



MICRO SHELTER COMMUNITIES

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Managed Micro Shelter Community?

Managed Micro Shelter Communities are new to Salem. The first site opened in April 2021 at the corner of Portland and Silverton Roads NE and the second site opened in September on Catholic Community services' property. The sites consist of up to 30 locally-made micro shelters as well as up to 10 "Safe Parking" or designated spots for people living in their vehicles. With two people per micro shelter and 10 Safe Parking spots, a Managed Micro Shelter Community generally hosts 60-75 people.

Who is operating the Managed Micro Shelters?

The City of Salem is contracting with Church at the Park (C@P), a non-profit service provider with experience in homeless outreach since 2007. C@P has a drop in day center on Turner Road (near Cascades Gateway Park) and is a key partner in Salem's annual Homeless Count, the Homeless Connect event, Salem Warming Network, and it was the operator of the Pavilion Managed Camp last winter.

C@P employs 85 staff who are offered robust training quarterly in the areas of Trauma Informed Care, Deescalation, Crisis Response, and Outward Mindset. C@P seeks to employ people with a variety of expertise, including the expertise of people who have experienced homelessness as well as those with formal education and training.

What is the intended purpose of the Managed Micro Shelter Communities?

A Managed Micro Shelter Community is an emergency intervention designed to help unsheltered individuals move from homelessness to stability. In contrast to an unmanaged camp, a Managed Micro Shelter Community is safe, sanitary, and supported. ***C@P currently has 375 households on the waitlist for shelter and safe parking options, 94 of whom are older than 55.***

How will we know if this is an effective strategy to reduce homelessness?

C@P collects an abundance of data on every single person using our services utilizing the community's Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). We review our data weekly and are always looking for ways to improve service delivery to meet our target outcomes.

PROJECT GOAL: We want to see our average length of stay to be ***less than 90 days*** and that more than 60% of people exiting the program would leave with income and a more permanent housing destination.

At our first managed microshelter community, C@P has served 98 people since April of 2021. In that time, 60% of the individuals have been able to obtain or maintain income and 33% of people served have exited the shelter to more permanent destinations.

In the first two months of operation at Catholic Community Services C@P has served 65 individuals (38 adults and 27 children). In that time, 67% of the households that have exited the project are in more permanent destinations and 60% of adults have been able to obtain or maintain income.

What services are being provided at the Managed Micro Shelter?

The focus of our Micro Shelter Communities is the provision of a safe, sanitary, and supportive environment for guests to take the next steps towards housing and employment. C@P has 24/7 staff on-site supporting both the guests to gain stability. Additionally, we provide space on-site for partners to provide services.

What safety measures are in place to protect guests and neighbors?

C@P's proactive approach to safety for guests and neighbors include: 24/7 staffing, a licensed security team that responds to non-emergent safety concerns on property or in the neighboring vicinity, video surveillance, and key partnerships with emergency responders. Through these measures, we have had minimal neighboring impact.

What is the cost of running a Managed Micro Shelter?

It costs \$1,600 per person per month to operate the managed micro-shelter community up to the standard of safety, sanitation, and support that we provide. Utilities, sanitation, showers, transportation, laundry and well balanced meals are also provided for all guests. By providing responsive homeless services, C@P is helping to reduce emergency system use and public costs. In 2020, a month in the Marion County jail system cost per night, per person was \$65 (or \$1,950 monthly / person). In 2021, the cost for an overnight stay with Salem Health is \$265 (or \$7,950 monthly/ person). A 2018 study out of Portland demonstrated that by providing supportive housing services, the overall savings to taxpayers was 10.2 million dollars.¹

Who is paying the cost of the Managed Micro Shelters?

Currently, the City is paying for operating expenses for the managed micro-shelters. C@P and the City are both exploring sustainable funding sources to ensure the longevity of the project. There is a lot of funding needed to set up the infrastructure for a responsive homeless service system. A volunteer group of community leaders led by Hazel Patton, Ron Stiener, and Emil Graziani have sponsored over 100 micro shelters at \$5,000 a piece in the Fall of 2021.

9. When federal (government) funding runs out, then what?

In the last year, C@P has applied for a received funding from over 10 public and private funding sources at the local, state and federal level. We are working to secure sustainable funding sources to continue the work past when the one-time relief funds run out. To that end, C@P is working towards HIPAA compliance in order to bill Medicaid.

10. How does C@P screen residents?

The C@P shelter and safe parking waitlist is open to any person experiencing homelessness. As we have openings, we pull from our waitlist, prioritizing people who are most vulnerable. Key vulnerability factors considered are age, kids in the household, chronic health conditions, and fleeing domestic violence. Once the household arrives at the shelter, staff complete the intake paperwork and orientation to the site clearly outlining safety and behavior expectations.

¹ [PDX FUSE Study](#)