

# Homeless Resource Guide for Beaverton Businesses



BEAVERTON AREA  
Chamber of Commerce™



Beaverton  
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# Introduction

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Dear Valued Business Partners,

Thank you for choosing Beaverton as the place for your business. Your investment in our city is helping neighborhoods become more dynamic for residents, visitors, and patrons. We are in the midst of an exciting transformation in our downtown areas and beyond—thanks to the many new restaurants, retail and local establishments offering more enjoyable and memorable spaces for community members.

Unfortunately, the rising rate of people experiencing homelessness is real and an extremely challenging situation. While Beaverton residents value providing support to area adults and families experiencing homelessness, we understand the importance of balance between compassionate response and safe access to community amenities.

We developed this Homeless Resource Guide as a tool for you and your employees. We hope the information included will provide practical prevention, intervention, and response support. We need your help ensuring people who live, work, and visit our city feel comfortable, protected, and cared for within our neighborhoods.

Beaverton is an amazing city, and we will continue to do all we can to keep it this way. We appreciate your support and partnership.

Jenny Haruyama  
City Manager | City of Beaverton

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The Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce is proud to work side by side with the City of Beaverton. From our Impact Beaverton program, which offers support and counseling to our small businesses, to collaboration on initiatives, we do our best to support one another.

Any issue that takes you, our business owners, away from focusing on your business is concerning. We applaud the city in their efforts to respond to homelessness. The tools provided here should help in this process. However, should you need more support, or a sounding board, do not hesitate to reach out to the BACC staff. We are here to support our businesses and our city.

We are proud to be a part of the growth that Beaverton is experiencing, and we can do better together than separately. Come Grow With Us!

Alicia Bermes  
CEO | Beaverton Area Chamber of Commerce

# City of Beaverton Homelessness Response

**BPD Bike Team:** Focuses on problem-solving and proactive patrols of the downtown core area, city parks and transit centers in an effort to establish an approachable police presence. They bring needed resources to unhoused communities and interface with encampments, on patrol Mon-Sat. To contact the bike team, call non-emergency and request the team. For questions, email: [mailboxpdwebmail@BeavertonOregon.gov](mailto:mailboxpdwebmail@BeavertonOregon.gov)



**Safe Parking Program:** Safe, legal place to park for people experiencing homelessness and living out of their vehicles. For intake, contact Just Compassion at 503-646-4666.

**Beaverton Winter Shelter:** Safe, warm place to sleep with hot meals and housing resources. Enrollment required, but on-site case manager can help. Open Nov-May every year, 24/7 at the Beaverton Community Center (12350 SW 5th St). Call 503-640-3263 for enrollment.

**Beaverton Year-Round Shelter:** Anticipated to open in Winter 2023. Visit [BeavertonOregon.gov/shelter](http://BeavertonOregon.gov/shelter) for updates.

**Beaverton City Library:** Offers free computer access and wifi, a public phone, referrals to showers, phone chargers, and more. An outreach worker is available from Community Action Wed-Fri to help with referral to childcare, shelter, energy and rent assistance, and Oregon Health Plan enrollment. See [beavertonlibrary.org](http://beavertonlibrary.org) for library hours and times.

**Street Outreach Team:** Greater Good NW is a nonprofit that provides street outreach services to the Beaverton community. The goal of street outreach is to meet the basic needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, using harm reduction strategies, and to have positive exits from homelessness into housing. The team walks around downtown Beaverton during the day Mon-Wed. The team can be reached at [outreach@greatergoodnw.org](mailto:outreach@greatergoodnw.org).

**Social Service Funding Grants:** Over \$300,000 in grant funding provided on an annual basis through a competitive process to nonprofit organizations addressing the needs of low-income Beaverton residents. Priorities are determined by City Council and currently target housing/homelessness, affordable after-school and educational programming, and health. Current grantees at: [BeavertonOregon.gov/socialservices](http://BeavertonOregon.gov/socialservices).

# Five Myths About Homelessness

## 1 People move to Washington County to be homeless.

Annual point-in-time counts have consistently shown that the majority of people experiencing homelessness in this area are from Washington County. Data has shown that the % of people experiencing homelessness who move to this region is roughly the same as the % of housed people who move to this region.

## 2 Homelessness is the main source of waste in the community.

People who are experiencing homelessness generate trash like everyone else, but they don't produce more than housed neighbors – they just lack access to trash collection and it's more visible. Dumping near homeless camps is very common. There is also a lack of access to public restrooms and other hygiene facilities.

## 3 People choose to be homeless.

The leading cause of homelessness is the lack of available affordable housing. Older folks on social security income, people with disabilities, or those making minimum wage often cannot afford the high cost of rent. Many people are only one paycheck away from a sudden illness, job loss, or eviction that could lead to homelessness.

