



City of Tupelo Homeless Task Force

For the Tupelo Homeless Task Force, an end to homelessness means that Tupelo will have a systematic response in place that ensures homelessness is prevented whenever possible or is otherwise a rare, brief, and non-recurring experience.

Definitions:

– An individual or family who lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence, meaning:

- Has a primary nighttime residence that is a public or private place not meant for human habitation (**Unsheltered**)
- Is living in a publicly or privately operated shelter (**Sheltered**)

– This definition does not include:

- Couch Surfing/Doubled-up
- Panhandlers

Causes of Homelessness:

- Top 2 Reasons according to the National Alliance to End Homelessness:
 - **Lack of affordable housing**
 - **Loss of job or income**
- The Top 2 reasons people remain homeless:
 - **Mental Health Issues**
 - **Substance Use Issues**
- A significant majority of families and individuals who become homeless are able to resolve within 30 days, either independently or with low-level interventions.

Homelessness Data:

– According to the 2024 AHAR, Mississippi had **1,041** homeless individuals.

- The Mississippi Balance of State Coverage area, which includes Tupelo, had **470** homeless individuals.
- The Northeast region of Mississippi had **91** homeless individuals.
- Lee County had **64** total homeless individuals
- Tupelo had **54** homeless individuals
 - 16 - Unsheltered
 - 36 - Salvation Army Lodge
 - 2 - SAFE, INC - DV Shelter
 - 30% unsheltered vs. 70% sheltered

Due to the transient nature of homelessness, this total is considered an estimate. Only counts individuals encountered and confirmed in homelessness

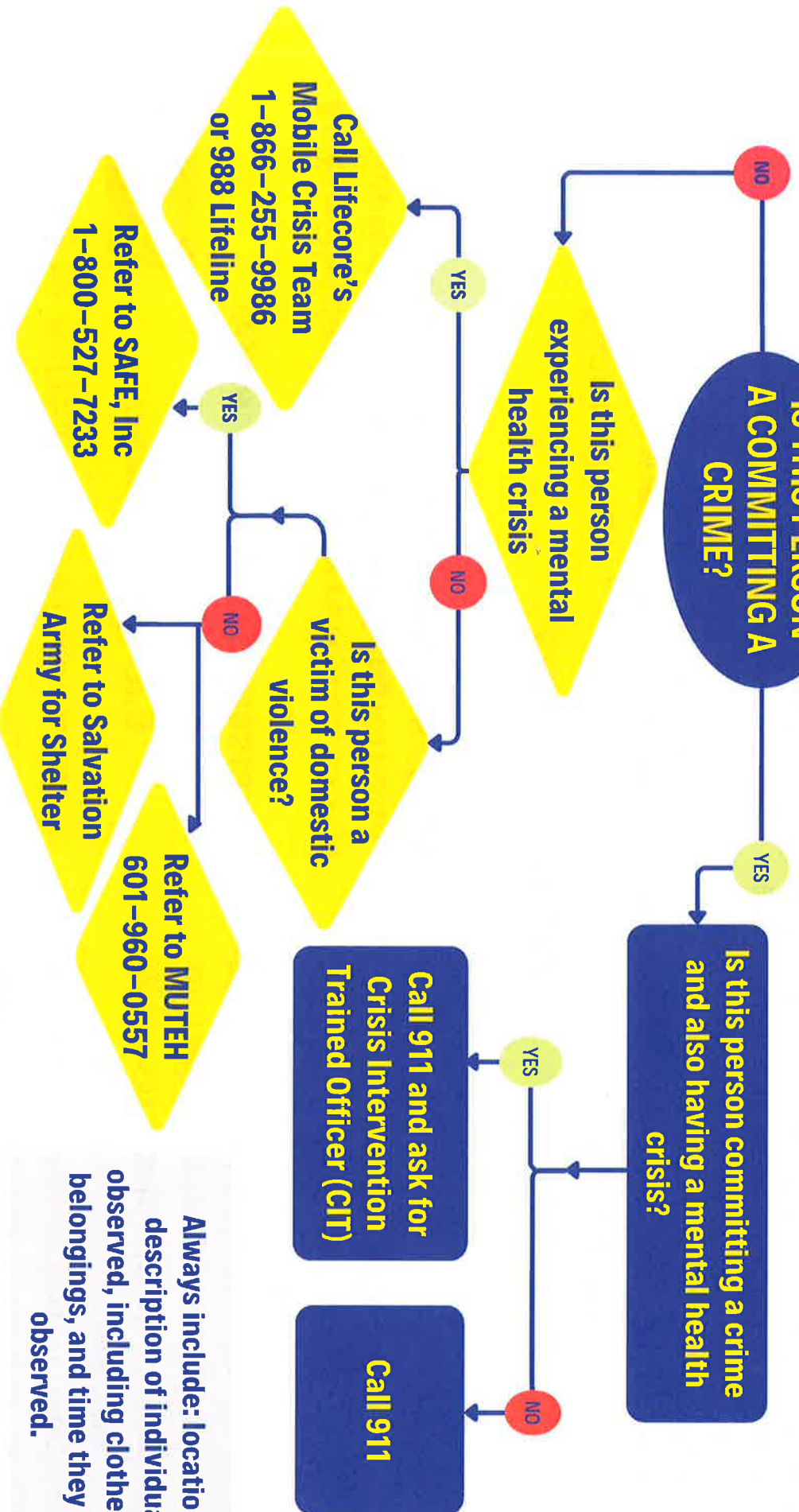
Current Issues:

