

Homelessness



Person-first Language Note: Using person-first language can be a way to show you can be an advocate for people experiencing homelessness. Attaching a label to someone erases their identities, and doesn't show that homelessness is a temporary situation for most people. Consider using "**a person experiencing homelessness**" or "**a family without a home**" to show you are an advocate for people experiencing hunger and homelessness.

United Nations

"Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of themselves and their family, including **food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services...**"

First Amendment

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the **freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceable to assemble...**"

Fourth Amendment

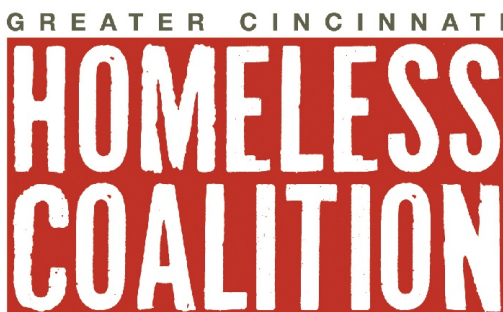
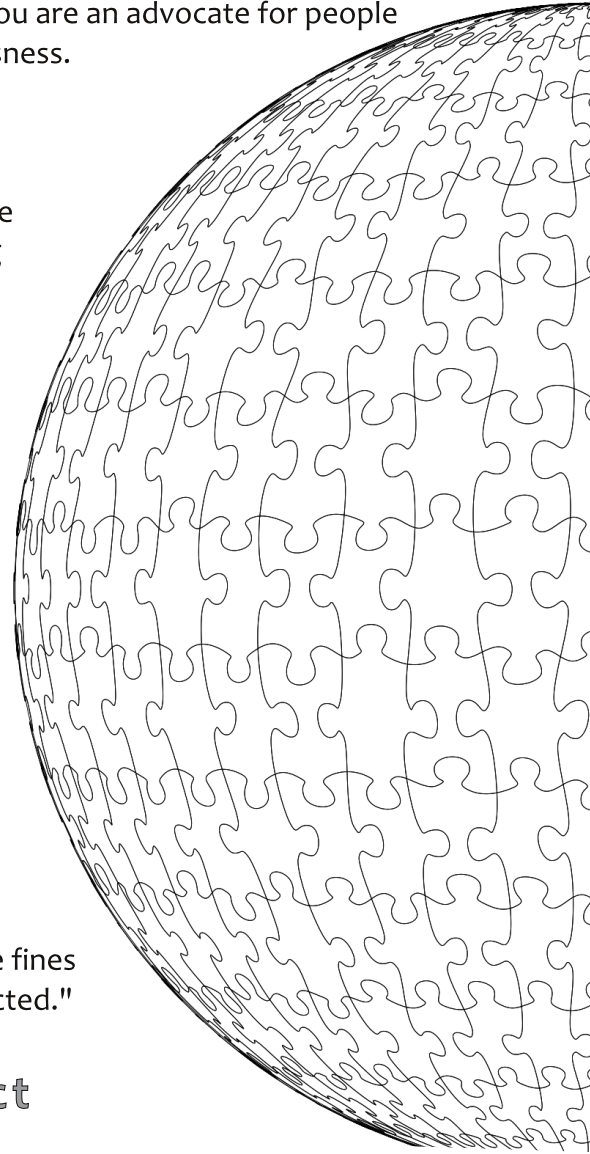
"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, **against unreasonable searching and seizures...**"

Eighth Amendment

"Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, **nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.**"

McKinney Vento Act

"Each State educational agency shall ensure that each child of a homeless individual and each homeless youth has equal access to the same free, appropriate public education, including a public preschool education, as provided to other children and youths..."



We live in a culture where the term "Homeless" has a negative perception and stereotypes and myths feed into a culture of fear and hate in our communities. **In partnership with Affordable Housing Advocates (AHA) the Coalition's education programs are designed to breakdown these stereotypes and eradicate this misinformation.** Our education and service programs portray a more accurate and holistic picture of homelessness in Cincinnati. We believe an educated public is a compassionate public willing to dedicate time and effort towards creating solutions to homelessness.

Introduction

Demographics

3.5 million Americans experience homelessness every year (**25,000 in Hamilton County**).

1.35 million American children will experience homelessness this year, including **more than 10% of Cincinnati Public School students**.

800,000 American men, women, and children experience homelessness each night.

40% of youth experiencing homelessness self-identify as **LGBTQ+**.

At least **150 people died** from homelessness in Cincinnati last year.