## 4 People experiencing homelessness are dangerous/violent/criminals.

People experiencing homelessness are far more likely to be the victims of crime and violence than perpetrators. They are more likely to have criminal justice intervention because many of their daily survival activities are criminalized – such as trespassing, littering, or loitering.

## 5 The majority of people experiencing homelessness abuse drugs / alcohol.

While some folks do struggle with addiction, it is often a response to homelessness and the trauma of living on the streets, rather than the cause.

### Sources & More Information

**[Washington County PIT Count:](http://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/homeless-data-and-point-in-time-activities.cfm)** [www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/homeless-data-and-point-in-time-activities.cfm](http://www.co.washington.or.us/Housing/EndHomelessness/homeless-data-and-point-in-time-activities.cfm)

**[12 Biggest Myths About Homelessness in America:](http://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2019/september/HomelessQandA.html)** [www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2019/september/HomelessQandA.html](http://www.nyu.edu/about/news-publications/news/2019/september/HomelessQandA.html)

**[PSU Mythbusters:](https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/mythbusters)** <https://www.pdx.edu/homelessness/mythbusters>

# Prevention

## Do:

- Get to know unhoused neighbors and treat them with compassion.
- Keep the area in front of the store clean and well maintained.
- Make sure all lights work properly, including areas around entrances, alcoves, and covered spaces.
- Install motion-activated exterior lighting for after hours security.
- Trim trees and maintain landscaping.
- Register your security cameras with the Beaverton Police Department's voluntary Community Watch Security Camera Registry Program, which serves as a resource to officers when investigating criminal activity: [beavertonpolice.org](http://beavertonpolice.org)
- Turn off exterior power outlets and lock dumpsters when possible.
- Connect with the city's Community Development Department to talk about our Storefront and Tenant Improvement Grants, which offer in-kind architectural design services and cash matching grants to help improve business street frontages and/or restaurant interiors.
- Get to know the Beaverton Police Department Bike Team and the Greater Good NW Street Outreach Team who develop relationships with people experiencing homelessness and work to provide housing navigation, resource referral, and crisis response.

## Do not:

- Make assumptions or stereotype someone based on their appearance or housing status.
- Assume people know your boundaries or expectations.
- Permit anyone to camp on your property.
- Allow anyone to store shopping carts or personal belongings on your property.

# Intervention

- If someone housed or unhoused is being disruptive, try to deescalate the situation if you are comfortable and feel safe doing so. Speak calmly and clearly using phrases such as “I understand you are upset; I’d like to try and help you.” This may prevent the need for police or others from having to get involved and reduce criminalization of homelessness.
- Contact Street Outreach for follow-up and to help navigate the situation.
- Let people know the boundaries on your property. If people are doing something illegal or won’t leave when asked, call the non-emergency police line: at 503-629-0111.
- If someone is unruly or causing a disturbance, call 9-1-1. Know you can text 911 in situations where you cannot place a call.
- Become familiar with local service providers in your neighborhood so you can direct the person to meals, shelter, or other services. Use 211 or the Rose City Resource Guide to point persons in the right direction. Provide the Beaverton Social Service Map for local resources. The Community Action Outreach Worker in the Beaverton City Library can help with navigation of services.
- Call the Washington County Crisis Line if you encounter someone who appears to be in a mental health crisis. If you’re aware of someone in crisis, help starts by calling the Washington County Crisis Line at 503-291-9111.

**NOTE:** if a person is threatening or engaging in physical harm, call 911 first — and then the Crisis Line. Inform both that the crisis appears related to mental health.



**808** individuals were counted as experiencing homelessness on a single night in Washington County in 2022, with **28%** living unsheltered.

# Common Scenarios

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## Someone is sleeping/loitering in front of the business

1. As it's likely not a one-time interaction, establish a friendly relationship with the individual(s).
2. If they are sleeping, avoid tapping or touching to wake them. Approach from the front and slowly. Don't yell but speak loudly so they can hear you.
3. Introduce yourself and share your name. Ask for their name and greet them. If possible, try to be at eye level while speaking and avoid standing over or above them.
4. Let them know the area needs to be clear around the entrance and politely ask them to leave. Let them know where they can relocate to and/or provide the resource card with resource center and meal locations. E.g. "You can be on the sidewalk as long as you leave room for people to walk by." "The library has public restrooms and computer access." "Please do not ask our customers for money or I will have to ask you to leave."
5. If they are not cooperative, let them know that you really don't want to call the police but will if you have to. Call the non-emergency number at 503-629-0111 if needed.
6. If safety is a concern, call 9-1-1.

