



Introducing: Greater Good Northwest

Greater Good Northwest is a sibling organization of Do Good Multnomah, established in November of 2019 in response to the growing need for sheltering, housing, serving and supporting houseless individuals. Greater Good NW provides short-term rental assistance, ID assistance, debt mitigation, and more to help low-income and/or houseless adults secure and maintain permanent housing. Since 2015, Do Good Multnomah has served over 300 individuals and/ or families with short- term rental assistance funding, with approximately 90% of recipients maintaining housing 12 months after receiving funding. Currently, after only a month of active work in Clackamas County, Greater Good NW is sheltering and providing case management and Rapid Rehousing resources for over 30 houseless individuals in motel shelter settings.

Greater Good NW continues to provide this service to houseless adults in the same manner as our sibling organization. The goal of Greater Good is to mirror the mission and model of Do Good-- focusing our efforts on the non-Veteran population. For that reason, a majority of the board of directors for Greater Good NW are currently in leadership at Do Good, and they bring a wealth of wisdom and experience to this new sister organization.

Like Do Good Multnomah, Greater Good NW works with individuals experiencing houselessness and individuals seeking to access permanent supportive housing. Many of the individuals we work with have endured compounding traumas, in addition to experiencing significant mental and physical health issues. Some of these individuals cope with their trauma through unsafe use of alcohol and/or illegal drugs, resulting in compounding barriers to obtaining stable housing. Assertive Engagement is an evidence-based practice that incorporates many of the best practices that Greater Good NW will utilize when engaging with these individuals, particularly the person- centered approach.

We believe housing is a human right, and we are passionate about providing relevant, useful, and responsive support to participants as they contend with significant barriers to accessing and retaining housing. We believe that collaborative, relationship-focused interactions between staff and participants are the foundation of adequate support services. We reference trauma-informed care, intersectionality, assertive engagement approaches, the empowerment model, and the person-in-environmental approach in everything we do, from the design of our programming to the conversations we have with participants daily. We treat each participant with respect and acknowledge their inherent dignity. We understand participants to be the experts on their needs, and we consider them our most important stakeholders.

We believe that consistency is critical in supportive services. We ensure that each staff has a strong understanding of the modalities referenced above by providing new hires with comprehensive training on relevant theoretical frameworks and their applications. Trainings are conducted by one of our master's level social workers on an ongoing basis to ensure quality.

As a part of the Homeless Services Continuum, Greater Good NW will utilize the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) to document our work with program participants. HMIS is a comprehensive tool that allows us to input data we receive from program participants, including age, race, sex, etc. HMIS produces reports that show which services each participant has used in the past or are currently using. HMIS can also create reports that can track all former and current Greater Good NW program participants. This tool is useful in monitoring outcomes and gauging the success of our program services.

Success for Greater Good is determined by how many individuals move into permanent housing. Greater Good NW also strives to utilize an equity lens in our work, and look to best practices to guide our growth in this area. Meyer Memorial Trust has developed a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Spectrum tool that has helped our organization consider DEI issues and consider practical opportunities to implement policies and procedures throughout our organization that utilize equity lens.

Many of our collaborations result from our knowledge of specific skills and resources offered by our colleagues at partner organizations. We leverage these partnerships to identify all potential resources that could benefit those we work with, and we ensure that our partners are aware of the resources provided by GGNW so they, too can refer their own clientele to us. We are in daily contact with one or more of our partner organizations working together to meet the unique needs of the individuals we serve. As our organization grows, we look forward to continuing to build these partnerships, strengthening our ability to serve adult houseless individuals and supporting other organizations as they pursue the same mission of ending adult homelessness in our community.

Greater Good NW serves very-low-income and houseless individuals in and around Clackamas County and Multnomah County. The needs of the individuals utilizing rapid rehousing dollars are consistent with the needs of individuals we serve at our shelters and permanent supportive housing locations; individualized support, outreach to programs with additional resources, financial support, and a fundamental understanding of the root causes of poverty in our region.

Greater Good NW works with all adult homeless households, regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation, or any other identifier. When working with adult houseless

individuals, we see to “meet them where they currently are,” which is reflected in our programs being “low-barrier.” Our low-barrier programs allow us to work with individuals that may be ineligible to work with other programs due to their barriers. At Greater Good NW, we understand that for many individuals, we may be their last chance, and we take that responsibility seriously as we attempt to serve individuals from an emergency capacity all the way to assist them in maintaining long-term stable and appropriate housing.