



COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS

Coalition for the Homeless
louhomeless.org

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June 24, 2024

Dear Members of the Metro Louisville Council,

We, the undersigned organizations, write in strong support of the proposed Ban the Box Amendment ordinance aimed at protecting people who are unhoused when applying for jobs. This important legislation recognizes the critical barriers faced by individuals experiencing homelessness and seeks to address these challenges through supportive measures.

One of the primary obstacles to housing is the lack of a source of income, as identified by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Without employment, many individuals remain trapped as tenants or are in a cycle of homelessness. Furthermore, the Chronic Homelessness Employment Technical Assistance Center has highlighted the pervasive negative stereotypes that provider staff members face when approaching employers about hiring qualified homeless job seekers. These stereotypes unfairly limit opportunities for capable individuals eager to work.

The Homeless Management Information System that tracks data for Louisville's homeless service system shows that only 7% of unhoused adults are able to increase employment income during the period that they were not housed. Any effort to make it easier to access employment income during this crucial time is important to the futures of people seeking stability.

Because addressing this barrier is so important, local service agencies provide opportunities for unhoused persons to access mail using their address, but we believe this ordinance is a crucial next step toward meeting the need for greater income and more meaningful employment for those struggling in our community and fostering a more inclusive and resilient community.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue and for your continued support of those in need.

Sincerely,

Center for Accessible Living
Emmaus Ministries Inc.
House of Ruth
Louisville Outreach for the Unsheltered (L.O.U.)
NuLease Medical Solutions
Seven Counties Services
The Center for Women and Families
YouthBuild Louisville

Coalition for the Homeless
Goodwill Industries of Kentucky, Inc.
Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty
New Directions
St. John Center
Society of St. Vincent de Paul
UP for Women and Children
Zora's Cradle