

**“Not everyone is an addict, but we all go through something.”**

### 1 in 5 people

Experiencing homelessness struggles with addiction. 4 in 5 experience homelessness for non-substance abuse related reasons.

### PIT Count

Every year Odessa Links & volunteers interview and count the unsheltered in Odessa TX.

### Impact of losing housing

The trauma of becoming homeless, turning to survival can cause severe anxiety, depression, or PTSD and often there's little access to therapy or support.

### Not always substance abuse

20% of the unsheltered population in Odessa are 55yrs and older dealing with medical problems and employability

## 2025 Point In Time homeless count

Point In Time homeless count is a statewide initiative where each community interviews and counts the homeless in their community through the help of volunteers and agencies advocating for the unsheltered

- ✓ 11% of Odessa unsheltered are chronically homeless
- ✓ Less than 1% are veterans
- ✓ 19% of Odessa's unsheltered are under 18yrs of age

## About Odessa Links

Provide impoverished and unhoused Odessans with critical resources, advocacy, and growth opportunities. Has assisted countless individuals and families with rent support, case management, and basic necessities that combine supportive services, and ongoing care to reduce homelessness.

Homeless Coalition is also an endeavor Odessa Links houses which addresses matters of homelessness in our community. The Odessa Homeless Coalition is a community collaboration addressing homelessness through unified resources, advocacy, and coordinated action.

### Our Strengths :



Rapid rehousing and case management to self-sufficiency



Resource networking, coordinated entry, and support services



Advocacy and collaboration to provide services, develop programs, and end homelessness

### Homelessness as defined by HUD :

- Literally homeless, such as living on the streets, abandoned buildings or not intended for living.
- Imminent Risk of Homelessness (will be losing housing due to eviction or asked to leave from where is living)
- Fleeing or is attempting to flee domestic violence.



**You can be part of the solution.**



2024 Citywide Homeless Coalition meeting

## Odessa Homeless Coalition

**“Not everyone who is homeless is an addict, but we all go through situations where help is needed.”**

Connect with Odessa Links and find out how you can help.





## What is homelessness?

**Homelessness isn't just sleeping on the street.**

**It includes:**

- **Couch surfing:** Temporarily living with friends or family without rights to the residence
- **Emergency shelters:** Living or staying in emergency shelter because of eviction, kicked out, or abuse.
- **Unsafe or temporary shelter:** Living or staying in the street, abandoned building, or even car.
- **Fleeing:** Runaway due to family violence, unsafe living space, or threat of harm

If you or anyone you know is in any of the following situations, there is help.

**Salvation Army -**

432-332-0738

**Crisis Center of West TX -**

432-333-2527

## Why are people homeless?

- Job loss or medical emergencies
- Domestic violence or family conflict
- Rising rent & lack of affordable housing
- Mental illness
- Aging out from foster or employability

According to 2025 Point in Time homeless count, only 10% of Odessa's unsheltered are chronically homeless.

## Addiction is not always the root cause of homelessness

- Many are children, working adults, veterans, and seniors
- Homelessness could happen to anyone.
- A few missed paychecks, a health crisis, a breakup...



## What can you do to help?

- Shift Your Perspective
  - See the person, not just the situation.
- Support Local Shelters & Services
  - Donations, volunteering, advocacy—every effort counts.
- Speak Up
  - Challenge stereotypes when you hear them.

## Don't act alone, there is help.

- Always treat people with kindness
- Do not invade their personal space or belongings
- Know where the nearest shelter is
- Don't make promises you can't keep
- If they are in danger, hurt, or need medical attention call for help
- Taking an unsheltered individual home with you means that you have prepared for the emotional, financial, personal, and legal responsibilities involved