

EASTSIDE MEN'S SHELTER AND SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

A partnership between City of Bellevue, King County, Public Health – Seattle & King County, Congregations for the Homeless and Imagine Housing.

Frequently Asked Questions – Permanent Shelter – Daily Operations

1. Who will this Shelter/Day Center serve?

This shelter will be open to single homeless men who are 18 years and older. The goal is for the Shelter to begin operations Winter of 2019.

2. What is the goal of the Shelter/Day Center?

The Shelter/Day Center provides the only place on the Eastside for men to access showers, laundry, computers, case management, clothing, bus tickets, supportive services and hygiene products during the day. This provides a prime opportunity to build relationships with the most chronic of the homeless and reconnect them to society. It creates an environment that allows the newly homeless to quickly rebound back into stability and independence.

3. Who operates the Shelter/Day Center?

Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) will manage the Shelter/Day Center. CFH has been successfully operating men's homeless programs on the Eastside since 1993. They successfully provide a very safe atmosphere for the clients, staff, volunteers and surrounding community.

4. How will the Shelter/Day Center be funded?

CFH will receive funding from many Eastside cities, King County, Washington State, United Way, private foundations, corporations, congregations, and many individuals.

5. What are the operating hours of the Shelter/Day Center?

The evening Shelter would be open 5pm-8am, and the Day Center would operate 8am-5pm. This facility would provide 24/7 access for our clients.

For information on Eastside Men's Shelter Operations or to volunteer, contact:

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6. Won't this Day Center just bring more homeless to the Eastside?

A vast majority of people experiencing homelessness are connected to specific geographical communities just like those who are housed. People experiencing homelessness often have a daily routine and a community of support in a particular location. They prefer to stay in that geographical area. A majority of the clients that CFH serves have become homeless while living on the Eastside and continue to have substantial connections to the Eastside. The Eastside has many hundreds of people experiencing homelessness who are camping, couch surfing, sleeping on the streets, or living out of their car who will utilize the Shelter/Day Center.

7. Will the addition of the Shelter/Day Shelter bring more litter and loitering issues to the area?

CFH staff will be make sure that staff, clients, and volunteers monitor both inside and outside for cleanliness and loitering. Clients will not be permitted to loiter in the neighborhood. Bus tickets will help to ensure clients have the means to travel to and from the Shelter/Day Center location. In addition, CFH will build solid relationships with the neighbors to address any issues of clients who may need to be reminded of community interaction guidelines. CFH has a very strong relationship with the Bellevue Police Department and other emergency services in order to address any of the communities' needs and concerns.

8. What services will the Shelter/Day Center provide?

The Shelter/Day center will provide a place for men experiencing homelessness to find a safe, empowering community to rest, rejuvenate, and start the process towards recovery and a transition out of homelessness. The Shelter/Day Center will offer breakfast, lunch, dinner, showers, laundry, hygiene items, bus tickets, clothing, and computer access. One-on-one and

group support by trained case management professionals and qualified volunteers will be offered for addiction, mental health, life skills, employment needs, etc.

9. Will the Shelter enforce a code of conduct for clients?

Through offering an accepting, respectful, empowering environment a vast majority of clients proactively work to respect the Shelter/Day center and surrounding neighborhood. Those who exhibit aggressive behaviors are not allowed into the Shelter/Day Center at any time. In addition, the police are contacted when deemed necessary. CFH has a policy to never release emotionally, medically, or behaviorally fragile individuals into the community around the Shelter/Day center location. CFH always deals with the issues that arise on-site and calls emergencies services as needed.

10. What oversight will there be at the Shelter/Day Center?

The clients at the Shelter/Day Center will be supervised at all times. Every client will be signed in and accounted for. The Shelter/Day Center will be staffed with a manager and site staff at all times. The Shelter Director, case managers, and trained volunteers will be supporting day-to-day operations.

11. Are volunteers welcome to be a part of the Shelter/Day Center?

Volunteers are encouraged to provide support for the running of the Shelter/Day Center and to contribute to the movement towards stability of the clients accessing the center

For more information, please go to <http://bellevuewa.gov/eastside-mens-shelter.htm> where you can sign up for alerts, updates on the project, find resources, submit comments and learn about upcoming community meetings.