The average age of death was 51 years old.

Note: No estimates of the number of people experiencing homelessness can be a true representation of how many people are experiencing housing insecurity. However, **African American and LGBTQ+** individuals are affected by homelessness at a much higher rate, compared to white, cis, heterosexual individuals. **Due to stressors and physical conditions, homelessness increases the likelihood of mental illness, substance abuse, physical illness, chronic conditions, and violent crime.**

Causes of Homelessness

Loss of affordable housing

Loss of industry and job opportunities

People are being forced from their home

The value of minimum wage has dropped while living costs rise

Value of welfare has dropped, become harder to get

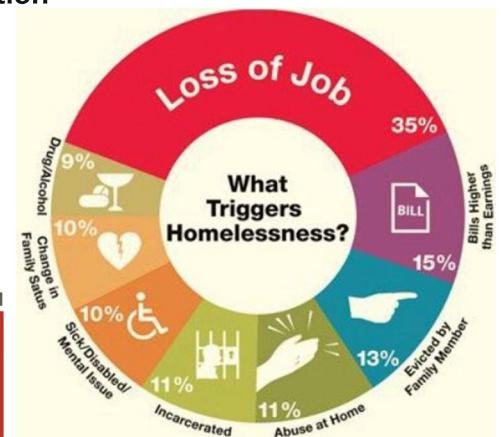
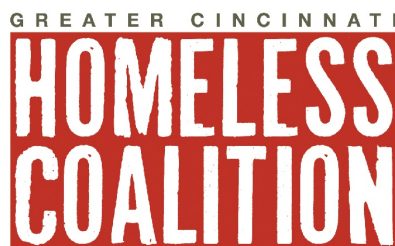
Housing budgets decimated housing quality

Racism, Redlining, housing discrimination

Family rejection, homophobia



The average age of an American experiencing homelessness is 9 years old.



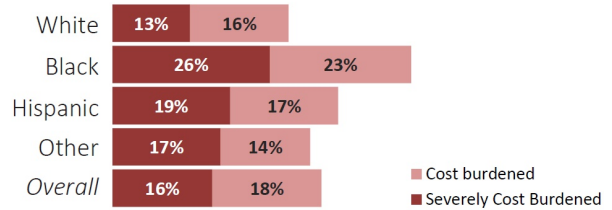
Housing Crisis

Across the country, **more than 60%** of all affordable housing has been lost over the past decade. Families who are rent burdened are more likely to experience homelessness. **Hamilton County is short more than 40,000 units of affordable housing.**

Gap in Households and Affordable and Available Units
Hamilton County Overall

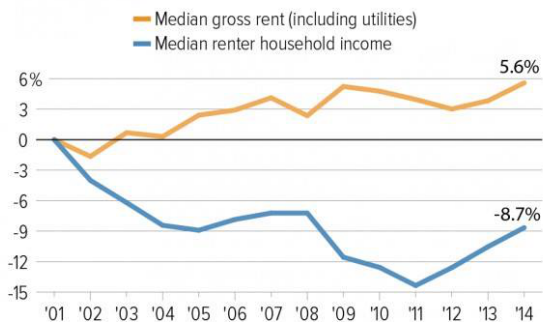
Household Income	Total Households	Affordable and Available Units	Gap
\$14,678 or less	55,600	15,581	-40,019
\$24,464 or less	90,946	52,611	-38,335
\$39,142 or less	138,559	125,073	-13,486
\$48,927 or less	165,531	163,191	-2,340
\$58,712 or less	190,342	193,252	2,910

Cost Burden by Race/Ethnicity
Hamilton County Households



Renters' Incomes Haven't Kept Pace With Housing Costs

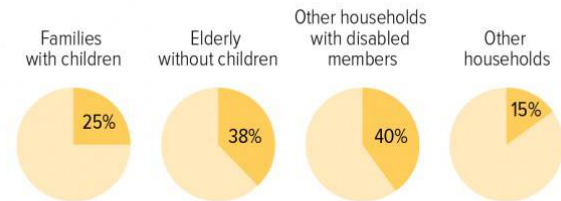
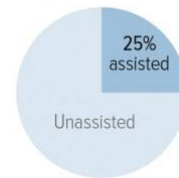
Percent change since 2001, adjusted for inflation



Note: Includes households with zero rent who pay utilities.
Source: CBPP analysis of the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Rental Assistance Programs Reach Only a Fraction of Needy Renters

