

**Business For Good San Diego**  
**Homeless Tool Kit**  
The Basics for Your Business



**BUSINESS  
FOR GOOD**

San Diego

## WHAT TO DO WHEN YOU WANT TO HELP A PERSON

- Get to know the people living on the streets in your area and treat them in a way that makes them like and respect you as a good neighbor. A little respect can go a long way.
- Offer to help and call public services. Call 2-1-1, an organization that connects people to over 6,000 community, health and disaster services. It's free and available 24/7.
- Refer them to the San Diego Housing Commission for housing assistance, security deposit and utility assistance. Housing First hotline: 619-578-7768.
- Encourage them to get job training at Goodwill, Father Joe's Village, Kitchens For Good, San Diego Rescue Mission, Second Chance, Alpha Project, or Veterans Village of San Diego.

## TAKING ACTION

- When you want to get more involved there are many organizations involved in directly helping homeless people, or trying to end homelessness, or increase affordable housing.
- One of the best things you can do as a business is find one that you want to support and ask them what they need.
- San Diego's service providers know how to help our homeless population; it's what they're best at. The more we support them, the more they can help people get off the streets and become productive members of our community.

## AREAS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU INCLUDE:

### POINT IN TIME

Participating in the annual point in time count helps us know how many people are on the streets. That number is critical to bringing enough resources to address the issue. For more info go to:  
[www.rtfhsd.org/get-involved/weallcount](http://www.rtfhsd.org/get-involved/weallcount)

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Contact any of these organizations:  
[www.rtfhsd.org/list-of-members/](http://www.rtfhsd.org/list-of-members/)

### ADVOCACY

Participate in Business for Good San Diego's homelessness committee.

### YOUTH OUTREACH

Young people need caring adults in their lives. Become a mentor.

### HOUSING

Talk to any of the landlords you know about accepting housing vouchers.

### JOB TRAINING

Please hire (and encourage other business owner you know) to hire someone who's been homeless.

## DO:

- Keep the area in front of the store clean and well maintained. If you keep your area clean, others are more likely to respect that area.
- Get to know your neighborhood SDPD Community Relations Officer (CRO) and talk to them about the problems you are having with homeless individuals.
- If someone, homeless or not, is being disruptive, try to deescalate the situation if you are comfortable doing so. A few reasonable words may prevent the police or others from having to get involved and reduce criminalization of homelessness.
- If homeless people are loitering around your business and won't leave, call the non-emergency police number at 619-531-2000. If they are unruly, call 9-1-1.
- Lock or turn off exterior power outlets.
- Install motion-activated exterior lighting for after hours.
- Fill out a "Trespass Arrest Authorization" form, (found here: [sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/police/pdf/letterofagency.pdf](https://sandiego.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/police/pdf/letterofagency.pdf)) so the SDPD can enforce the law on your property after hours, when you're not there.
- Know local service providers who can provide a meal or shower in your neighborhood so you can point people in the right direction.
- Post our frontline staff placard by your register or front desk and share with your staff.
- Download **Get it Done San Diego** the official app for reporting non-emergency problems to the City of San Diego. See a problem? Take a photo, upload it from the spot and an auto-report is generated.

## DON'T:

- Offer food or money. It often encourages panhandling. Call 2-1-1 so you'll know the social service organizations nearest your business equipped to help and provide more comprehensive services beyond a meal.
- Permit anyone to camp on your property, unless you have developed a trusting relationship with them.
- Allow anyone to store shopping carts or personal belongings on your property.