

Strathcona County panhandling update 2025

April 8, 2025

Background

On September 19, 2023, Council approved:

THAT Administration develop a standardized approach to the way that officers engage with panhandlers in the County using current legal tools, including when and how referrals to Family and Community Services will take place; and THAT Administration prepare a report with an update on panhandling in Strathcona County by the end of Q1 2025, be approved.

Coordinated approach

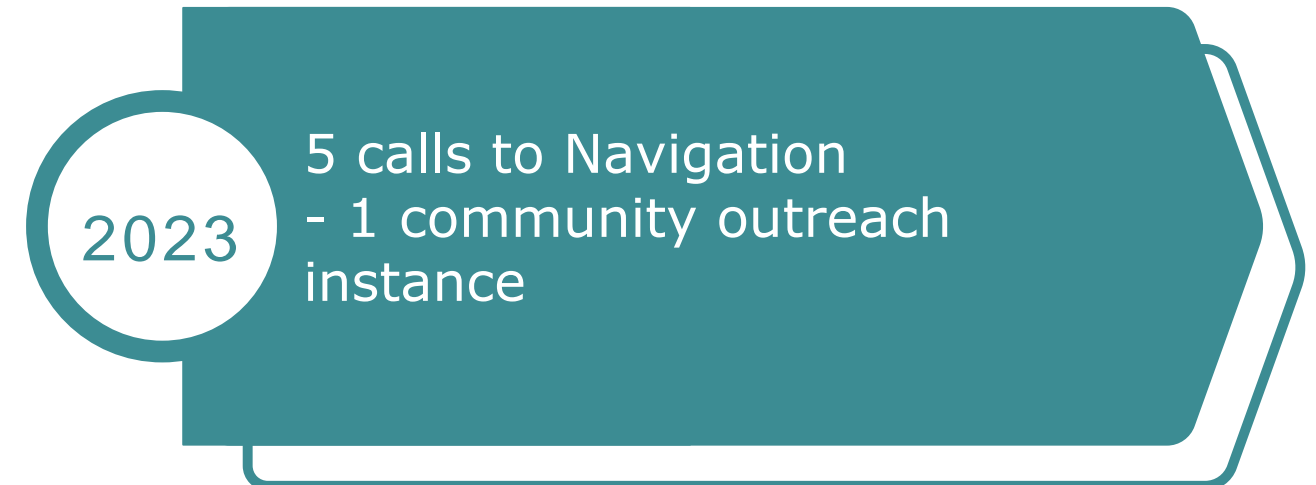
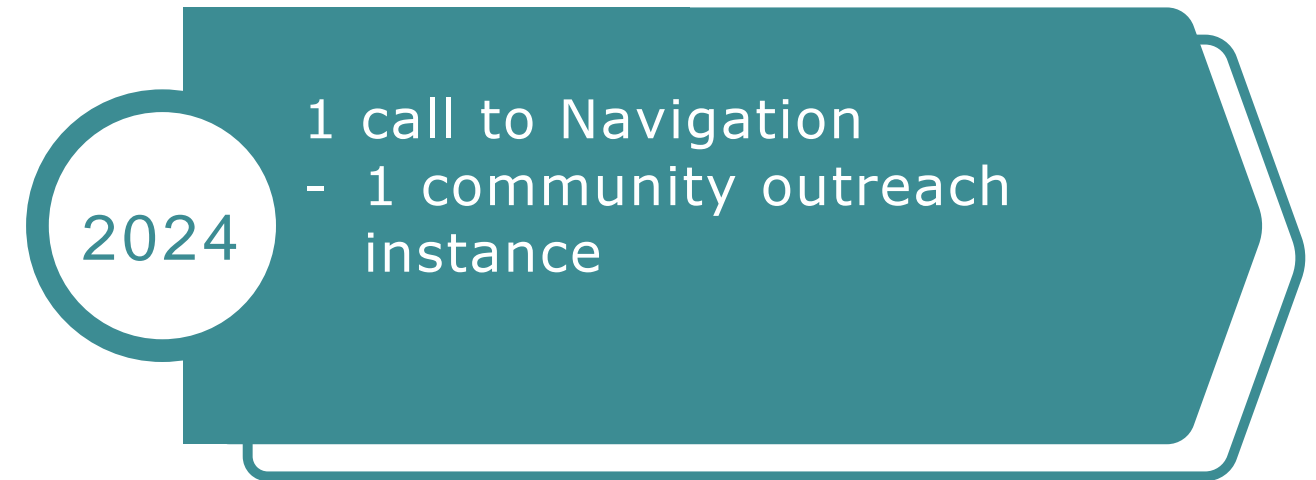
- FCS, Enforcement Services and RCMP formalized a coordinated approach for those panhandling
- Enforcement approach combined with referral pathway
 - Joint outreach simultaneously connects individuals to additional supports and services while requesting panhandling cease
 - Resource card developed for individuals panhandling

Panhandling in Strathcona County

RCMP and Enforcement



FCS



Panhandling in Strathcona County

- In alignment with the approach taken in 2023/2024, the County has seen a reduction in the number of people panhandling
 - Proactive approach has been successful in discouraging panhandling as an ongoing source of income
- Continue to balance connection with supports and safety/enforcement
 - Options for support for those who rely on panhandling as a last resort

Next steps

- Maintain established approach in response to instances of panhandling
- For those experiencing ongoing needs and challenges, continue to explore opportunities for additional supports and resources
 - Community Safety and Well-being action table on extreme weather supports
 - Housing Affordability Strategy

Thank you