All low-income renters with housing needs

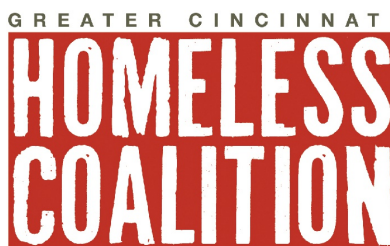


Note: Share of households with rental assistance among those at or below 80 percent of the area median income who either: 1) receive rental assistance; or 2) are unassisted and face housing cost burdens above 30 percent of income or live in overcrowded or physically inadequate housing.
Source: CBPP analysis of 2013 American Housing Survey data.
CENTER ON BUDGET AND POLICY PRIORITIES | CBPP.ORG

Cincinnati Shelter System

To access one of the approximately 800 shelter beds, or get help with Shelter Diversion, the CAPLINE must be used:

(513) 381-SAFE
M-F: 9a-5p
Weekends: 10a-2p



More than 90% of families are turned away from the shelter system because there is no room.

Why Organize?

Poor Housing Conditions

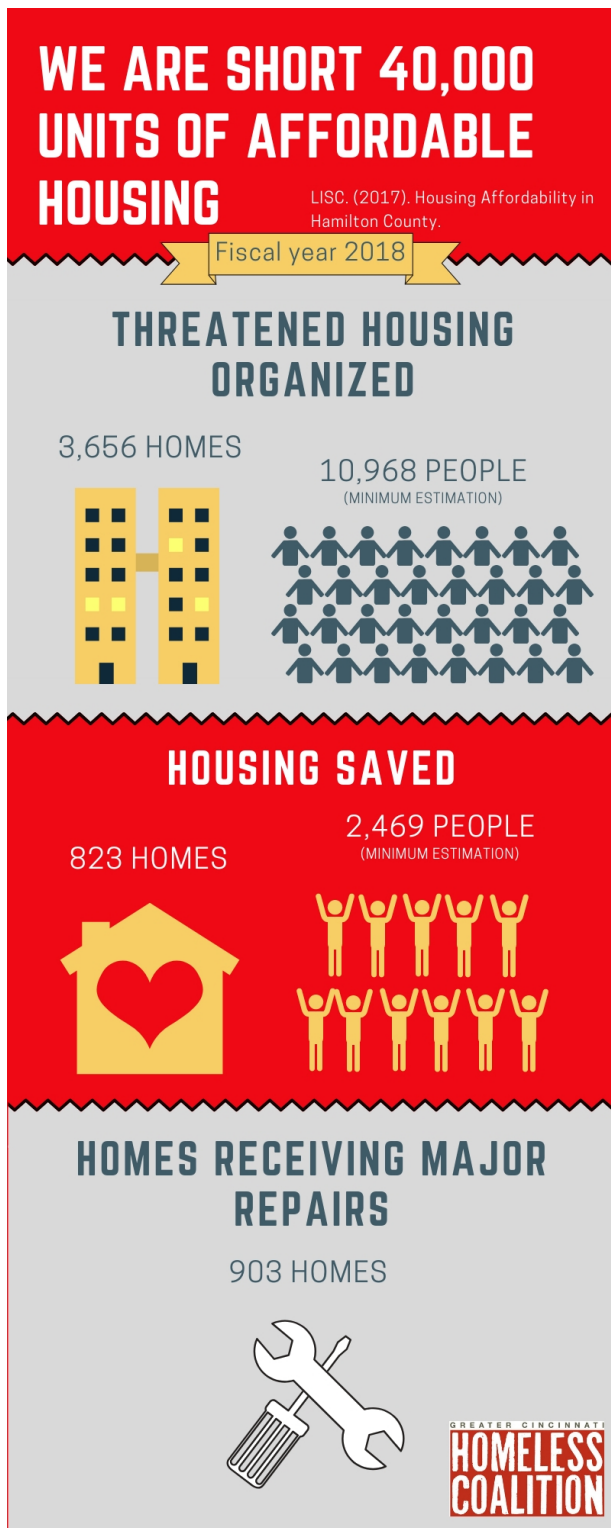
Health Issues

Lack of Affordable Housing

Unjust Landlord

Strengthen Communities

Gain Unified Voice
through
Tenant Organization



Types of Homelessness

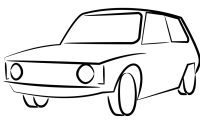
Couchsurfing



If you're sleeping on your friend's / aunt's / even mom's couch, because you don't have a place of your own, you are couchsurfing.

Doubled Up

When two families live together out of economic necessity, this is called being Doubled Up.



