

More housing More outreach More shelter



October 2021 Update

How Multnomah County is using Supportive Housing Services funding to address chronic homelessness right now

Almost immediately after funding arrived from Metro's Supportive Housing Services Measure, Multnomah County and the Joint Office of Homeless Services began putting those dollars directly into the community.

In all, nearly two-dozen programs have launched since July 1, when funds first became available. Many more programs are coming over the following weeks. The Joint Office has worked with urgency to adjust to changing conditions, speeding up some programs and, in some cases, adding more services than initially planned.

Metro has required each County receiving funds to present a more detailed first-quarter progress report later this fall. In the meantime, Multnomah County and the Joint Office have prepared this preliminary update to share early highlights of the work so far.

Expediting and expanding shelters to surpass goal of 400 new beds this year

New alternative shelters

- Beacon PDX in Northeast Portland is under construction, with a second alternative shelter contract near approval. These sites are in addition to the city's upcoming Safe Rest Villages and the C3PO outdoor shelters. They are part of a request for proposals from the community we issued in the spring.

Another 200+ motel rooms beyond our initial plan

- To add to the 130 motel shelter beds in our original budget, JOHS is evaluating the purchase of more motels. We are also talking to service providers about how to support operations at motels they own.

Two more traditional shelters are getting support this fall

- The 80-bed downtown Greyhound winter shelter will stay open instead of closing in September.
- A 60-bed winter shelter will open in November at our Lombard (Arbor Lodge) site in North Portland, so we can use the site while we also plan and build a long-term shelter set to open there next year.

Adding outreach and behavioral health teams to support people on our streets

Quadrupling the number of Navigation Teams

- Three new five-person navigation teams are hiring up, making a total of four. These teams support high-impact campsites with health, shelter and housing navigation.

Doubling capacity for mental health street outreach

- SHS funds will double the capacity of a current provider, Cascadia Behavioral Health, to offer clinical and peer mental health support, plus housing connections, to people without shelter.

Adding more Addiction Recovery Navigators

- This partnership between the Joint Office and the Behavioral Health Division will help more people access addiction treatment services
-

Launching cleanup and employment programs to support trash collection

Establishing an East County cleanup program

- Cultivate Initiatives has a contract to provide job training and cleanup services and is building its team.

Expanding a trash pickup program citywide

- A contract is under way to support an expansion of the work provided by Trash 4 Peace.

Volunteer corps cleanup program relaunching

- Central City Concern is relaunching a program that engages people leaving homelessness in a structured volunteer corps, part of a progression toward regaining employment.
-

Housing homeless neighbors now with rent assistance

Getting apartment keys and support services to people on our streets and shelters

- A newly launched local version of the federal Section 8 rent subsidy program is helping people, right now, move into market-rate apartments by helping pay their rent. Other clients are now moving into affordable buildings operated by nonprofit providers. Our goal is helping 1,300 households into housing this year.

Housing now for Behavioral Health clients

- Caseworkers in the Health Department's Assertive Community Treatment program finally have rent money in hand that they can pair with the services they provide to their highest-needs clients , roughly 100 people.

Preventing new waves of unsheltered homelessness

- We are responding to the changing crisis in our community by getting rent assistance and legal-aid services to people who would otherwise face eviction and land on our streets.