## Someone disruptive has walked into the business

1. Greet them and ask if you can help. If they purchase something, treat them like any other customer.
2. If they do not make a purchase, let them know that the area is for customers and politely ask them to leave, if you would do the same for a non-paying patron that's not experiencing homelessness. Offer to direct them somewhere else, using the resource card.
3. Your safety, and the safety of your customers is the priority. If the person continues to be disruptive, or exhibit symptoms of a mental health crisis you can do the following:
  - Ask them to leave
  - Call the Washington County Crisis Line (503-291-9111)
  - Contact the Greater Good NW Street Outreach Team at [outreach@greatergoodnw.org](mailto:outreach@greatergoodnw.org)
  - Let them know you are calling the police and call non-emergency (503-629-0111).
  - Call 9-1-1 if the situation is dangerous.

# Central Beaverton Social Services



**Beaverton City Hall**  
12725 SW Millikan Way



**HomePlate**  
12520 SW 3rd St.



**Faith Cafe**  
5150 SW Watson Ave.



**Beaverton City Library (BCL)**  
12375 SW 5th St.



**Public Restrooms**  
12501 SW 5th St.



**Food Pantry**  
5120 SW Franklin Ave.



**Beaverton Winter Shelter**  
12350 SW 5th St.



## Faith Cafe- Bethel Congregation United Church of Christ

**Sundays 4:30pm**  
Free weekly hot meals

## Public Restrooms

**Times Vary**  
City Park Restrooms Open 7am-10pm

## Food Pantry- St. Vincent de Paul Society

**Mon – Fri 9-11am, Mon -Thurs 6-7pm**  
Food pantry coordinated by Care to Share. For  
pantry services contact 503-591-9025

## HomePlate Youth Services Drop-in Center for Youth

**Mon-Fri 2-5pm, M/W 6-8pm**  
Weekly drop-in resources for youth ages 12-24;  
food, clothes, housing, and employment assistance

## Beaverton Winter Shelter at Beaverton Community Center

**Open 24/7 until May 2022**  
Safe, warm place to sleep with hot meals and  
housing resources. For enrollment to shelter  
contact 503-640-3263

## Community Action outreach worker at BCL

**Weds 10am-4:30pm, Thurs-Fri 10am-6pm**  
Resource referrals to childcare, shelter, energy/  
rent assistance, OHP/TriMet enrollment

**Just Compassion Resource Center**  
12280 SW Hall Blvd. Mon-Fri 10am-2pm  
Meals, showers, internet, resources

**Mental Health Crisis Line: 503-291-9111** **Resource Line: 2-1-1**  
**City of Beaverton Community Services Program:**  
BeavertonOregon.gov/CommunityServices

# Ways to help

**Referral Resources:** Connect someone in need of assistance with one of the following:

- Community Connect: 503-640-3263
- 2-1-1 Info
- Street Roots Rose City Resource Guide (copies available for distribution)

**Day Centers:** Direct individuals to a nearby day center or help them stock supplies

- Beaverton Resource Center: 13565 SW Walker Rd.  
Beaverton OR 97005 | [beavertonresourcecenter.org](http://beavertonresourcecenter.org)
- Just Compassion Resource Center: 12280 SW Hall Blvd  
Tigard, OR 97223 | [justcompassionewc.com](http://justcompassionewc.com)
- HomePlate Youth Services (for youth 12-24): 12520 SW 3rd St  
Beaverton OR 97005 | [HomePlateYouth.org](http://HomePlateYouth.org)
- Project Homeless Connect: 363 SE 6th St  
Hillsboro, OR 97123 | [PHCWC.org](http://PHCWC.org)

**Job Training:** List your open positions with or consider hiring someone who has experienced homelessness from

- WorkSource Oregon: 241 SW Edgeway Dr  
Beaverton, OR 97006 | [WorkSourcePortlandMetro.org](http://WorkSourcePortlandMetro.org)
- Centro de Prosperidad: 400 E Main St Suite 110  
Hillsboro, OR 97123 | [Prosperidad@CentroCultural.org](mailto:Prosperidad@CentroCultural.org)

**Food Pantries:** Know where they are and help stock them locally

- Care to Share Pantry Network: call to schedule a pickup at a local pantry at 503-591-9025 (Mon-Fri, 9am-2pm)
- Oregon Food Bank Locations: [oregonfoodbank.org](http://oregonfoodbank.org)
- Beaverton Free Food Fridges: [beavertonfoodproject.com](http://beavertonfoodproject.com)





**For homelessness programming:**  
commserv@BeavertonOregon.gov  
BeavertonOregon.gov/communityservices

**For business assistance:**  
economicdev@BeavertonOregon.gov

**For the Beaverton Chamber:**  
Beaverton.org

*Updated in 2022*

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