

Yes, it is true that not everyone can afford a warm, safe, secure place to live in Oswego County!

A 2013 survey conducted on January 23, 2013 identified:

- 280 were homeless or *nearly* homeless in Oswego County;
- 83% had no safe ongoing/ permanent place to live
- 7% were “on the streets”
- 60% were living day to day with relatives or friends
- 46% had been homeless 4 or more times in the last 3 years
- 31% were households of 2 or more
- 35% identified as having a disability



# COACH

## What is COACH?

COACH is comprised of community members, organizations and businesses concerned about the homeless in Oswego County.

**COACH's** mission is to eliminate homelessness in Oswego County.

If you are interested in helping to end homelessness, you can:

- ***Join COACH & get involved by calling 315-593-1900***
- ***Volunteer to serve the homeless at a local agency or church***
- ***Donate your time, talents or resources.***

For More Information, Please Contact:  
United Way of Greater Oswego County  
315-593-1900

Homeless or Nearly Homeless?

Call

**1-877-342-7618**  
**Homeless Hotline**  
**A toll free call**

## *Tackling Homelessness In Oswego County*



***Does homelessness  
really exist in  
Oswego County?***

***Open to find out the  
FACTS about  
Homelessness...***

**CALL**  
**1-877-342-7618**  
(toll free)

**If you or someone you know is  
homeless or nearly homeless**

## Being Homeless In Oswego County Means...



Not having an on-going living space that includes a safe place to sleep, cook, store goods, practice hygiene and be safe from weather.

***Myth: There are many resources in Oswego County so no one should be homeless.***

***Reality:*** There are very *limited* resources to help: No general emergency shelter; very limited services to help the homeless, and affordable housing to prevent homelessness in the first place is in scarce supply.

Did you know that someone earning minimum wage needs to work 85 hours a week to afford a two-bedroom apartment in Oswego County?



***Homelessness in Oswego County looks different than in big cities...***

Being Homeless in Oswego County looks different than in large cities. It is difficult to sometimes accurately identify who is homeless. Rural homeless often looks like this:

- ***Couch Surfing:*** people who sleep on friend's or relatives couch for a few nights and move on to the next couch;
- ***Doubled/tripled up:*** families are doubled, tripled and sometimes, quadrupled up, in inadequate space;
- ***Walkers:*** Individuals who walk around and hang-out in 24 hour establishments like Laundromats;
- ***The "Unseen":*** people sleep under bridges, in tent, cars, in the woods.

## Why Does Homelessness Happen?

There is no one answer to this question. Job Loss, illness, the cost of housing, mental illness, domestic violence and substance abuse are often the main reasons for experiencing homelessness.

The National Coalition on Homelessness states that many of us are "one paycheck away" from becoming homeless. It could happen to anyone.

***CALL  
Homeless Hotline  
At***

***1-877-342-7618***

***If you or someone you know is homeless or nearly homeless***

***Hotline a service of  
Oswego County Opportunities, Inc.***