Car-habitation

Your car might be the only thing you own. With no other options, living in your car can be a dangerous set up.

Sheltered in Tent / on Street

Health issues, such as bathing, brushing teeth, and basic sanitation fall to the wayside, as people try to find food and work.



Shelter Life



Shelters are open 24/7 but are typically over over-flow capacity. Many are kicked out or have stayed longer than allowed, and end up back on the street.

Homeless at Home

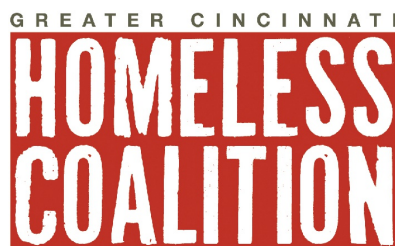
Many youth, and adults, come home to an empty fridge, sleep on the couch, and have no guidance. This is being homeless at home.



One Paycheck Away — If you're paying more than **30% of your income** for housing (including utilities) **you are on the edge of homelessness.**

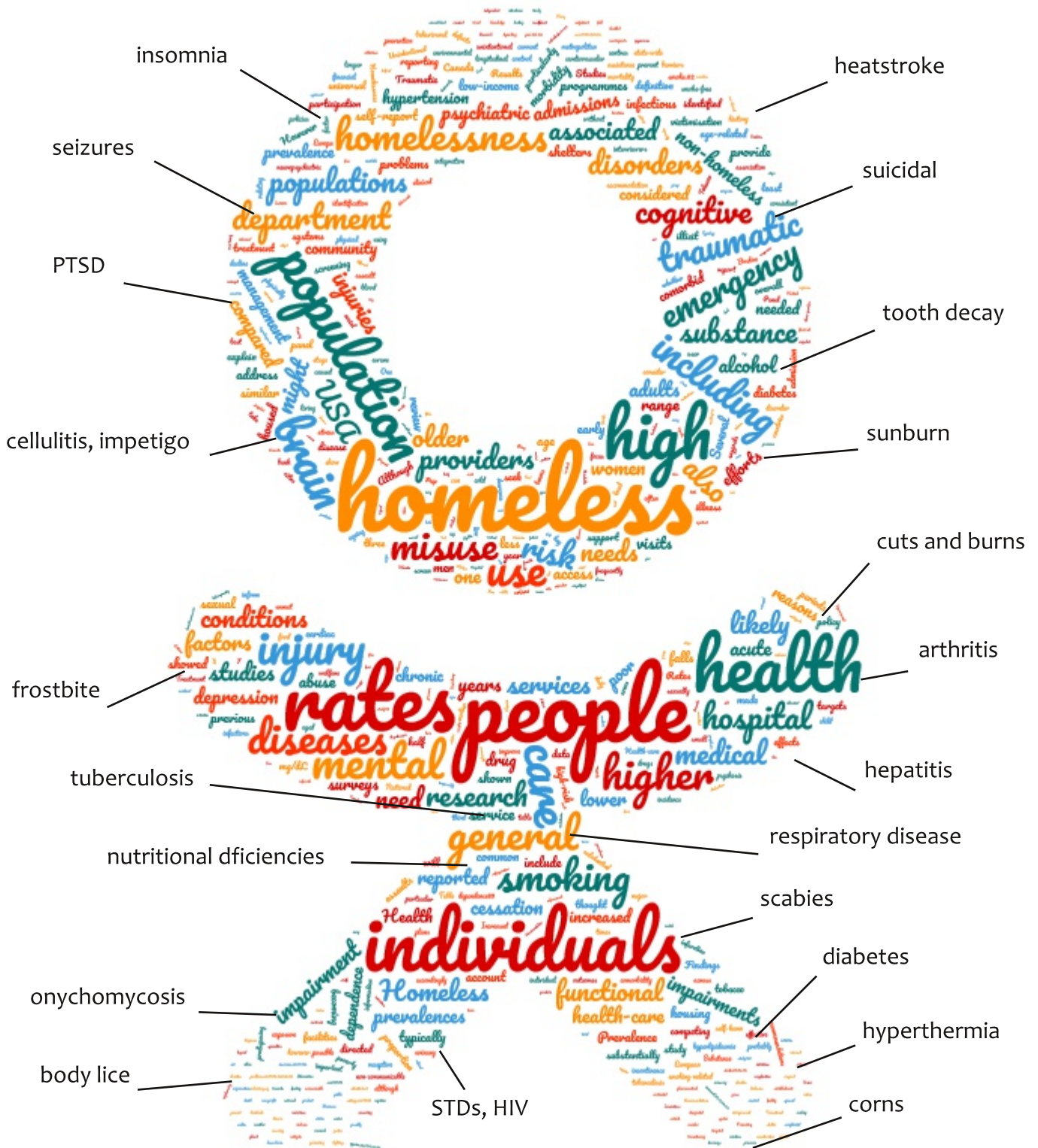
Paying the majority of your income to live in substandard housing may lead to physical, emotional, and psychological harm. When people find housing in a motel, for instance, is it *really a home*?

