied agencies to help the families.

Using the case situation presented above, this essay for the advanced standing applicant should demonstrate the applicant’s ability to apply a generalist social work approach to the above case situation. Develop a professional essay paper that responds to the following:
a. Briefly describe the types of agencies that may be used to address this tragedy and the types of services that could benefit the families.
b. Discuss the social worker’s role as a generalist practitioner.
c. Discuss any unique issues that may be attributable to the small rural town that will work with these families.
d. Describe the client system. Provide any details that may offer clarity about who these families might be. What might their backgrounds be like?
e. Provide a summary of the assessment process the social worker will need to use to best serve these family members. What information will be important to gain in the assessment with each of the families?
f. Describe the types of intervention(s) that might be used by the social worker in this situation and address what intervention approach(es) was selected.
g. Identify theory(ies) and concept(s) that support your assessment approach and process, the intervention procedures and process, using relevant professional resources that support the choice(s) addressed.
h. Identify any potential cultural, community, policy and/or practice challenges, barriers and/or issues that may be relevant with regard to this case example.
i. Identify potential ethical issues or concerns.
j. Address how work with this client system promotes social justice.
k. Provide a summary of the potential effectiveness of the intervention(s) addressed, analyzing strengths and limitations, using evidence-based practice outcomes, if available. Provide information from professional literature to support your discussion.

The essay should include a minimum of 5 scholarly references to professional social work approaches addressed in the essay, the effectiveness of certain interventions, and other relevant professional materials, including the professional Code of Ethics. The essay should be between 6-7 pages, double-spaced, using APA manuscript guidelines. Please use APA for references used both in the text of the essay and on the reference page.
This essay will be used in the screening process to evaluate your practice framework, your critical thinking skills, your writing skills, and your ability to use a social work perspective. The essay will be assessed on these factors as well as your ability to organize and present information. Most important, this essay must be written solely by the applicant. Please note that you will be required to sign a statement on the face sheet of this application that indicates that you have received no assistance with this essay.