

Community Guide for People Facing Homelessness

This guide provides basic information for assisting someone facing homelessness.

FIRST, determine whether there is anywhere safe to stay tonight. Emergency shelter space is limited in Columbus & Franklin County and reserved for people with nowhere else safe and appropriate to stay. Therefore, seek any available safe housing, even if temporary, while connecting to other desired housing assistance. Start by exploring:

1. **Where did you stay last night? Is it safe for you? If so, is there something that would allow you stay there again tonight?** (food, utility support, etc.) How long do you think you can stay there?
2. **As needed: do you have anywhere else that's safe where you can stay tonight or if and when you need stay somewhere else?** This includes temporary options with family, friends, and social connections (e.g., faith-based community friends).

IF NO OTHER SAFE, APPROPRIATE HOUSING OPTIONS TONIGHT

- **If fleeing domestic violence:** call CHOICES for victims of domestic violence call CHOICES, 24-hour crisis line: 614-224-HOME (4663)
- **If under 18 years old without a parent or legal guardian:** call Huckleberry House shelter and programs for youth 24-hour crisis line: 614-294-5553
- **Other single adults and families:** call Homeless Hotline 24-hour crisis line: 614-274-7000
Note: due to limited availability, single adults may be placed on a waitlist during non-winter periods. Eligible families with minor children, pregnant women, and Veterans without safe alternative options are prioritized for shelter year-round.

As needed:

- Identify 24hr locations in your area as a safe place to stay until shelter becomes available. Winter Warming and Summer Cooling Stations: <https://www.csb.org/about-us/contact-us>
- Connect with Maryhaven Street Outreach Program for access to housing, mental health, and drug & alcohol assistance. Maryhaven Outreach, 24-hour line: 614-449-1530
- Find other helpful resources: Call 2-1-1 OR access Columbus Coalition for the Homeless Street Card: <http://www.columbushomeless.org/streetcard/>

Additional Resources for Youth 18-24:

Star House

(24hr drop-in center)

1220 Corrugated Way, Columbus, OH 43201

(614) 826-5868

Huck House CARR Team

(Housing Problem-Solving and Navigation resources)

10am – 6pm Monday through Friday

(614) 826-3630

IF THERE IS A SAFE PLACE TO STAY TONIGHT, BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY

- **If potentially fleeing domestic violence:** call CHOICES for victims of domestic violence: CHOICES, 24-hour crisis line: 614-224-HOME (4663)
- **If under 18 years old without a parent or legal guardian:** call Huckleberry House shelter and programs for youth 24-hour crisis line: 614-294-5553.

Other single adults and families: Explore whether it's safe where you're currently staying or somewhere else you can stay. Is there something that would allow you stay there longer? (food, utility support, etc.)

As needed:

Call [HandsOn Central Ohio](https://www.hands-on.org/) at 2-1-1 or (614) 221-2255 or visit <https://cap4kids.org/columbus/> for access to community-wide resources for rent & utility assistance, food, and other basic needs.



Until everyone has a place to call home