



FAQ

Planned shelter at 6144 SE Foster Road

1. What is the timeline for opening a shelter at 6144 SE Foster?

- Portland, Multnomah County and the Joint Office are just beginning conversations with neighbors and stakeholders on the development of the planned shelter.
- The meeting Dec. 18 is the first step in a months-long series of conversations meant to take neighbors' concerns into account while designing and creating a shelter that fits with its surroundings.
- The site wouldn't open until late summer or early fall 2018.
- Partners in opening the shelter are committed to maintaining open lines of communication throughout the shelter development process as well as establishing a mechanism for ongoing communications and community input once the shelter opens.

2. Why did you choose this location?

- According to our 2017 Point in Time count of homeless neighbors, 368 people, roughly 22 percent of our unsheltered homeless population, were counted in Southeast Portland between the Willamette River and 82nd Avenue. That's more people, and a larger share overall, than counted in downtown/Old Town. As part of our strategy for providing shelter, we strive to match new capacity in places where there is demonstrated need. We expect our shelters to offer people a path to leave a neighborhood's streets.
- The site also works well in terms of finances and operations. Even with record investments in our safety net, need is increasing even faster. The layout allows us to cost-effectively program a site that can be tailored for a quality shelter.
- The site is also close to transit, job opportunities, SE Works & WorkSource Oregon, Portland Community College, community amenities, and multifamily housing.

3. What is the likely model for the shelter?

- The planned shelter is expected to resemble the Willamette Center shelter in Westmoreland, also run by Transition Projects.
- The shelter will be open and provide services to registered guests 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This provides a more stable situation for guests and prevents queuing to get into shelter and large releases of people in the morning.
- The shelter services are only available to registered guests who have reserved beds. There will not be walk-up day-center services, reducing the risk that people without shelter will congregate or choose to camp near the shelter.
- Shelter guests will be able to store property, access laundry and hygiene services, and access transition services in the shelter.

- The shelter encourages individuals who would otherwise choose to sleep in public to come inside by reducing barriers to entry and offering appropriate services onsite.
- The shelter will serve adults and be part of our efforts to prioritize shelter capacity to women, couples, individuals with disabilities, and veterans. The exact population mix, and capacity, will depend upon programming. But we expect the shelter will serve 100 to 120 adults, similar to the Willamette Center.
- While barriers to entry are lowered for this shelter, guests must adhere to program rules, including standards around being a good neighbor, to reside in the shelter. Shelter managers, Transition Projects leadership and the Joint Office of Homeless Services are directly available for neighbors to share specific or ongoing concerns.

4. Will the shelter's proximity to school sites affect who can stay there?

- The shelter is a public accommodation and is intended to reduce the number of people already in the area who would otherwise be sleeping in doorways or in parks.
- In light of the proximity to school sites, there will be specific behavioral expectations of all guests. Those expectations will be set in cooperation with the school and will be strictly enforced. All guests will be notified of the proximity to the school sites.
- It's not uncommon for people with criminal histories to access low-barrier shelter programs, and many people with legal backgrounds are under the supervision of parole and probation. We expect guests under supervision will follow the conditions of their supervision, just as they would in any other housing situation, including in a home of their own. We rely on their parole and probation officers to hold them to those parameters, with those on supervision risking arrest if they do not comply.

5. How would someone get a space at the shelter?

- Reservations would be handled over the phone or in person via the Transition Projects Day Center at 650 NW Irving, Portland.
- The shelter would not be a drop-in program; all guests would be required to have a reservation prior to arrival. Once a space is reserved, guests may continue to use the space until they no longer need it.

6. For the sake of example, what are some of the amenities at the Willamette Center that could be available at a Foster shelter?

- Large sleeping rooms
- Space for coffee and tea, books and board games
- Bathrooms, showers, and laundry
- Space to leave belongings during the day
- A kitchen with light food and beverages
- Onsite support services, including housing, health and income resources
- Staff will provide information, referral and support
- Animals that are well-behaved, safe and housebroken will be welcome.

For more updated project information: Email ahfe@multco.us to receive periodic project updates and invitations to future meetings.