



ATLANTA
DOWNTOWN

Addressing

Homelessness

in Atlanta

A 2019 COMMUNITY GUIDE

Homelessness is a very real and very serious issue that we face as a nation and as a local community.

Atlanta Downtown believes that a livable, vibrant, and economically robust Downtown must reflect our values, which means we take an active role in social issues and support our Downtown service organizations that serve those in need.

This guide is intended to provide information about the current state of homelessness in the city, the work being done by service providers and stakeholders, and tactics the general public can employ to become part of the solution to making homelessness rare, brief, and nonrecurring.

Keep this as a reference, and stay tuned for opportunities to learn, to participate in conversations, and to join the collective effort to support the most vulnerable among us with dignity and respect.

Atlanta's Current Landscape

Partners for HOME leads the City of Atlanta's coordinated strategy on ending homelessness. Partners for HOME brings together nonprofit, government, and business leaders on a shared approach to creating a coordinated crisis response system to maximize impact, built on a "housing first" foundation.

3,076



unsheltered
individuals

1,146



sheltered
(740 unsheltered)

1,190



in transitional
housing



From 2009 to 2018, Atlanta's unsheltered count has been reduced by over 67%, and the total count has decreased by more than 40%.

Data from the 2018 Point in Time Count

Partners for HOME's Vision for Ending Homelessness

- Those at risk receive emergency assistance (outreach, overnight shelter)
- They are then assessed, assigned, and navigated through the care system
- They then receive intervention (diversion, income and employment, rapid rehousing, or permanent supportive housing)

Key Players and Service Providers

The entities leading the charge on ending homelessness in Atlanta:

- **The Regional Commission on Homelessness**, a United Way strategy
- **Partners for HOME**, chartered by the City of Atlanta
- **The Gateway Center**, located at 275 Pryor Street, serves as the “gateway” to Atlanta’s community continuum of care. Gateway’s Client Engagement Center serves as a resource center for men, women, and children experiencing homelessness. For more information, **call 404.215.6600 or visit www.gatewayctr.org**.

Downtown has the highest concentration of service providers in the City of Atlanta, from shelters to places to eat a free meal. You can view all of them and learn more about their respective offerings on our online interactive map at **www.AtlantaDowntown.com/Services**.

“This is a pivotal time for the Atlanta community as there are so many people coming together in agreement to enact our strategic plan to end homelessness in Atlanta. By creating a united and coordinated crisis response system across metro Atlanta, we are poised to make homelessness rare, brief and nonrecurring.”

Cathryn Marchman, MSW, Esq., Executive Director,
Partners for HOME

How Atlanta Downtown is Involved

The crux of our work focuses on **building relationships with community partners**—including agencies at the City of Atlanta, Fulton County, and the State of Georgia—and supporting social service organizations working in Downtown that address quality of life issues.

In addition to hosting a Social Impact Director position, our organization's Downtown Ambassador Force members have daily interactions with community members in need and regularly direct individuals to resources.

Our social impact priorities include:

- Creating a dedicated social worker position in Woodruff Park to directly engage with and support park users in need.
- Diverting funds from panhandling occurrences to service providers to encourage the public to invest their dollars in long-term solutions.
- Encouraging members of the community to shift their volunteerism from public feedings to volunteering within service organizations that provide pathways and assistance out of homelessness.
- Securing housing for the 190 residents of the former Peachtree-Pine shelter at 477 Peachtree.

For more information about Atlanta Downtown's community involvement and efforts, visit www.AtlantaDowntown.com/Initiatives.

How You Can Help

In the moment: There are many tactics you can employ if you encounter someone in need.



Treat them with respect and dignity: eye contact, a simple conversation starter or salutation.



Refrain from giving money and instead **redirect them to 2-1-1 or the Gateway Center's Client Engagement Center** at 275 Pryor Street if they are in need of shelter or services.



If you wish to provide immediate assistance, **consider food gift cards, Breeze cards, and personal care items.**



If you attempt to engage and feel that the situation is unsafe or uncomfortable, **contact the experts:**

Downtown Ambassador Force
404-215-9600 or text at 404-732-4200

Police Dispatch // 911

How You Can Help

- **Donate.** Monetary or non-monetary gifts go a long way in supporting those in need, from funds to pay for client outreach to personal care items packaged into hygiene kits.
- **Volunteer.** Support the people constantly working on this complex issue. Many service providers need assistance with administrative tasks, serving meals to clients, and much more.
- **Advocate.** Get to know your local elected officials and their involvement in policymaking in support of these issues. Direct those in your network who are looking for ways to give back to the service providers who help individuals on their path to self-sufficiency.
- **Educate.** Educate yourself and your personal network on homelessness. This complex issue occurs for many reasons, and having a better understanding of the various factors that can lead to and can solve homelessness will help us all tackle the issue with compassion, understanding, and sensitivity.



View the map of Downtown service providers at www.AtlantaDowntown.com/Services.

This guide is just the beginning of our efforts to educate the community about homelessness in Atlanta. Have feedback or questions? Contact us at marketing@atlantadowntown.com.



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