



# A COMPASSIONATE RESPONSE TO HOMELESSNESS

*A community guide for responding with care, clarity and respect.*

## IF YOU SEE SOMEONE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS

*You do not need to have the right words or the right solution. Small, thoughtful actions help create safer outcomes for everyone. This guide offers simple, respectful ways to respond if you encounter someone experiencing homelessness in Bellevue or East King County.*

➤ **Start with respect.** A calm, human interaction can make a meaningful difference.

➤ **When appropriate,** consider shared support rather than acting alone.

➤ **If help is needed,** request outreach through the MyBellevue App.  
Download app via QR Code.

The City of Bellevue uses the MyBellevue App to connect individuals to appropriate services through trained outreach teams.



### Use MyBellevue when:

- Someone appears unsheltered and may need services
- You notice a recurring location or safety concern
- You want to request outreach rather than law enforcement

Homelessness is a community issue, not an individual failure. It is not a crime. Every person deserves safety, dignity, and the opportunity to move toward stability. How we respond in everyday moments matters. Community awareness and compassionate responses help create pathways to care.

## WHAT TO AVOID

- Avoid assumptions about someone's situation
- Avoid confrontation or demands to move
- Avoid calling law enforcement unless there is an immediate safety issue

## COMMON MYTHS

**Myth** Men experiencing homelessness don't want help.  
**Reality** Many want support, but access to services is limited and systems are complex.

**Myth** Homelessness is caused by poor choices.  
**Reality** Rising rents, job loss, health crises, and lack of affordable housing are leading causes.

**Myth** There are enough services for everyone.  
**Reality** Shelter and housing resources are limited and often full.

## START A CONVERSATION

Want to learn more about homelessness in East King County and how communities can respond with clarity and compassion? Schedule an informational presentation for your:

Faith Group or Congregation  
Church or Synagogue

Business or Workplace  
Community Organization

High School or College Class  
Private Small Group

Email us at [Communications@PorchLightCares.org](mailto:Communications@PorchLightCares.org)