

SHELTERING CRISIS RESPONSE

The Salem City Council recognizes homelessness as a critical problem in our community. This issue is the most important issue to the majority of our residents. With the support of partners and other agencies, efforts are underway to help prevent homelessness, manage homelessness, and end homelessness.

The model relies on partnerships with local health providers, law enforcement, non-profit organizations, and government to help transition people living unsheltered in our community to permanent supportive housing or other appropriate housing, and may provide triage services to connect the individual to services, such as health and mental health care, other basic services, and temporary indoor shelter.



WHO IS LIVING UNSHELTERED?

In 2022, the point in time count identified more than 1,566 living unsheltered in our community. According to the Mid-Valley Homeless Alliance Gap Analysis report in August 2021, more among Salem's unsheltered population are living chronically homeless, about 49% of Salem's population compared to 37% in Oregon.

HOW ARE WE RESPONDING?

- Our City Council has allocated **\$23.33 million in one-time resources during FY 22 and FY 23 to expand sheltering options and manage health, safety and livability concerns in our community.** The one-time resources includes almost one-third of our ARPA allocation and State sheltering resources, received in past Legislative Session.
- Our existing one-time funds will be exhausted by June 30, 2024 and the micro-shelter communities and our navigation center will be forced to close barring any new revenue or other financial support for these emergency sheltering services.



MICRO-SHELTER VILLAGE COMMUNITIES

Micro-Shelter Village Communities provide managed, temporary housing opportunities for the unsheltered, combined with case management and outreach services designed to match participants with resources on an individual basis. We have three **micro-shelter communities**, with support of our non-profits service providers, serving 232 people. We partner with Church of the Park and Catholic Community Services. **Each micro-shelter community takes about \$2.4 million each year to operate.**



NAVIGATION CENTER

Working in partnership with the Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency to provide intensive case management, the Navigation Center will provide 50 low-barrier shelter beds, when it opens Winter 2023. Through grants from the State of Oregon and Marion County, we've purchased a building, are retrofitting it, and will operate a low-barrier shelter for 75 people. It takes about **\$2.1 million each year to operate the navigation center** 24-hours a day, seven days a week, with intensive case management to connect people to public benefits, health services, and permanent housing. A navigation center does not require sobriety upon entry, segregate by gender, and offer little to no space for personal possessions or pets.



SAFE PARK PROGRAM

While no one should have to live in a car, this approach to sheltering can help families and individuals get connected to services in a secure environment with consistent access to on-site toilets, storage, garbage removal, laundry, showers, and around-the-clock security assistance.

Already, there are several host sites across Salem where unsheltered individuals are permitted to temporarily park their vehicles for sleeping and living. Now, the City in partnership with shelter management by Church at the Park, can offer safe vehicle parking for more than one night at a time with another 24 parking spaces available.



SOS TEAM

The new outreach and livability services (SOS) team responds to areas of concern, helps connect people to resources, and supports removal of accumulated garbage at parks and other public spaces.

The team is also continuing daily outreach to known locations where people are living out of doors to try to facilitate their connection to shelter. We know relationship building through regular communication increases the chances individuals will connect with available services. These contacts also help us keep conditions cleaner and healthier, removing as much accumulated garbage as possible, on a regular basis.



HOUSING NAVIGATION

Helping people find the right housing and connect to available resources, especially as they transition from living out of doors, can be challenging.

Committing over \$2.1 million to support the Homeless Rental Assistance Program which links chronically homeless individuals to housing, food furnishings and social services. So far, this program has housed more than 300 individuals with an 83 percent success rate in keeping folks in stable housing. Salem Housing Authority navigators are connecting with those living unsheltered in our community daily.

Affordable Housing

- Salem Housing Authority. We continue to build more permanent supportive housing. In early 2024, through our Salem Housing Authority, we will open Sequoia Crossings (60 units) and Yaquina Hall (52 units) properties.
- Tax Incentives and Grants. To encourage private sector building of affordable housing, the Urban Renewal Agency offers grants to support the development of low-income subsidized housing, workforce housing, and market rate housing. The City offers tax incentives for multi-family housing in Salem’s downtown.
- Additional 400 Units of Affordable Housing Under Construction. Salem Housing Authority will be a general partner for two affordable housing projects with about 400 units at two locations in South Salem: (1) off 27th Avenue and (2) off Battlecreek.



FUNDING FOR EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

The City uses its federal entitlement allocation of Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and HOME dollars, along with \$400,000 of its General Fund dollars, to support critical services to those in need in our community. Funds are used to support and construct affordable housing units, provide transitional housing and tenant based rental assistance, homeless prevention services for seniors, emergency food purchase for those experiencing food insecurity, a crisis hotline for emergency financial services, and acquire and rehab an early learning center.



REGIONAL SUPPORT

The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance, demonstrates a communitywide commitment to coordinate, leverage, and align efforts and resources to prevent and end homelessness. Regionally, others are making use of other one-time funding to expand other shelter spaces and offerings, including:

- Arches Inn, serving wildfire victims and people experiencing homelessness.
- Center for Hope and Safety Mosaic hotel, serving survivors and victims of domestic violence.
- SafeSleep United, United Way of the Mid-Willamette Valley, expanded women’s shelter.
- Union Gospel Mission, expanded men’s shelter.
- In Salem’s FY 2022 Budget, Salem City Council allocated \$150,000 to the Homeless Alliance.



MORE HELP IS NEEDED

We recognize the growing cost to our communities of chronically homeless who exhibit signs of behavioral health challenges, including substance abuse. The existing system lacks flexibility and capacity to respond to individual needs. Services for those in need of mental health care are severely limited and there are no locations to safely experience psychosis or other behavioral health crisis. Cities need help from counties, the state and federal programs to provide for individual needs.



HOW YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE? VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS NEEDED

- **Point in Time Count: January 24, 25, and 26.** The Mid-Willamette Valley Homeless Alliance is seeking volunteers to conduct face-to-face interviews with people experiencing homelessness in our community. In preparation for the Point in Time County, you can volunteer, contribute funds, or other support to the event. In Salem's FY 2022 Budget, Salem City Council allocated \$150,000 to the Homeless Alliance.
- **Warming/ Inclement Weather Network.** The Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency is looking for volunteers to support their winter weather emergency services for people experiencing homelessness. This year, the City contributed another \$150,000 for ARCHES' operation of the network.
- **Donations Needed: Gloves, Socks, Handwarmers, and Backpacks.** Salem Housing Authority is accepting donations of new gloves, new socks, packaged handwarmers, and new backpacks. **Thank you** for bringing these warming essentials to Salem Housing Authority's administrative offices, 360 Church Street SE, between 8 am and 4:30 pm.

For more information about our vision for addressing housing and shelter:
www.cityofsalem.net/housing-shelter