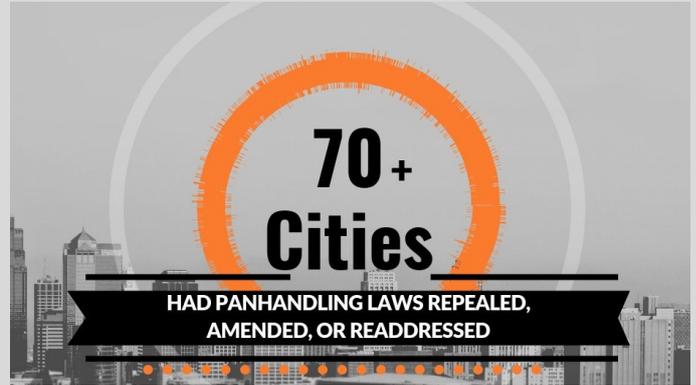


#IASKFORHELPBECAUSE CAMPAIGN

THE CAMPAIGN

The landmark *Norton v. Springfield* case in 2015 set a precedent that deems most panhandling laws on the books today unconstitutional. Since that time, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty has worked together with its partners to get communities to repeal their anti-panhandling ordinances.

In 2018, the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty launched its #IAskForHelpBecause campaign together with local legal and grassroots advocates to get communities to repeal these unconstitutional ordinances and to promote more constructive approaches to addressing the hunger and homelessness that creates the need for panhandling.



PANHANDLING

Begging, panhandling, or solicitation are the names given to acts of asking for help by people experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness, often by ordinances that criminalize this act. With more people finding themselves unable to meet their basic needs due to falling wages and rising rents, these ordinances are increasing across the country—**more than 43% in the past 10 years.**

GET INVOLVED!

Individuals Legal, Grassroots, and Advocacy organizations can participate in the #IAskForHelpBecause Campaign. Participation can range from sending demand letters to cities, organization public actions, or even sharing ready-to-publish social media materials. Find out more about the #IAskForHelpBecause Campaign at nlchp.org/panhandling and join our national Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign at housingnohandcuffs.org

 @NLCHPhomeless

 @HomelessLaw

NATIONAL LAW CENTER
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY

HOUSING
NOT HANDCUFFS

WHY YOU SHOULD SUPPORT REPEALING ANTI-PANHANDLING LAWS AND REPLACING THEM WITH HOUSING, JOBS, AND SERVICES

1 The Supreme Court and lower courts have repeatedly found that asking for help is protected speech under the First Amendment.

2 Anti-panhandling laws fail to address the underlying causes of homelessness and poverty in the community, and in fact make it worse by putting arrest records, fines, and fees in the way of those trying to exit homelessness.

3 Studies show providing housing and services costs two-to-three times less than cycling homeless persons through the criminal justice system.

4 Repealing anti-panhandling ordinances does not mean promoting panhandling-it means freeing up police resources that can be redirected to housing and services that will actually end the need for people to ask for help in the first place

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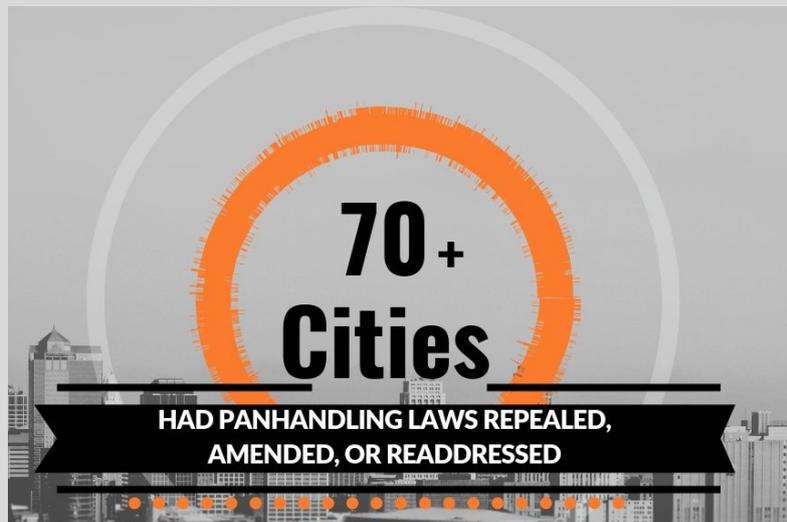
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Enforcing bans against asking for help is a waste of time for law enforcement and a waste of money for taxpayers



70+ Cities

HAD PANHANDLING LAWS REPEALED,
AMENDED, OR READDRESSSED

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PANHANDLING MYTHS & FACTS

I should/ shouldn't give panhandlers money

The decision to donate money rests solely on you. There is nothing wrong with giving money to those who ask for help. If you choose not to give, make eye contact and decline politely

Most panhandlers will spend donated money on drugs or alcohol

Several studies show that when money is donated to panhandlers, **most spend it primarily on food and other necessities**

Panhandlers make tons of money

One study estimates that the average panhandler only makes **about 300 dollars per month** panhandling. When people ask for help it's because they need it

Panhandlers are lazy and don't want to work

The success of work programs in cities like Albuquerque, NM show us that **panhandlers who can work will** if given the opportunity to do so

Anti-panhandling ordinances will decrease panhandling

Panhandling is caused by lack of adequate, affordable housing, low wages, lack of health care, and other systemic causes. **Addressing people's survival needs is the best way to end panhandling.**