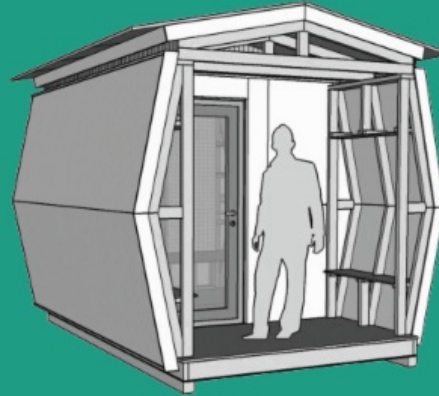


## Transitional shelter communities

A transitional shelter pilot project for up to 30 homeless veterans on county-owned land.



Planning continues for the [temporary, transitional shelter community pilot project](#) on a 1.5-acre site near the corner of 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Jennifer Street.

Here's a brief update on where we are and where we're going. If you have questions, suggestions or comments, please [email Board of County Commissioners Sr. Policy Advisor Emily Klepper](#) or call 503-742-5933.



Watch our video on the ClackCo Veterans Village.

***Conditional use application approved*** – In a decision issued Dec. 6, the County's Land Use Hearings Officer approved a conditional use permit to establish a transitional shelter community for veterans on land owned by the Development Agency.

The hearing for the permit, which was held Nov. 30, included two people who spoke in favor of the application and two people who spoke in opposition. The application had been submitted by the Department of Health and Human Services, to host a temporary transitional shelter community for veterans on 1.5 acres of land near the corner of SE 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue and SE Jennifer Street in unincorporated Clackamas County.

***Donations*** – It's been wonderful to hear from so many individuals and organizations that wish to donate to help make the Clackamas County Veterans Village a success.

At this time, while lots of work is still underway to prepare the village site, we are gratefully accepting financial donations, but are not able to receive any donated items.

If you wish to make a financial donation, you may do so by cash, check or money order made out to Clackamas County and sent or delivered to:

Emily Klepper, Commissioner Policy Coordinator  
Public Services Building  
2051 Kaen Rd., Oregon City, OR 97045  
[EmilyKle@clackamas.us](mailto:EmilyKle@clackamas.us)  
503-742-5933

***Warming shelters*** – Clackamas County contracts with warming center providers for homeless shelter beds on nights when the weather is predicted to be 33 degrees or lower (including wind chill, based on National Weather Service) or when other conditions such as accumulated snowfall, high winds, flood watches/warnings or other phenomena make sleeping outdoors especially dangerous.

Homeless adults are the primary demographic that accesses these warming centers, but families with children may also access them.

Each site decides by 1 p.m. whether or not they will be open based on National Weather Service predictions for their local area. Contact them directly to see if they are open on a given day. Clackamas County and [211info](#) post openings as they are confirmed.

**[Find a list of the warming centers in Clackamas County.](#)**

Sign up for volunteer opportunities to help the county's homeless population

***Volunteers*** – As work on this project continues, volunteers have played a crucial role in moving it forward.

Dozens of volunteers – many of whom became regular contributors – have hammered nails, sawed 2x4s and always made sure to measure twice and cut once. These volunteers included people from local community groups, Clackamas County employees and commissioners, the Oregon Army National Guard Color Guard, Portland State University's Center for Public Interest Design, along with PSU's Architecture Department, Communitecture, Oregon City Commissioners local union groups including the Sisters in the Brotherhood and Oregon Tradeswomen and many more.

It's been truly a community effort that saw many people come together for a common cause – to give stable shelter to local veterans who could use it as a first step to improve their lives.

Several county departments have also been working hand-in-hand in this endeavor. From Planning & Zoning and Building Codes in the Department of Transportation & Development, who have worked tirelessly to ensure the land use and building needs of the project will be met, to the Development Agency which owns the lawn on which the proposed village will be located, to Public Health and Traffic Safety staff analyzing health and safety impacts on the site, to the Board of County Commissioners who spearheaded this project, staff members have been working to make this project come to fruition.

There are also outside partners who are stepping up to help make this dream a reality. Comcast has offered to provide WiFi service on site, and Emmert International has volunteered to move the living pods being built on the Red Soils campus to the village site.

***County declares housing emergency*** – At a policy session Nov. 8, the Board of County Commissioners agreed to approve [a declaration of emergency](#) related to the homeless population in Clackamas County.

The purpose of this declaration, which will be in effect for six months, is to give staff the authority to move quickly to provide warming shelters for our homeless residents this winter. In this case, the increasing numbers of homeless county residents; their need for safe and warm shelter, and the current lack of adequate temporary or emergency homeless shelters constitutes an emergency.

The declaration does not have an impact on the zoning timetable or approval process for the temporary, transitional Veterans Village proposed for the 1.5-acre site near the corner of Jennifer St. and 115<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The county remains committed to ensuring that this project is fully vetted and reviewed, and in conformity with local zoning regulations and building codes.

If you'd like to learn more about the discussion by the Board of County Commissioners, go to our [policy session webpage](#).

***Housing Affordability panels*** – The County Commissioners are holding panel discussions to better understand the issue of housing affordability. Meetings were held Sept. 20 ([audio](#)), Oct. 25 ([audio](#) and [packet](#)) and Dec. 6. These discussions offer information about current housing issues in our region, coalition building and partnerships, impacts and other strategic considerations.

***Community Operations*** – The site will include 15 to 30 sleeping pods and community restrooms, showers, cooking and eating facilities, and a communal room.

***Community Members*** – Residents of this transitional community will be adult military veterans from Clackamas County who are homeless. They will be selected through referrals and screenings by county staff, veterans and social service agencies and support organizations.

The residents will be provided with health, counseling and other supportive services through the county, non-profits and other organizations to help them transition from this community to more permanent housing.

***Contact us*** – Please contact [Board of County Commissioners Sr. Policy Advisor Emily Klepper](#) or call 503-742-5933 if you would like to help with this project, have questions or concerns, or would like additional information.

*You are receiving this email because you are a property owner in the vicinity of the transitional shelter community pilot project proposed near the corner of 115<sup>th</sup> and Jennifer, or have expressed an interest in the project. If you would like to be removed from this email list, please let us know.*