

HOMELESSNESS

Awareness and Resources

DEMOGRAPHICS

There are 657 people experiencing homelessness in Alachua county, as of 2020. This is slightly down from the 714 houseless individuals in 2019. Florida in total has more than 27,000 people experiencing homelessness.

POLICY

Gainesville doesn't have explicit anti-vagrancy laws; however, its actions tell a different story:

Signs are placed around downtown that warn against trespassing, soliciting, or panhandling, coupled with increased GPD presence

- **October 2020:** The Gainesville city commission voted to begin placing lockers and portable restrooms throughout downtown, which has yet to happen.
- **December 2020:** City Commission approved a \$385,000 downtown renovation project, but none of the money has been directly allocated to aid the unhoused community in the area

HOW TO HELP

1. Educate yourself and others around you

- There are many reasons that a person may experience homelessness, such as loss of job, lack of housing, drug abuse, domestic abuse, etc.

2. Volunteer

- There are many ways to volunteer your time to help out such as volunteering at a homeless shelter, soup kitchen, etc.

3. Help and seek out job opportunities

- Organize lessons in basic training such as typing, creating a resume or practicing interview skills
- Encourage the local community to hire homeless people for basic work such as cleaning, caring, and answering phones

4. Advocate

- Organize food drives and donation drives for local shelters and areas of increased homelessness.
- Create interest organizations and speak up at local town meetings on issues that homeless people face and race awareness.

5. Donate

- Perishable items, canned goods, unwanted clothing (blankets, coats, socks, etc.)
- Organize fundraisers in the community to get these items, as well as raising money.



ORGANIZATIONS IN GAINESVILLE



Provides emergency shelter, permanent housing, showers, hot meals, storage, case management, job training, and space for partners to provide healthcare and other services.

Learn how to support them through a variety of ways on their [website](#)



St. Francis House

Offers case management; nutritious meals; educational, health and career resources with multiple locations in the Gainesville area

Donate or shop their wishlist [here](#)

