

Shining a Spotlight on Youth Homelessness



CREATED BY: 2021
BKRHC YOUTH ACTION BOARD

Signs of a Homeless Youth



- Evading eye contact
- Carrying a backpack all the time
- Avoiding social environments
- Poor hygiene—but cleaner than many older adults experiencing homelessness
- Spending a lot of time lingering
- Potential addiction issues
- Secluding themselves
- Wearing the same clothes/ outfit all the time— but are usually cleaner than those of older homeless adults' clothes
- Appearing sleepy or lethargic
- Being in a state of hunger



STRATEGIES FOR APPROACHING A HOMELESS YOUTH UNDER AGE 25

- Try to engage them with an activity they might enjoy (like sports, etc.)
- Offer them food or take them to lunch
- Don't use the word "homeless"! Instead, ask if they need help or resources or ask: "What are your plans for the rest of the day?"
- Don't threaten them with a CPS call
- Build a relationship with them & then follow-up
- Have a peer talk to the youth
- Give them some leeway
- Try & relate to them

IT IS HARD TO IDENTIFY YOUTH HOMELESSNESS, DESPITE HOW COMMON IT IS

175 HUD HOMELESS YOUTH KNOWN ABOUT IN KERN (AS OF AUGUST 2021)



How Homeless Youth Feel



- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| BELITTLED | DISTRUSTING |
| DISTRESSED | ALONE |
| EMBARRASSED | HELPLESS |
| ASHAMED | HOPELESS |
| IN SURVIVAL MODE | EXTREME EMOTIONS |
| DISCARDED | STRESSED |
| ANGRY | FEARFUL |
| SUICIDAL | INVISIBLE |

KNOW A HOMELESS YOUTH WHO NEEDS HELP? CALL THE DREAM CENTER AT: 661-636-4488