Homelessness isn't just sleeping on the street. **Ask yourself:** If I don't have a lease in my name, am I living in a safe and stable situation, or am I vulnerable?

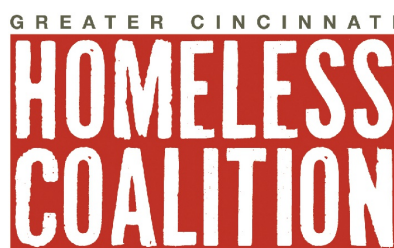


To learn more about solutions, including affordable housing, livable wages, and housing protections, visit us on Facebook or at www.cincihomeless.org

Medical Considerations



People experiencing homelessness get ill just like everyone else, yet they are less likely to have an environment that is conducive to respite and recovery.



Due to the stress and physical environment, many people without homes have **recurring medical issues that require repeat hospitalization**. Housing could break the cycle.

Jumping Through Hoops

There are many obstacles that people experiencing homelessness face. Everyday life becomes more difficult when there is a lack of stability. Here are just **some considerations** when working with someone experiencing homelessness.

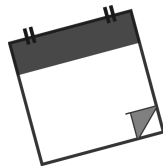


Housed

Receive **Mail** Regularly



Schedule **Appointments** in Advance



Stay Organized at Home **Desk**

Hold onto Mail, **ID's**, Documents



Find **Respite** from Daily Life

Shower and Wash Clothes as Needed



Access Former **Employers**

Obtain **Medical Records, Services**



Have **Support System**

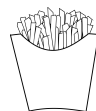


Actively Participate in **Civic Life**

Enjoys **Phone, Internet** Access

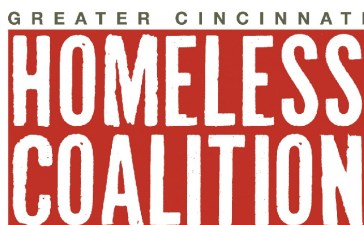


Accesses Nutritional **Food**



Perceives Home as **Safe**

Supported by **Legal System**



Un-Housed

Rely on Others for Mail

Focus Only on Today, Survival

All Documents in Backpack

Easier to Lose Documents

No Chance to Unwind

Rely on Others for Hygiene

No Means of Contact

Can't Access Records, Services

No Support System, Transportation

Focus on Personal Needs

Cut Off, Limited Access, no Charge

Relying on Others, Fastfood, Fried

Trouble Recognizing Safe Situations

Criminalized, Victimized



Everyone's circumstance is different, yet jumping through hoops for shelter, housing, healthcare, and benefits becomes more and more difficult when the systems that are meant to stabilize life become so onerous that individuals give up.

It should be the goal of organizations to help and assist, rather than deny and delay.

Criminalization

When people are punished for trying to survive, it often results in a lower quality of life, as individuals are pushed further into the shadows. Isolated individuals experience higher rates of depression, drug addiction, and violent crime. **When people are pushed into the shadows, they are further from help and services, and may experience homelessness longer.**

Panhandling Law

Material from City Ordinance 910-12.
Improper Solicitation.

You are able to fly a sign.

- You are permitted to panhandle on public property at any time.
- You are able to panhandle on private property, but only with permission from the owner.
- It is legal to verbalize your request between 7am-7pm (7am-8pm during DST: March 8th – November 1st).
- It is illegal to panhandle within close proximity (20ft) of public transport (including bus stops), ATMs or banks, crosswalks, or lines for businesses.
- It is illegal to panhandle from anyone in a car.
- It is illegal to lie about what the money is for, touch or gesture towards people, follow or harass people, threaten, and/or block pathways.

HOW TO RESPOND TO PANHANDLING

Seeking Compassion

Hi, how are you?

Hello, I am not able to give money, but I hope you have a great day.

I have to keep walking but thanks for saying hello.

Sure, here is a little bit. Have a good day.

