

Educational Framework

Union of Saints

Practical Steps to Reduce Homelessness While Preserving Public Safety & Dignity

Purpose

This document outlines a structured, balanced approach to reducing homelessness by combining **compassionate support**, **clear public standards**, and **pathways to stability**. The goal is to keep people **off the streets**, **out of dangerous situations**, and **connected to services**, while maintaining safe and functional public spaces for everyone.

Future, Proposed:

I. Public Space Standards & Safety

1. **Public streets, sidewalks, and zones are not designated homeless living areas.**
These areas must remain accessible and safe for general public use.
 2. **Sleeping on public streets is prohibited**, except where explicitly designated through lawful programs or emergency conditions.
 3. **Standing or loitering on medians in high-traffic areas is prohibited** due to serious safety risks.
 4. **Bus stops must be monitored**, and
 - Solicitation at bus stops is prohibited.
 - Bus stops are for transit use only, not shelter or solicitation zones.
 5. **Known drug-swapping or trafficking locations must be routinely street-swept** and actively monitored by law enforcement to disrupt harmful activity.
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II. Solicitation, Fines, and Economic Order

6. **Unlicensed solicitation is prohibited.**
 - Giving cash to homeless individuals without a permit or licensed program may result in fines.

- Soliciting requires a valid license, permit, or participation in an approved program.
 - 7. **Shopping carts and unauthorized property storage are prohibited**, with carts removed humanely and promptly to reduce clutter, hazards, and theft.
 - 8. **Fines issued to individuals who cannot afford to pay must be converted into mandatory volunteer service with the state or approved organizations**, rather than escalating penalties.
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III. Vehicle & Temporary Shelter Policies

- 9. **Sleeping in a personal vehicle is legal**, provided:
 - The individual is not intoxicated.
 - Parking occurs in designated overnight parking zones.
 - 10. **Designated overnight parking areas should be established**, monitored, and paired with outreach services.
 - 11. **Temporary housing solutions**, such as secure hanger-style shelters or modular units, should be provided for short-term stays with supervision and security.
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IV. Employment, Volunteering & Pathways Off the Street

- 12. **Establish structured volunteer and work programs** for individuals needing income, including:
 - City cleaning crews
 - Litter removal programs
 - Maintenance projects
 - App-based or scheduled shift work programs
 - 13. **Participation in work or volunteer programs should be prioritized** as an alternative to street activity.
 - 14. **Programs must be designed to transition individuals off the street**, not to maintain long-term street living.
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V. Food, Supplies & Basic Support

- 15. **Food assistance programs** should include:

- Organized meal programs
- Grocery cards instead of unrestricted cash

16. **Provide essential gear and supplies**, such as:

- Socks
- Sweatshirts
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Hygiene kits

17. **Free emergency medical care must be provided where needed**, including:

- Emergency care
 - Mental health services
 - Addiction treatment referrals
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VI. Transportation & Animal Welfare

18. **No free bus passes or rides** unless tied directly to verified employment, medical appointments, or housing placement programs.

19. **Animals may not remain in homelessness conditions**, as this may violate animal cruelty laws.

- Animals must be placed in safe care or (no kill) homeless term shelters when owners cannot provide adequate housing.
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VII. Long-Term Housing & Specialized Care

20. **Develop long-term disability housing and supportive homes** for individuals who cannot safely live independently.

21. These facilities should include:

- Medical oversight
 - Mental health support
 - Stable, supervised living environments
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VIII. Specialized Outreach Services

22. **Create a unique, uniformed civilian service** trained specifically in homelessness response that:

- Does not rely on police or military
- Includes trained professionals, including formerly homeless individuals
- Focuses on de-escalation, guidance, and escorting individuals to designated shelters or services

23. This task force should serve as a **bridge between enforcement and care**, prioritizing safety, dignity, and compliance.

Conclusion

Reducing homelessness requires **clear boundaries, structured opportunities, and meaningful support systems**. By combining firm public standards with accessible services and employment pathways, communities can protect public safety while offering individuals real routes toward stability, dignity, and long-term housing.