

HOMELESSNESS: A BIA TOOLKIT



OrgCode Consulting Inc. are North American leaders in homeless system transformations, leadership development in homeless services, and technical assistance.

OrgCode are merry misfits that disrupt the status quo to be catalysts for better outcomes.

Thought leaders in ending homelessness, we advance ideas, create and share resources, and offer training that doesn't suck.

www.OrgCode.com
[@OrgCode](https://www.facebook.com/OrgCode)
www.FB.com/OrgCode



SPECIAL THANKS TO:

KAY MATTHEWS
OBIAA

JEFF MACINTYRE
MARKETING HOUNDS &
DOWNTOWN SUDBURY BIA

TRACY VANKALSBECK
UPTOWN WATERLOO BIA

WHY A TOOLKIT?

Main Street is a location where homelessness exists

Homelessness is on the rise

BIAs do not always understand the local homelessness response system and vice versa

By and large BIAs want to try to do the right thing in the right way

OrgCode created the toolkit *pro bono* to assist with dialogue, education, understanding and partnership between local BIAs and the homelessness response system.



AUDIENCES FOR THE TOOLKIT

BIA staff

BIA members

Elected officials

Homelessness response system



HOW THE TOOLKIT IS ORGANIZED

How to get up to speed on homelessness in your community

Why can't people that are homeless in the BIA just be taken to a place that can help them?

Getting started

Common concerns and practical responses

Some key terms and acronyms: a glossary for BIAs



KEY CONTENT FROM THE TOOLKIT



HOW TO GET UP TO SPEED ON HOMELESSNESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Talk to the Service Manager

Talk to Non-Profits that Deliver Homelessness and/or Housing Stability Services

Read Municipal Council Reports

Talk to Community Police Officers

Talk to Your Local Municipal Councillor

Request or Review Data



WHY CAN'T PEOPLE THAT ARE HOMELESS JUST BE BROUGHT TO A PLACE THAT CAN HELP THEM?

Services to people experiencing homelessness are voluntary

There is no legal mechanism to force people experiencing homelessness to accept services

Sometimes the *Mental Health Act* comes into play, but it is not magical and application of it only applies to very specific situations

Being homeless is not illegal



GETTING STARTED

Create a local “who to call” list

Create or get a copy of a local homelessness resource guide



COMMON CONCERNS & PRACTICAL RESPONSES

People displaying behaviours that lead you to believe they may have a mental illness

Bathroom access

Feeling disconnected from the homelessness response system

Damage to property/business/theft

People sleeping outdoors in the BIA



COMMON CONCERNS & PRACTICAL RESPONSES

Street involved behaviour in the BIA

Needle disposal

Overdose in the BIA

People looking for food from restaurants or grocery stores in the BIA



COMMON CONCERNS & PRACTICAL RESPONSES

Trash

People “dumpster diving” in the BIA

Person in distress

Encampments growing in the BIA

Using a private business to get out of the elements



QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS



EMAIL: idejong@OrgCode.com

TWITTER: [@OrgCode](https://twitter.com/OrgCode)

WEBSITE: www.OrgCode.com

FACEBOOK: www.FB.com/OrgCode

PHONE: 416-698-9700

