



Business Improvement District



## OVERVIEW

The DowntownDC BID has the only non-governmental, clinically-based outreach team for adults experiencing homelessness in Washington, DC. In partnership with Pathways to Housing DC, a nationally recognized organization, the DowntownDC BID uses best practices and a “Housing First” approach to address homelessness. Over the past five years, using this approach has helped to house about 250 homeless individuals, with a retention rate of 85-90%.

The DowntownDC BID’s goal is to reduce chronic homelessness through a unified approach involving other local BIDs, the city, service providers, and non-profit organizations. Thus, through strong working relationships with property managers and business community leaders, as well as collaborations with city officials and leading service providers, the DowntownDC BID has developed a respected and vital program to facilitate dialogue and build consensus to provide for the housing needs of Downtown’s homeless population, while decreasing the number of people living on Downtown streets and in shelters.

DowntownDC BID staff members are prepared to assist property managers in coordinating a plan that meets their properties’ needs. For further information, or to speak to a DowntownDC BID representative, call 202-638-3232.

## WHAT PROPERTY MANAGERS CAN DO

If your building has on-site security, with either contracted or staff employees, you may want them to serve as your agent when engaging with homeless individuals. What they can do:

- Engage a homeless individual in a conversation to determine the nature of his/her needs by using a normal and non-threatening tone.
- Avoid touching, grabbing, threatening, demeaning or otherwise intimidating the individual.
- Advise the individual, in a non-hostile tone, that encamping or trespassing on private property is illegal and as such may result in a request for a police response.
- Assess whether the individual requires some form of emergency medical response.
- Contact the SAM office at 202-624-1550 and request a member of the Homeless Services Outreach Team (HOST) to respond. This team has specialized training and can conduct proper outreach or dispatch our Downtown Homeless Services Team, should specialized outreach be required. The latter consists of clinical workers and a licensed psychologist.
- Contact the Metropolitan Police Department (MPD) or the DC Department of Human Services (888-793-4357/24-hour help line) if the problem persists.
- Notify the police immediately by dialing 911 when an individual is openly hostile or poses an obvious risk to you or others.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

If you see a homeless person who appears to be in distress from the elements, please call the Hypothermia/Shelter Hotline at 1-800-535-7252.

**SAM Homeless Outreach Service Team:** 202-624-1550  
**DC Department of Human Services 24-hour help line:** 1-888-793-4357  
**For emergencies call MPD:** 911



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# how2

## address homeless concerns

### HOMELESS STATISTICS - CITYWIDE

- 6,954 homeless single persons and families were counted in the January 2012 enumeration
- Homeless persons increased by 6% from the 2011 count of 6,546
- 1,870 persons are chronically homeless from 2,093 in 2011
- 542 persons were estimated to be sleeping on the street
- Average age is 49
- 15.5% suffer from chronic substance abuse
- 13% are severely mentally ill
- 23% had a severe mental illness co-occurring with chronic substance abuse
- 20% of homeless have chronic health problems
- 2.9% persons are living with HIV/AIDs
- 7% have been victims of domestic violence
- 11.8% are U.S. military veterans
- 8.5% have limited English proficiency

### HOMELESS STATISTICS - DOWNTOWN DC

- 151 persons were counted as homeless in the DowntownDC BID area in September 2011
- An additional 100-125 homeless people are estimated to be on Downtown DC streets during the daytime because of daily transportation drop offs from shelters to 9th and G streets, NW

### RESOURCES

- A Regional Portrait of Homelessness: 2011 Homeless Enumeration, Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments:
  - <http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/p15eXlo20110512131909.pdf>
- DowntownDC BID Homeless Services:
  - <http://www.downtowndc.org>
- Pathways to Housing DC:
  - [http://pathwaystohousing.org/content/city\\_washington\\_dc/](http://pathwaystohousing.org/content/city_washington_dc/)

[www.downtowndc.org](http://www.downtowndc.org)



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