

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.

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.

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.

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.

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

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.

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

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.