- * Make eye contact
- * Smile
- * Have compassion

When you meet a fellow human who is asking for help, it may make you feel uncomfortable. This does not mean that person does not deserve the same rights as you.

Cities are increasingly **criminalizing** people who are financially poor with laws, such as making it illegal to sit on sidewalks. This works to remove people from sight, but is not a humane or sustainable solution.

GREATER CINCINNATI
HOMELESS COALITION

To learn more about the lack of affordable housing and inadequacy of services that contributes to panhandling, visit us at www.cincihomeless.org

Following efforts in other municipalities and decisions in federal courts, an effort to clean unconstitutional, freedom of speech and daily life crimes from the municipal code and replace with proactive defense of basic rights here in Cincinnati through the establishment of the **Homeless Bill of Rights**.

Response and Solutions

5 THINGS TO DO WHEN YOU SEE A PERSON WHO YOU THINK MAY BE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. * IN CINCINNATI

- 1 BE A GOOD NEIGHBOR.**
Introduce yourself. Offer your name. If there's something you can do to immediately help to provide some comfort, do it. If there is a medical emergency, call 911 and stress it is medical. Otherwise, do NOT call the police. Homelessness is not a crime.
- 2 IS YOUR NEIGHBOR ASKING FOR HELP?**
Don't assume that people need your help. This is called being paternalistic. If they ask for shelter help, there is one number to call in Cincinnati, the CAP LINE (513) 381-SAFE.
- 3 DO YOU FEEL UNCOMFORTABLE? ASK YOURSELF WHY.**
Do you want to act because you are being compassionate or feeling shame? Learn about stereotypes and how they are unfairly applied to all people experiencing homelessness. Think about Double-Standards - would you apply the same label to someone who does the same thing but does it in the privacy of their own home?
- 4 EDUCATE YOURSELF.**
Read Streetvibes, bring one of the Coalition's Speakers to your school or church. Make sure you know basic facts: there are not enough shelter beds; and, homelessness can be solved by increasing affordable housing and by fighting for livable wages for all.
- 5 DEMAND ADEQUATE PUBLIC SERVICES.**
Contact City Council and the Mayor to demand support for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Inclusionary Zoning. Let them know that we need public restrooms and a fully-funded Human Services Budget (1.5%).



HELP

HOW WE ERADICATE HOMELESSNESS

HOUSING PROTECTIONS

Tenant Organizing
Policy Development and Oversight
Know Your Rights

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

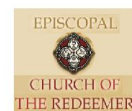
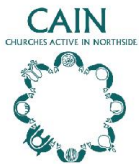
Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Coordinate Services
Education and Training

LIVABLE WAGES

Employment Pipeline
Entrepreneurship Opportunities
Legal Protection

GREATER CINCINNATI

**HOMELESS
COALITION**



First Lutheran Church



HAMILTON COUNTY Community Development



GREATER CINCINNATI HOMELESS COALITION



LEGAL AID SOCIETY OF SOUTHWEST OHIO, LLC



HEALTHY MOMS & BABES



INTERCOMMUNITY JUSTICE AND PEACE CENTER



LYDIA'S HOUSE



MARY MAGDALEN HOUSE



MASLOW'S ARMY
SETTING GOALS CHANGING LIVES
MASLOWSARMY.ORG



MEAC



NAMI



National Church Residences



NEW LIFE FURNITURE BANK



EST. 1985
OUR DAILY BREAD
SOUP KITCHEN & SOCIAL CENTER



OTRCH
COMMUNITY HOUSING



PEACE VILLAGE



PEASLEE
NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER
EDUCATING. ENRICHING. ENGAGING. EMPOWERING.



Power Inspires Progress



Project Connect.
cincinnati public schools



QUEEN CITY KITCHEN
Nourishing Neighbors Since 1978



ST FRANCIS SERAPH MINISTRIES



STLT



shelterhouse
Earning. Doing. No. Charge.
Comprehensive services.
Better outcomes.



SONA



CATHOLIC WORKER HOUSE



tender mercies
Security. Dignity. Community.



OpSpring



URBAN APPALACHIAN COMMUNITY COALITION



Volunteers of America
GREATER OHIO



eliminating racism
empowering women
ywc
greater cincinnati

Next Steps

- Fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund
- Inclusionary Zoning
- Equitable Development
- Just Cause Eviction
- Pay to Stay...

GREATER CINCINNATI HOMELESS COALITION

- Personal Property Protection in Eviction
- Tax Abatement without Displacement
- No Source of Income Discrimination
- Eviction Prevention Program
- Funding for Legal Counsel for Tenants