

If you are approached by someone panhandling or experiencing homelessness, please remember we are all human.

Know that kindness, dignity and compassion are most important. Having a conversation with someone can be a simple and helpful act of kindness.

If you are asked for cash, it's okay to say "I don't have it right now, but I can give you something next time." Or you could say "Sorry, I don't have any money." Or "I don't carry cash" and provide a statement of encouragement and/or offer resources.

If you want to help the person, options include:

- Present the person with a pocket resource card, which provides a range of services available to help with homelessness, mental health and financial issues.
- Donate or volunteer with one of numerous organizations in Oak Park, including Beyond Hunger, Housing Forward or the Oak Park Homelessness Coalition. By volunteering and sharing the information, it is a reminder that you're working toward systemic change to end homelessness by making it rare, brief and one time.

- For outreach, resources or referrals contact the Suburban Cook Call Center at 877-426-6515 or email outreachteam@housingforward.org. Open Mon-Fri, 8:30 AM – 4:30 PM.
- For situations involving criminal or unsafe behavior, you can contact the Oak Park Police Department by calling 911 for emergencies or the non-emergency line at 708-386-3800.
- For anyone dealing with a mental health crisis, contact Thrive Counseling Center at 708-383-7500, option 1. They are available 24/7, every day of the year.

OAK PARK HOMELESSNESS COALITION

endhomelessnessoakpark.com

 [OakParkHomelessnessCoalition](https://www.facebook.com/OakParkHomelessnessCoalition)

Under the "Homeless Bill of Rights", a 2013 IL Law/SB 1210, a person who is homeless cannot be denied access to emergency medical care, public services and spaces, as well as transit systems because they lack housing or list the address of a shelter. The protections extend to a person's right to privacy of personal records, information and property.

If your business is impacted by someone loitering or panhandling, consider engaging with the person.

- If someone is loitering or panhandling on private property, you can kindly ask them to leave.
- Consider getting pocket resource cards to hand out. You can email aramirez@a5inc.com to request a set of cards or print online at endhomelessnessoakpark.com/resources.
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What to do if personal items have been left behind:

- Items in public way – call the Village of Oak Park Public Works Department.
- Items on private property – contact the property owner.



Together,
We Can **End**
Homelessness



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HOMELESSNESS
COALITION

endhomelessnessoakpark.com

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