- **Unsheltered Chronic Population** - people who have experienced homelessness for at least a year while struggling with a disabling condition.
- **Out-of-Town Drop-offs** - Other communities, including out-of-state hospitals, jails, and rehabs, drop individuals off in Tupelo without verifying there are shelter beds or the appropriate resource available for their need.
- **Transient Population** - since Tupelo is a transportation hub for the area, many homeless individuals are “travelers” and do not have connections or relationships in the local community.

Task Force Stakeholders

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach and Housing Programs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ City of Tupelo HOT: Homeless Outreach Team - Every Tuesday ◦ MUTEH - Rapid Rehousing ◦ Bolivar County - Rapid Rehousing for Families ◦ The Salvation Army - Emergency Shelter ◦ Supportive Services for Veterans (SSVF) – VA/Veterans ◦ SAFE, Inc. - DV Emergency Shelter/RRH ◦ HOPWA housing program for those people living with HIV/AIDS ◦ CHOICE housing program for those with SMI ◦ MSHMIS - State Wide Data Tracking System ◦ Rapid Resolution - Homeless Task Force | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Task Force Partners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ City of Tupelo <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Mayor’s Office ▪ City Council ▪ Code Enforcement ▪ Public Works ▪ Municipal Court ▪ Tupelo Fire Department ◦ Tupelo Police Department ◦ Emergency Shelters ◦ Meal Services ◦ Community Mental Health Centers ◦ Substance Use Treatment Centers ◦ Lee County Library ◦ Tupelo Public School District ◦ Downtown Tupelo Main Street ◦ Community-Based Programs ◦ Housing and Realty Liaisons ◦ Faith-based Organizations ◦ Citizen Involvement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other Services <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Food Pantries: Helpings Hands, Saint Luke’s, Salvation Army ◦ Helping Hands: Clothes Closet, and food pantry ◦ Saints Brew: Daily breakfast ◦ The Salvation Army: Daily Lunch and Dinner. ◦ Local Churches: financial support, other various needs ◦ Showers of Love: showers and laundry ◦ Lifecore: Mental Health Services and Mobile Crisis Team ◦ Tree of Life Free Clinic ◦ Good Samaritan Health Services |
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Homelessness Referrals



Always include: location, description of individual observed, including clothes and belongings, and time they were observed.

Please refer individuals you encounter directly to MUTEH's online referral form.



**www.muteh.org
or
www.msbos.org/assist**

Also, individuals should be referred to The Salvation Army for potential shelter and meals. 527 Carnation St, Tupelo MS 38804

If the homeless individual is only observed, please get in touch with MUTEH with the following

information: location, description of individual observed, including clothes and belongings, and time they were observed.

