

Day Jobs Report

City of Madison
Community Development Division

Background

- › Median Safety Ordinance, February 2017
- › Ald. McKinney's resolution calling on the CDD staff to research the Albuquerque, NM's panhandling Initiative program and prepare a report regarding its feasibility in Madison
- ✓ Model program research: online and direct contact
- ✓ Local field research: surveys, focus group, community and individual meetings with funders, service providers, and employers
- ✓ Evidence-based and best practice research

"There's a Better Way" Albuquerque, New Mexico



- › A local non-profit staff drives a van to areas frequented by panhandlers and offers them day labor four times a week.
- › The City's Solid Waste Department provides the work.
- › Participants get paid cash at the end of the day at \$9 an hour.
- › Current budget is \$251,000, all funded by the City.
- › Outcomes (20 months): 584 people served; 2,066 jobs given (3.53 days/person); 44% connected with employment services; 28% engaged with mental health or substance use treatment services

Other Day Jobs Programs

Portland (ME), Denver (CO), Chicago (IL)

Shared Characteristics

- Low-barrier to entry
- Work crew approach
- No cost van transportation
- Above minimum wage
- Connecting people to services

Differences

- Target population: panhandlers vs. homeless
- Annual budget: \$42,000 - \$540,000
- Participant selection: first come, first served vs. referral

Local Needs

Strong indicators of need for a panhandler-focused day jobs program were not identified:

- 14 Median Safety Ordinance citations issued to 5 individuals between April and July 2017.
- People who want to and are able to do day labor already do it without a program.
- People who panhandle in high traffic areas are often transient.

Related unmet needs were identified:

- Our community lacks a "front-end" employment program designed to target and serve individuals experiencing homelessness that addresses immediate needs (wage-paid jobs) and provides flexible support.

Best Practices

- › Day Jobs or Temporary Jobs do not lead to positive employment outcomes for low-skilled workers in the long run (Autor & Houseman, 2010).
- › Transitional Jobs (TJ) Model
 - Combines wage-paid work, job skills training, and intensive supportive services
 - Well-researched positive outcomes
 - Person-centered individual placement, work crew, & social enterprise approach

Conclusion

- Target single homeless individuals in downtown Madison
- Leadership by a nonprofit agency experienced in providing employment services to low-income individuals
- Use of a Transitional Jobs model (vs. Day Jobs)
- Person-centered Individual placement approach (vs. work crew approach)
- Partnerships with downtown Madison business to provide private sector jobs that lead to permanent employment

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