

Sobering Center

The City of Salem is working to construct an alcohol Sobering Center at an existing building owned by the Mid-Valley Community Action Agency's ARCHES Program. The City has secured a grant from the Oregon Health Authority to construct the Sobering Center (\$330,000) and plans to support the additional cost through an urban renewal grant. However, the team has encountered unexpected delays in construction of the Sobering Center.

Construction: Related Federal Funding. On the main floor of the facility, in conjunction with construction of the Sobering Center space, ARCHES is constructing a Day Center. Funding for the Day Center portion of the facility is provided by Housing and Urban Development (HUD), through the Community Development Block Grant allocation to Salem and Keizer.

- An environmental review is required with this funding source. HUD is viewing the entirety of the project – both the Day Center and the Sobering Center – to be subject to environmental review.
- During the environmental review phase late in 2018, the area was identified as culturally significant following contact with the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde.
- The State Historic Preservation Office has permitted interior excavation and rehabilitation of the building as early as February 1.
- At the exterior of the building, ADA access and connection to the water main have been redesigned to avoid sensitive areas. In addition, six test plots are planned within the parking lot of the existing building. ARCHES has prepared Inadvertent Discovery Plans. Pending the findings at the test plots, the State Historic Preservation Office may issue a permit for construction needed for utilities at the exterior of the building.
- Construction cannot begin until HUD has approved. There could be some further delays with HUD due to limited staffing associated with the federal government shut down.
- Current bids for construction project three months for construction, which could delay opening until May 2019.

Gap in Annual Operating Budget. Following a recent conference on best practice in sobering center operations, Bridgeway has submitted a revised budget that increases the annual operating cost from \$638,000 to approximately \$950,000 in the first year. To-date, \$450,000 in local funding has been secured from Salem Health (\$100,000), Marion County (\$100,000), and City of Salem (\$250,000). No additional funding is anticipated from the partners. Additional funding may be secured via grants or further investment by the City of Salem, with implications for the City's General Fund.