

LABOR TRAFFICKING IN BEGGING RINGS

A RESOURCE FOR SERVICE
PROVIDERS DEVELOPED BY THE TRIAD
LABOR TRAFFICKING TASK FORCE

The trafficking of peddlers and beggars is a specific form of labor trafficking that occurs in communities throughout the United States. Be aware of warning signs to help keep yourself and others safe.

WHAT IT LOOKS LIKE:

A common scheme involves traffickers who **pose as religious or charitable groups** offering support and services to at-risk individuals in return for **fundraising**. Recruited "volunteers" are then exploited, forced to **sell candy** or **solicit "donations"** on street corners or in shopping centers. Victims are often recruited from sites such as **homeless shelters** and **rehab centers**.

Learn more at [PolarisProject.org](https://www.PolarisProject.org)

AN EXAMPLE:

John was trying to beat his **addiction**. He had spent time at multiple rehab centers but they never worked. People only saw him as homeless. Then, John found a ministry that promised to help him get **back on his feet**. He was so grateful for the support, so when he learned that the group needed more money to keep their doors open, he was happy to **help by fundraising**. John was piled into a van and transported to various street corners where he was forced to **beg for money**. He was told it was legal, but he got a citation, and the ministry wouldn't let him attend his court date. When John voiced his concerns, he was called ungrateful and had his food taken away. John felt helpless.

RED FLAGS:

- Groups piling into vans
- Multiple hotel rooms booked under one name
- Requests for a single room key despite multiple inhabitants
- Large cash payments
- A clear pecking order within the group
- Talk of a lack of resources, debt, or work quotas
- Talk of frequent, disorienting travel
- Lack of control over personal documents
- Wages paid in the form of housing, clothing, or food

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING HOTLINE

CALL: 1-888-373-7888
TEXT: "HELP" or "INFO"
to 233-733

[humantraffickinghotline.org](https://www.humantraffickinghotline.org)