

WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU SEE SOMEONE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS


Everyone in Los Angeles encounters homelessness on a daily basis: on streets, in parks, on public transportation, near workplaces and in businesses. It's because we care that it is painful and frustrating to see our neighbors living on the streets but it's hard to know how to make a difference as an individual.




8 Ways You Can Help When You See Someone Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles

Smile. Make eye contact. Introduce yourself.


Remember the individual you are encountering is a person who needs human interaction and connection just like you do, and they are going through trauma by simply living on the street.


 **Make an outreach request through the LA-HOP portal**, by going to <https://www.lahsa.org/-portal/apps/la-hop/request> or downloading the app on your smartphone. This includes persons in need of medical attention, but not in need of an ambulance.

 **If the person appears to be in an immediate psychiatric crisis or is at risk of harming themselves or others, check in with them and call 911.**

 **Familiarize yourself with homeless services and providers in your area.** To learn how to get involved, please visit: <https://www.lahsa.org/get-involved>. To learn about volunteer opportunities in your area, go to <https://volunteer.lamayor.org/>

 **Organize your neighbors and invite a speaker to talk about real solutions to homelessness**, and how everyone can play an important role in building a better future for Los Angeles.

 **Educate yourself!** Read resources like <https://everyoneinla.org/> and lamayor.org/homelessness. Stay connected with local nonprofits leading the charge to address homelessness. Make sure you know the basic facts: there are not enough shelter beds; most people experiencing homelessness in Los Angeles lived here before becoming unhoused; and supportive housing (giving people homes paired with support services) is one of the most effective ways to keep people safely housed and off the streets - for good.

 **NOTE:** Not everyone who is panhandling, showing signs of mental illness on the street, or appearing disheveled are without homes or services. This is why it is important, when possible, to check with people through a human conversation to ask what they want or need before making assumptions.

▶▶ As our community works hard to implement lasting solutions to homelessness, help people recover from the trauma of living on the streets, and advocate for better policies to break cycles of poverty and homelessness in Los Angeles, there are also ways you can help the next time you encounter someone on the street.

 To get help for those who are experiencing homelessness, including finding shelter or housing, safe parking programs, health and mental health resources, and much more, please visit [LAHSA.org/get-help](https://www.lahsa.org/get-help). You can also go to <https://www.lahsa.org/portal/apps/la-hop/> or download the LA-HOP app on your smartphone to make an outreach request.



No wrong DOOR
Access Homelessness Resources Here



[HTTPS://WWW.LAMAYOR.ORG/HOW-HELP-HOMELESS-ANGELENOS](https://www.lamayor.org/how-help-homeless-angelenos)