

Sheltering and Housing Status Update

May 12, 2021

SHELTERING

Summary of selected current sheltering locations and additions under active consideration.

Location	Approximate number of people sheltering	Conclude Date
Cascades Gateway	250	June 1
Wallace Marine	250	June 1
MWVCAA Hotel Program	290	June 14
ODOT properties	400	Unknown
Additional Shelter Options		
Operator/Facility	Number of anticipated beds	Estimated opening date
UGM	150 additional beds*	Mid-June
MWVCAA Hotel Program	80-120 beds	August 1
City outdoor managed camp	60 total occupancy	Mid-July
Family Promise	30 families	Unknown
* UGM currently operates with 100 total beds available (due to Covid, cannot use remaining 50 beds for physical distancing)		

Information on sheltering availability is necessary for those seeking shelter and for those working to assist people who are unhoused. The estimated numbers help quantify the sheltering need. At any given time in Salem, there are approximately five to fifteen open beds in existing shelters. Shelters vary regarding who they serve (e.g. gender, entry standards). The City cannot provide a shelter bed for every person currently unsheltered.

A non-profit capacity assessment in November 2020 informally evaluated nonprofit ability to expand services in Salem.

- Church @ the Park is open to operating outdoor managed sheltering options. Growth should be moderated; the target growth would be to operate one in each city ward to provide geographic distribution. Operational funding and land are both needed. Additional capacity in the Safe Vehicle Park program is also available if locations and operational funding can be identified.

- Mid-Willamette Valley Community Action Agency would consider operating an additional indoor managed shelter location. Operational funding and a building are both needed. MWVCAA's capacity will have to be re-evaluated if MWVCAA adds a Project Turnkey shelter and is the operator of a navigation center.

As of Tuesday, May 11, 2021:

- City staff and nonprofits remain eager to continue discussions with local property owners about additional shelter locations. Several discussions are underway as staff review feasibility. Once feasibility and owner interest are confirmed, staff would inform City Council and request approval of operating funds. An outdoor site would be for either Safe Park or an outdoor managed shelter.
- Two indoor sites for low-barrier sheltering, are under evaluation. In one case, operational funding would be needed but site acquisition would not require funding. In the other case, both site acquisition and operational costs would be needed.

The Oregon Legislature will likely fund two years of operational funding for a low-barrier navigation center in Salem, serving an estimated 40 persons at one time.

MWVCAA is proceeding with a hotel purchase for shelter use. A request for City funding to assist MWVCAA's acquisition will be brought to a future City Council meeting for consideration.

HOUSING

Our region will be adding five street outreach projects and eight rapid re-housing projects.

The Salem Housing Authority's Section 8 housing voucher waitlist is currently closed. SHA has received 34 additional emergency housing vouchers and will be hiring one or two limited duration positions to assist in locating available rentals in a difficult market. Most of the apartments that SHA owns or manages currently have an 18 month to a three-year waiting list.

Salem's first supportive housing, Redwood Crossing, has a two-year waitlist. Yaquina Hall, a 52-unit affordable housing project with resident services, is in the financing stage with a planned opening in early 2023. Sequoia Crossings, a 60-unit permanent supportive housing development, if funded will open in early 2023.