

# Breaking News: SCOTUS allows criminalization of homelessness in *Grants Pass v. Johnson* decision



[The devastating decision of the U.S. Supreme Court today](#) allowing cities to continue to criminalize homelessness, even if people have nowhere else to go, is disappointing yet unsurprising. It fits in with the inefficient, ineffective, and inhumane belief that punishing people for trying to survive will somehow remedy a homelessness crisis caused by a lack of affordable housing. When shelters are closed, beds are full, and no affordable options are available, housing status is not a choice. Attempting to eliminate visible homelessness through camping bans and criminalization is a knee-jerk reaction to a complex problem that demands intentional solutions like investments in housing, shelters, and appropriate services. The decision today is short-sighted and fails to incentivize local and state governments to invest and implement real solutions to homelessness that improve people's lives and communities.

## What we are doing

The government's failure to protect our most vulnerable citizens is exactly why nonprofit organizations exist. After four decades in the sector, we here at the Coalition know what works. Housing solves homelessness and the [housing first model is a proven solution](#). In the face of camping bans, criminalization, and dehumanizing policies, the Colorado Coalition for the Homeless serves more than 22,000 Coloradans a year. And we will not stop now. Housing and healthcare are human rights; and criminalizing people's attempts to survive is cruel and unusual, no matter what the decision may say.

## What you can do

Help us to provide homes, health, and hope to thousands of Coloradans:

**ADVOCATE:** Join the [Advocacy Network](#) to help us challenge the mechanisms that perpetuate homelessness. As an Advocacy Network member, you can help shape the public policy process through citizen lobbying, assist with voter registration, support key ballot measures, and engage in special projects like the Denver Basic Income Project.

**DONATE:** The Colorado Coalition for the Homeless provides services to over 22,000 individuals experiencing or at risk of homelessness each and every year. [Donate directly](#), or [shop our Amazon wish list](#) for items that are critical to our neighbors in the summer heat.

**VOLUNTEER:** The Coalition has volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups. [Learn more](#).

**VOTE:** Supreme Court justices are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Both are elected by the people. Have you [checked your Colorado Voter Registration](#)?