



Autumn Nelson  
Communication Coordinator  
[autumn@downtownhuntsville.org](mailto:autumn@downtownhuntsville.org)  
256-630-1197

For Immediate Release  
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### **Joint Program Offers Temporary Employment to Workers Affected by Coronavirus**

(Huntsville, AL) - Downtown Huntsville, Inc. (DHI) is announcing a partnership with Downtown Huntsville Charitable Fund and Land Trust of North Alabama to provide temporary employment to service industry workers who have been displaced due to the recent coronavirus outbreak. The program will assist unemployed and furloughed workers in the Downtown Huntsville Core and Downtown Huntsville Districts. The Land Trust will temporarily hire these recently unemployed workers to remove invasive Japanese Honeysuckle plants from the trails on Monte Sano Nature Preserve. The program is anticipated to begin early April and will pay each eligible employee \$10/hour for up to 40 hours per week.

To be eligible for the program, the worker must prove that they were a Downtown Huntsville food, beverage, or retail industry employee who, effective April 1, 2020, was laid off from their position due to cutbacks from the coronavirus outbreak. Only unemployed employees are eligible, and individuals will no longer be eligible when they are re-employed for 20 or more hours per week at any employer. All eligible employees can directly contact the Land Trust at [jobs@landtrustna.org](mailto:jobs@landtrustna.org) to learn additional details and seek employment in the project. The initial deadline is April 15, 2020, by 5:00 p.m. If interest in the program warrants, an additional application period may be opened.

Mayor Tommy Battle responded positively to the program, saying, "In times of crisis, it is heartening to see the many ways our community has come together to help each other. This creative opportunity to provide jobs and wages for our displaced downtown workers and to help one of our treasured assets is the kind of compassionate creativity that will help Huntsville get through this pandemic stronger than ever before."

DHI will officially announce the program to Downtown Huntsville business owners on Monday, April 6, 2020, at 9:00 am during a bi-weekly conference call. Please see below for information on joining the call:

Join Zoom Meeting  
<https://zoom.us/j/723413847>  
Meeting ID: 723 413 847  
Dial by your location: +1 929 436 2866  
Meeting ID: 723 413 847

For more information, contact Autumn Nelson, DHI Communications Coordinator, at [autumn@downtownhuntsville.org](mailto:autumn@downtownhuntsville.org) or 256-630-1197.

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**About Downtown Huntsville Inc. (DHI)**

Downtown Huntsville, Inc. is a membership organization committed to creating a vibrant, diverse and economically sustainable downtown Huntsville. It's partner organization, Downtown Charitable Fund, is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit formed in 2004 that supports downtown development efforts of the city through donations and private investments.

**About Land Trust of North Alabama**

The Land Trust leads regional and community collaborations that plan, preserve, and provide stewardship for green space in North Alabama. Their mission is to preserve North Alabama's scenic, historic and ecological resources through conservation, advocacy, recreation and education.