

TOOLKIT: RESPONSE TO GRANT'S PASS V. JOHNSON

1. Resource Assessment and Mobilization

- **Inventory Available Resources:** Evaluate existing shelter beds, housing options, and supportive services within your community. Identify gaps that need immediate attention.
- **Collaborate with Local Government:** Connect with local officials to understand the implementation of the ruling in your community and how your organization can align with or influence local homelessness policies. Identify how you can work with the police.

2. Community Collaboration

- **Build or Join Coalitions:** Join or facilitate the formation of coalitions among local nonprofits, government agencies, and businesses in order to create a unified community response to homelessness.
- **Engage in Local Dialogues:** Organize community discussions that involve a variety of stakeholders that will help foster understanding and collaboration. Create solution-oriented talking points that cover the pros and cons of the ruling.

3. Public Awareness Initiatives

- **Media Engagement:** Engage with local media to discuss the implications of the ruling and highlight the need for a compassionate approach to homelessness.
- **Community Events:** Host events that bring the community together to learn about homelessness and support local initiatives. Host facility tours that display the services provided and incorporate a testimony demonstrating how lives are being changed.

4. Advocacy and Education

- **Community Education Campaigns:** Develop materials that explain the ruling and its implications for the community, including FAQs to dispel myths about homelessness and anti-camping ordinances. Feel free to use the information and resources on the Citygate Network website.
- **Advocacy for Alternatives:** Lobby for policies that emphasize support over punishment, such as increased funding for shelters and services. Encourage local governments to consider passing laws that prohibit punitive measures against those experiencing homelessness.

5. Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Impact Assessment:** Implement a system for tracking the impact of the ruling on homeless populations and your organization's services. Use data to adapt strategies as needed.
- **Feedback Loops:** Establish channels for feedback from individuals experiencing homelessness as a way to understand their needs and adjust services accordingly.

6. Communication and Awareness

- **Highlight Success Stories:** Share stories of transformation that have taken place through your ministries as a way to raise awareness and support for your initiatives.
- **Use Social Media Strategically:** Leverage social media platforms to advocate for compassionate approaches to homelessness and share updates on your organization's efforts.

7. Funding and Grants

- **Identify Funding Opportunities:** Seek grants and funding sources that support homelessness prevention and intervention programs.
- **Collaborative Grant Writing:** Partner with other organizations to apply for funding that supports collective efforts in addressing homelessness.

8. Training and Development

- **Trauma-Informed Care Training:** Provide training for staff and volunteers to learn trauma-informed practices that better support individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Best Practices Sharing:** Create forums or workshops for member ministries to share successful strategies and challenges in response to the ruling.

9. Service Enhancement

- **Expand Support Services:** Facilitate access to mental health care, substance abuse treatment, job training, and legal assistance for individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Develop Outreach Programs:** Initiate outreach efforts to connect unsheltered individuals with available services, emphasizing empathy and respect.

10. Long-Term Strategy Development

- **Comprehensive Strategy Plans:** Work on developing long-term plans that address root causes of homelessness, such as lack of affordable housing and mental health resources.
- **Pilot Programs:** Consider launching pilot programs that test alternative approaches to managing homelessness, such as supportive housing models.

By taking these steps, Citygate Network members can play a crucial role in shaping a compassionate and effective response to the challenges presented by the *Grants Pass v. Johnson* ruling, while simultaneously advocating for the dignity and rights of individuals experiencing homelessness.