**601-960-0557
or 601-665-3840**

Other Situations

Panhandling

All citizens experiencing or witnessing panhandling need to contact the Tupelo Police Department and report it. The information needed to report panhandling by the general public is location information and a description of the panhandlers. If the person panhandling is currently unhoused, TPD will contact homeless service providers to assist.

Trespassing

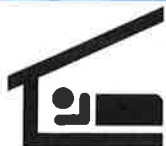
All concerns about trespassing and loitering need to be reported to the Tupelo Police Department as soon as possible. The only agency with authority to address trespassing or forcibly remove individuals from private property is TPD. Private property owners will be required to complete the trespassing process with TPD.

MAKING TUPELO A BETTER PLACE

TUPELO HOMELESSNESS AND HUNGER RESOURCES

HUNGER
& HOME
LESSNESS
AWARENESS
WEEK

Here is a list of active organizations working within the homeless and food insecure communities.



SALVATION ARMY

527 Carnation St., Tupelo, MS 38802,
662-842-9222

Provides minimum necessities of life such as emergency food, shelter, rent, utilities and medicine on a crisis intervention basis.



FAITH HAVEN, INC.

P.O. Box 835, Tupelo, MS 38802,
662-844-7091

Provides 24-hour emergency care for children, birth to eighteen years, who have been removed from abusive or neglectful situations or have been abandoned.



SAFE, INC.

P.O. Box 985, Tupelo, MS 38802
662-841-9138 or 1-800-527-7233

Serves victims of domestic violence, their children, and all victims of sexual assault. Offers shelter and counseling for all victims.



SAINTS' BREW

608 W Jefferson St, Tupelo, MS 38804
662-842-4386

Hot breakfast to homeless and low-income residents Monday - Friday, 7:00 to 8:30 a.m.



SALVATION ARMY

527 Carnation St., Tupelo, MS 38802
662-842-9222

A noon (12pm) and evening meal (5pm) are furnished for the hungry every Monday - Sunday.



MEALS ON WHEELS

2800 West Main St., Tupelo, MS 38801
662-844-1441 ext. 1056

Provides a hot, well-balanced noon time meal 5 days a week to individuals in Lee County who are age 60+ and meet eligibility requirements.



MUTEH, INC.

Mississippi United to End Homelessness
601-960-0557

Provides street outreach, promotes homelessness awareness, and coordinates housing and supportive services.



HELPING HANDS

314 S Church Street
Tupelo, MS 38804
662- 690-8100

Provides a food pantry for residents every Saturday from 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Residents can only receive help once a month.



ST. LUKE UMC FOOD PANTRY

2653 S Eason Blvd, Tupelo, MS 38804
662-842-6522

Provides Lee County residents who meet the qualifications with food baskets. Targets the elderly and families with children..



F.A.I.T.H. FOOD PANTRY

Food Available in This House
1338 Maple Road, Nettleton, MS 38858
662-963-2608

Secures and distributes a regular source of food to residents, with emphasis on families with children, families in crisis and the elderly under the USDA guidelines.



WEEKEND BACKPACK PROGRAM

First United Methodist Church
West Main Street, Tupelo, MS 38801
662-841-0672

Provides food-insecure students with a backpack of food to carry home for the weekend, when they do not receive meals at school.



FAMILY RESOURCE CENTER OF NORTH MISSISSIPPI

425 Magazine St, Tupelo MS 38804
662-844-0013

Provides life skill classes, educational programs for children to enhance their opportunities for school success, and support to families in times of crisis or in chronic stress.



SHOWERS OF LOVE

630 A&D Drive, Tupelo MS 38801

Provides free laundry and shower facilities to the homeless on Saturdays and Mondays from 7am to 1pm. A Sunday night meal is also offered



TREE OF LIFE FREE CLINIC

541 Main St, Tupelo, MS 38804

www.facebook.com/treeoflifefreeclinic

Provides free basic health care and dental services to those do not have health insurance or the ability to pay for health services. . First Wednesday and second Saturday of the month



C.A.T.C.H KIDS CLINIC

820 Ridgecrest Dr., Tupelo, MS 38801
662-377-2194

Provides healthcare to children birth to 18 years old who have barriers getting needed care. Focuses on prevention, wellness and treatment of acute and chronic illnesses.



