

SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING DEPARTMENT



BUSINESS GUIDE

www.cityofdavis.org
HOutreach@cityofdavis.org



Homelessness impacts everyone in the community. Knowing what's being done and how to help is the first step in addressing homelessness in our community.

SOME HELPFUL TIPS AND INFORMATION



There are resources available. Don't try to clear occupied spaces or confront people experiencing homelessness on your own. Read through the resources listed here to find the solution that best fits.



Note your observations. Note the location, time, number of unsheltered and any particulars that may be helpful to a first responder or service provider.



Reach out for assistance. There are teams of local professionals available to respond to reports of homelessness. Email HOutreach@cityofdavis.org or visit www.cityofdavis.org/homelessness for resources.



Homelessness is not a crime. Homelessness is the result of many circumstances; it's about the situation and not the person. It may take many attempts to gain trust before someone is open to assistance. We are here to support you, your business and the person experiencing a crisis in housing.



What's next. Once you have reported your concern, someone from our response team will assess the situation and determine next steps. Local law enforcement may meet with you to complete an assessment of your business and make recommendations.



How to help. There are a number of ways you can help address homelessness in Davis. You can [donate supplies](#), [volunteer your time](#) or [spread the word](#). Find information at: www.cityofdavis.org/homelessness.

HOMELESSNESS 101

- **Most have been living outdoors in very difficult circumstances.**



Most are unsheltered, meaning that they live in tents, cars, campers or other structures not meant for human habitation. Typically, without running water, heat or other basic services, these conditions are dire and exhausting, and contribute to health and safety issues and trauma.

- **Most are disabled.**



Many homeless report living with a physical or mental health disability that presents significant barriers to housing, healthcare, employment and other services.

- **Many have experienced significant trauma.**



Most homeless people have experienced trauma that contributed to their homelessness, such as domestic violence or childhood abuse, or trauma that resulted from homelessness, such as physical or sexual assault. It is essential that trauma-informed care is provided that is compassionate, nonjudgmental and focused on safety and healing.

- **Virtually all of them want help.**



There is a common myth that homeless people choose to live on the street and turn down services that are offered to them. This is the opposite of our experience. In fact, we find that when we can provide someone with a safe, stable place to live and connection to nonjudgmental services, they not only accept help but make tremendous strides.

- **Many will be mistrustful at first.**



Due to stigma, discrimination, mental health issues and trauma, many homeless people have experienced difficulty navigating systems of care. They may have relapsed in drug treatment, they may have been evicted and they may have had other experiences that made them lack hope that their situation could improve. It is part of our job to build trust by offering nonjudgmental support to people who we know have had difficult lives.