

# HOUSING NOT HANDCUFFS

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## e-news update

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March 2019

### Dear Supporters and Endorsers of the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign,

This has been a busy time for the Housing Not Handcuffs Campaign, with multiple communities stopping enforcement of and even repealing their criminalization laws and beginning to explore shelter, housing, and other alternatives! See stories below. Also, the Campaign continues to grow, with over 850 endorsements so far! [Keep encouraging your friends, colleagues, and elected officials to endorse.](#)

Follow on social media

#HNH  

If you have submissions for the next newsletter, please fill out [this Google form](#) by **April 18th.**

## Campaign Updates

### Settlement in Denver Homeless Class Action Lawsuit

After nearly three years in litigation, a settlement has been reached between the City of Denver, Colorado and homeless plaintiffs who reported that their property was unlawfully seized and destroyed without notice during “homeless sweeps” carried out by the city as part its municipal ban on camping. According to Denver Homeless Out Loud, the settlement “creates policy to defend basic property rights of people living without housing.” It requires input from people experiencing homelessness before the new policy is updated and provides more resources including lockers, trash cans, and porta-potties. The Denver settlement comes amidst a national trend of both increasing homeless encampments and policies that criminalize homelessness. By stepping away from these policies, Denver is taking an important step forward in protecting the rights of people experiencing homelessness. We hope cities across the country seek ways to protect the rights of people experiencing homelessness while also ensuring that adequate and affordable housing is available to all. There has also been [news coverage](#) on the topic from a variety of outlets.

### LAHSA Policy Takes Law Center Recommendations

The Los Angeles Homeless Services Administration (LAHSA) made an important step forward on February 28<sup>th</sup> by adopting new [Guiding Principles and Practices For Unsheltered Homelessness](#). The new policy draws from sources including Law Center recommendations. The document sets a ground-breaking precedent among American cities, with significant attention to the impact of criminalization. It denounces ordinances that “limit necessary, life-sustaining activities such as sitting, sleeping, or eating in public spaces unfairly target people living on the streets.”

Special thanks to [LA Community Action Network](#), [Legal Aid Foundation of LA](#), [Neighborhood Legal Services of LA](#), and Carol Sobel, whose work was instrumental in this victory.

## Panhandling Campaign Updates

The HNH Panhandling Campaign, which was launched August 2018, continues! This month, we received word that the cities of Meridian and Ridgeland in Mississippi repealed their panhandling ordinances. Thank you to the ACLU of Mississippi for its hard work. We also are developing plans to expand the panhandling campaign to all fifty states! For more information on our national panhandling effort, please contact our Emerson Hunger Fellow, [Pierre Collins](#).

## HNH Quarterly Web Convening

On March 27<sup>th</sup>, we held a web convening for the HNH campaign and presented several major updates. Pierre Collins of the Law Center provided updates on the Panhandling Campaign, while Carol Sobel discussed an ongoing case in Orange County, California. Ed Johnson of the Oregon Law Center provided information on other litigation and activity occurring in Oregon, including the state’s move towards rent control and a class-action lawsuit in the city of Grant’s Pass. Representatives from Picture the Homeless discussed the “Free to Pee” campaign occurring in New York City, and Megan Hustings from National Coalition for the Homeless updated the convening on organizing efforts.

# Announcements



Save the date for the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty's annual **National Forum on the Human Right to Housing!** People who are currently or formerly homeless, attorneys, government officials, and advocates from across the country will gather in Washington, D.C., to organize and strategize on ways we can work to end the criminalization of people experiencing homelessness. Registration information coming soon.

**Become a sponsor** of the National Forum and help students, individuals with limited income, and currently and formerly homeless people attend this important event. For more information about law firm and corporate sponsorship opportunities, contact Development & Communications Director Cassidy Waskowicz at [cwaskowicz@nlchp.org](mailto:cwaskowicz@nlchp.org).

**Limited travel scholarships** are available for low-income and homeless persons. To apply, contact Networks and Events VISTA Rachel Lee at [rlee@nlchp.org](mailto:rlee@nlchp.org) with the subject line 'Forum Scholarship Request'. In your e-mail, please state your need, where you will be traveling from, and describe your involvement in advocacy on behalf of homeless individuals.

**New HNH One Pager**

This [one pager](#) provides an overview of the HNH Campaign and outlines concrete ways for people to get involved. It also includes a fact sheet on the criminalization of homelessness. This tool is useful to share with people who are already familiar with homelessness issues and are looking for more information about the HNH Campaign.

## Campaign Branding

We encourage campaign endorsers to link relevant events to the national Housing Not Handcuffs campaign. Please see the guidelines for branding your materials [here](#).

**HOUSING**  
**NOT HANDCUFFS**

## In the News

[Assembly Republicans Release \\$3.8 Million Package to Combat Homelessness; Tony Evers to Chair State Council](#)

February 21, 2019

[Homeless Can Only Sleep Outside Sacramento City Hall at Night, Council Rules](#)

February 27, 2019

[How Many Households Escaped Homelessness Last Year? Seattle Doesn't Know](#)

February 27, 2019

[Under Homeless Deal, Denver Will Give Notice Before Seizures](#)

February 27, 2019

[Maria Foscarinis: Over 30 Years Fighting for the Rights of the Homeless](#)

March 4, 2019

[What's San Francisco Doing for Homeless in Bad Weather? Not Enough, Critics Say](#)

March 8, 2019

[Oregon Just Enacted Statewide Rent Control—and it Could be a Model for the Country](#)

March 8, 2019

[3 Cities in the U.S. Have Ended Chronic Homelessness: Here's How They Did it](#)

March 11, 2019

[New Jersey Teen Gets 17 College Acceptance Letters, Overcomes Homelessness](#)

March 13, 2019

[The Affordable Home Crisis Continues, But Bold New Plans May Help](#)

March 14, 2019

[ACLU Report Gives Damning Review of Orange County Homeless Shelters: 'Jail Is Better'](#)

March 14, 2019

[Proposed Budget Would Eliminate Housing, Homeless Services Across Alaska](#)

March 15, 2019

[This 8-Year-Old Chess Champion Will Make You Smile](#)

March 16, 2019

[Paterson Passes Law to Ban Panhandling at Drive-through Windows](#)

March 17, 2019

**NATIONAL LAW CENTER  
ON HOMELESSNESS & POVERTY**

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