GOOD SAMARITAN FREE CLINIC

2800 West Main St., Tupelo, MS 38801
662-844-3733

Provides medical, dental and pharmaceutical care at no cost to the eligible working uninsured and temporarily unemployed residents of Lee County, Miss.



LIFECORE MOBILE CRISIS UNIT

1-866-255-9986

Provides crisis services, solution-focused and recovery-oriented behavioral health assessments, and stabilization of crisis in the location where the individual is experiencing the crisis.

HUNGER

Did you know that according to a study by the USDA, 1 out of 5 of Tupelo and Lee County residents experience food insecurity? A large portion of the food insecure population includes the working poor: steadfast men and women who have reliable employment but don't quite make enough to buy food to adequately feed themselves and their families without sacrificing other needs such as utilities, rent, or healthcare Food insecurity affects young children and senior citizens the most. Food insecure children have a higher risk of truancy and school tardiness along with a higher possibility of medical conditions. Food insecure seniors are 60% more likely to experience depression and 53% more likely to report a heart attack.

HOMELESSNESS

Each year there is Point-In-Time count conducted in our community to capture the number of homelessness on a specific day in time. According to the January 2022 point-in-time count, Tupelo had 89 homeless individuals. Within the count, with there was a significant number of the population living unsheltered, which means they live in situations that are not meant for human habitations such as cars, sheds, or a tent encampment. Homelessness can be difficult to define. Some, but not all, homeless individuals suffer from mental health or substance use disorders, some are veterans who have a difficult time transitioning into society after their service, some simply don't have familial support systems and due to certain circumstances have been unable to find their footing in society. Also, there are those who simply choose to be unhoused.

PANHANDLING

NOT ALL HOMELESS PEOPLE ARE PANHANDLERS AND
NOT ALL PANHANDLERS ARE HOMELESS.

The Best Answer is a Firm **NO**.

1. Don't encourage panhandlers. Simply say **NO** and continue on your way. If a panhandler is persistent and you feel harassed or threatened please contact 911.
2. Panhandling does not solve the problems the person is facing and can often prolong the problem. Panhandling is not a reliable or stable income, it creates dependence on others, and is a cycle that is difficult to break even if someone doesn't intend to do it very long.
3. Someone asking for change may need food, housing, healthcare, clothing, addiction treatment etc... Please refer panhandlers to the services offered in our community such as shelter and meal services instead of giving money.
4. Share this information with friends, co-workers. As more people understand the dynamics of panhandling, panhandlers will get the help they really need.
5. Consider giving your spare change to the organizations in our community dedicated to helping those in need. Food, clothing, shelter, and other services are provided by these organizations:

SHELTER/HOMELESS SERVICES

- **Salvation Army Red Shield Lodge - Emergency Shelter** - 527 Carnation Street - 662-842-9222 -
- **Mississippi United to End Homelessness (MUTEH) - Outreach and Housing** - 601-960-0557 - www.muteh.org
- **SAFE, INC. - Domestic Violence Agency** - 662-841-9138 or 1-800-527-7233

MEDICAL

- **Tree of Life Clinic**- 1st Wed at 4:30pm and 3rd Sat at 9am of Month -541 W Main St,
- **Good Samaritan Clinic** - Call for appointment - 662-844-3733

HOT MEALS/FOOD PANTRIES

- **Saints' Brew - Breakfast** - Mon-Fri -7am-8:30am -608 W Jefferson St
- **Salvation Army Tupelo -Lunch and Dinner** - Sat-Sun - 11:30am and 4:30pm - 527 Carnation Street
- **St. Luke Food Pantry** - Thursday mornings - 2653 S Eason Blvd.

CRISIS SERVICES

- **Lifecore Mobile Crisis Team**- 24hrs -1-866-255-9986

UTILITY ASSISTANCE

- **LIFT Inc.**- Call for appointment 662-842-9511
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