

**COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT
DISTRICT
PLAYBOOK**





ADDRESSING PANHANDLING THROUGH JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

Community Improvement Districts (CIDs) are instrumental in fostering community well-being and addressing local challenges. One effective strategy for tackling panhandling is the implementation of job creation programs. By offering small abatement jobs and educating the public, CIDs can reduce panhandling and promote economic stability for individuals experiencing homelessness.

UNDERSTANDING PANHANDLING

Panhandling often reflects deeper issues such as homelessness, unemployment, and mental health challenges. While giving money directly to panhandlers may seem compassionate, it can perpetuate a cycle of dependency. Providing sustainable job opportunities offers a dignified alternative and helps address the root causes of panhandling.


GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

- >> Reduce the prevalence of panhandling by providing alternative earning opportunities.
- >> Educate the public on the benefits of supporting structured job programs over direct giving.
- >> Promote economic stability and independence for individuals experiencing homelessness.

STRATEGIES FOR JOB CREATION PROGRAMS

DEVELOPING JOB PROGRAMS

- >> **Small Abatement Jobs:** Create small-scale, manageable jobs such as litter removal, graffiti abatement, park maintenance, and beautification projects. These jobs can provide immediate, tangible work opportunities.
- >> **Partnerships with Local Businesses:** Collaborate with local businesses to create additional job opportunities tailored to the skills and capabilities of individuals experiencing homelessness. This can include part-time work, seasonal employment, and entry-level positions.

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- >> **Public Sector Employment:** Work with municipal agencies to develop job programs that involve maintaining public spaces, such as cleaning streets, landscaping, and other community service roles.
 - >> **Nonprofit and Social Enterprises:** Support the creation of nonprofit organizations or social enterprises that provide job training and employment to homeless individuals. These can range from urban farming projects to craft production and resale shops.

TRAINING AND SUPPORT SERVICES

- >> **Job Readiness Training:** Offer training programs that focus on job readiness skills, including resume writing, interview preparation, and workplace etiquette.
- >> **Support Services:** Provide wraparound services such as case management, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment, and financial literacy workshops to ensure long-term success.
- >> **Mentorship Programs:** Establish mentorship programs where experienced workers guide and support new employees, helping them to navigate workplace challenges and build confidence.

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS

- >> **Awareness Initiatives:** Launch campaigns to educate the public on the benefits of supporting job programs instead of giving money directly to panhandlers. Highlight success stories and the positive impact of these programs.
- >> **Community Engagement:** Host community meetings, workshops, and forums to discuss the issue of panhandling and the advantages of job creation programs. Engage local media to amplify the message.

INCENTIVIZING PARTICIPATION

- >> **Stipends and Benefits:** Provide stipends, transportation vouchers, and other incentives to encourage participation in job programs.
- >> **Recognition and Rewards:** Recognize and reward individuals who show commitment and progress in the program. This can include certificates, public acknowledgment, and opportunities for advancement.



IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

ASSESSMENT AND PLANNING

- >> Conduct a needs assessment to identify the skills, interests, and barriers faced by individuals who are panhandling.
- >> Develop a detailed implementation plan with specific job roles, training modules, and support services.

PROGRAM LAUNCH

- >> Partner with local businesses and organizations to create initial job opportunities.
- >> Launch a pilot program to test and refine the approach before scaling up.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

- >> Roll out an education campaign to inform the public about the job creation program and the reasons for not giving money directly to panhandlers.
- >> Use social media, local newspapers, and community events to spread the message.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- >> Establish metrics to track the success of the job creation program, such as the number of individuals employed, job retention rates, and reduction in panhandling.
- >> Regularly evaluate the program's impact and make adjustments based on feedback and outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Addressing panhandling through job creation programs provides a dignified and sustainable solution for individuals experiencing homelessness. By offering alternative earning opportunities and educating the public, Community Improvement Districts can reduce panhandling and promote economic stability within their communities. This playbook serves as a guide to implementing effective job programs that benefit both individuals in need and the broader community.

