Other activities to increase available affordable housing, sheltering, and supportive services

Many public safety challenges downtown are closely intertwined with the impacts of homelessness. The City takes a multi-faceted approach to reducing homelessness and addressing the effects of homelessness on the downtown. These actions include: developing and facilitating more affordable housing; encouraging economic development in traded sector industries to provide more higher wage jobs; securing State and Federal grants to provide emergency and temporary shelter, particularly service and shelter models to assist the transition from being homeless to transitional housing to permanent housing.

- Developing and encouraging more affordable housing. The City, both through utilizing federal funding and through the Salem Housing Authority has increased the number and type of affordable housing throughout the city. Since 2020, Salem Housing Authority (SHA) opened three supportive housing units: Redwood Crossing (31 units), Yaquina Hall (51 units) and Sequoia Crossings (60 units). Through partnerships, SHA has additional affordable housing units at Fairhaven Gardens (87 units, 2018); Fruitland Meadows (168 units, 2019), Claxter Crossings (101 units, 2021), Salem Manor (65 units, 2023), Orchard Park (224 units, 2023), Grand Fir (96 units, 2024), Mahonia Crossings (313 units, 2024), and Gussie Bell (126 units, 2025).
- Since launching System Development Charge waivers for affordable housing in 2019, developers have sought City permits for roughly 950 affordable units.
- Expanding sheltering options. City Council allocated \$23.3 million in one-time state and federal resources during FY22 and FY23 to expand sheltering options. The one-time resources included almost one-third of the City's ARPA allocation as well as State of Oregon grants. These investments spurred the Navigation Center (75 beds); micro-shelter villages (250 beds); Safe Park Program (80 vehicle spaces); and contributed toward women's shelter, transitional housing, and hotel conversion programs (127 beds). Remaining State grant funds will soon be exhausted. A critical need in our community is more places for people experiencing homelessness to go when they have complex health or behavioral health needs—such as seniors with disabilities, people with serious mental illness, or those struggling with substance use. These individuals often need more support than what's available in emergency shelters or independent housing

Supportive Services:

In addition to encouraging the development of affordable housing, the City has worked

with nonprofit service providers, leveraging State and Federal grants to develop an array of supportive services to help people experiencing homelessness to successfully move to transitional housing and on to permanent housing. Recent public services investments through the Community Planning and Development Department include crisis hotline staffing, housing navigation, childcare, case management, and domestic violence support. Other investments have included a medical outreach van and inclement weather emergency shelter response.

Our Community Planning and Development Team invests in cleaning and security services in our downtown. Trash removal, janitorial services and a security presence contribute in our downtown parking areas.