Small abatement jobs, in particular, can be a powerful tool in demonstrating to the public that those asking for money have viable opportunities to earn an income, thereby reducing the inclination to give money directly and encouraging more structured support.



HIRING STREET OUTREACH WORKERS

INTEGRATING OUTREACH TEAMS WITH SECURITY

- >> **Dual-Role Teams:** Hire street outreach workers who are also part of the security team. These individuals should be specially trained in outreach techniques and equipped to handle calls related to homelessness.
- >> **Specialized Training:** Provide extensive training for outreach workers on topics such as mental health first aid, de-escalation techniques, trauma-informed care, and local resources for the homeless.
- >> **Holistic Response:** Ensure that all calls about homeless individuals are handled by the outreach-trained members of the security team, focusing on connecting individuals to services and support rather than solely enforcing security measures.

BENEFITS OF OUTREACH WORKERS

- >> **Building Trust:** Outreach workers can build rapport and trust with homeless individuals, making it easier to connect them with necessary services and support.
- >> **Comprehensive Support:** These workers can provide immediate assistance, such as food, clothing, or transportation to shelters, and offer long-term solutions by connecting individuals to housing programs, job training, and healthcare services.
- >> **Reducing Tensions:** Having outreach workers respond to homelessness-related calls can reduce tensions and conflicts, ensuring a more compassionate and effective approach to managing homelessness within the CID.

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN FOR OUTREACH TEAMS

RECRUITMENT AND TRAINING

- >> Recruit individuals with experience in social services, mental health, or related fields.
- >> Provide specialized training in outreach, mental health, and de-escalation techniques.

DEPLOYMENT

- >> Integrate outreach workers into the existing security team, ensuring they are the primary responders to homelessness-related calls.
- >> Equip outreach workers with the necessary tools and resources to perform their duties effectively.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- >> Inform the community about the role of outreach workers and how they can assist in addressing homelessness.
- >> Collaborate with local service providers to ensure a seamless referral process and access to resources.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- >> Track the number of interactions and outcomes of outreach efforts, such as the number of individuals connected to services and reductions in homelessness-related incidents.
- >> Regularly review and update training programs based on feedback and outcomes.

CONCLUSION

Integrating street outreach workers into the security team provides a compassionate and effective approach to handling calls related to homelessness. Combined with strategic environmental design and job creation programs, Community Improvement Districts can significantly reduce panhandling, prevent homeless encampments, and promote a safer, more inclusive community. This playbook offers a comprehensive guide to implementing these strategies, benefiting both individuals in need and the broader community.



ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN FOR CRIME PREVENTION AND SPACE UTILIZATION

CRIME PREVENTION THROUGH ENVIRONMENTAL DESIGN (CPTED)

- >> **Natural Surveillance:** Increase visibility in public spaces by improving lighting, reducing obstructions, and designing layouts that allow for clear sightlines. This can deter criminal activity and make spaces feel safer.
- >> **Access Control:** Use barriers, such as fences, bollards, and landscaping, to direct the flow of people and reduce opportunities for unauthorized access. This helps manage and control the use of public spaces effectively.
- >> **Territorial Reinforcement:** Clearly define public and private spaces through the use of signage, landscaping, and pavement treatments. This establishes a sense of ownership and responsibility, discouraging unwanted behavior.

DESIGNING PUBLIC SPACES TO DISCOURAGE ENCAMPMENTS

- >> **Multi-Use Spaces:** Design parks and public areas for multi-purpose use, incorporating amenities like seating, playgrounds, and sports facilities that attract regular, diverse use and discourage encampments.
- >> **Architecture:** Implement design elements such as sloped benches, divided seating, and boulders that discourage long-term occupation without compromising usability for the general public.
- >> **Community Activities:** Organize regular events and activities in public spaces to increase legitimate use and deter the establishment of encampments.



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