

Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelters (TEMS) at 602 N Orchard St

Frequently Asked Questions

This document provides consolidated responses to community questions received at, or in advance of, the October 7, 2020 Virtual Community Meeting about the Tacoma Emergency Micro-Shelters Site being established at 602 N Orchard Street. You may also view the [list of questions as originally submitted](#) on our website.

If you have additional questions about the TEMS project or emergency sheltering strategy in Tacoma, please contact us at (253) 591-5119 or shelters@cityoftacoma.org.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND PLANNING

- **What was the planning process for the site and at what point did neighbors receive notification?**

This spring, LIHI and First Christian Church began discussing possible partnership opportunities. In August, the City submitted a joint application with Pierce County for the State Department of Commerce Shelter Grant funds to support the project. Staff presented to City Council about the proposed project in September. Neighbors received notification about the site following the Council Study Session.

- **What specific decisions and approvals is City Council providing in order for this site to be established?**

City Council authorized the Public Health State of Emergency on Homelessness ([Ordinance 28430](#)) and will approve the lease agreement between the City and First Christian Church and the operational funding agreement with Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) on October 20, 2020.

Residents may make public comment on both of these agenda items at the October 20, 2020 City Council meeting.

- **Why wasn't the community asked to weigh in on the location or able to vote on the specific location?**

The swiftness of the TEMS site stems from both the State of Emergency on Homelessness and the State of Emergency for COVID-19 response. The emergencies provide the City the ability to more rapidly adapt policy and allocate funding to provide shelter and resources to people living in encampments in Tacoma. Encampments pose safety and health concerns for people living in them and around them as they create concerns about human waste, garbage, exposure to communicable diseases, exposure to violence and other human health concerns. In addition, this location is on private property and agreements for use are not subject to a public vote.

- **How do we join the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?**

All community stakeholders are encouraged to become members of the CAC and attend the virtual meetings hosted by LIHI. Applications for membership can be found on our [website](#) as well as information about upcoming meetings. After meetings, minutes will also be posted online.

- **What kind of volunteer opportunities will be available, and how can residents in the area best support their new neighbors?**

The best way to support the TEMS site upon opening is to participate in the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is a group of problem solvers and advocates working to improve site operations and provide support to residents.

Volunteers are also encouraged to help with site set-up. Please contact tinyhouses@lihi.org to learn about these opportunities.

- **Who is responsible for dealing with any issues that arise from the TEMS site?**

Immediate issues that arise on site should be referred directly to LIHI's on-site staff. The site staff contact information will be posted on the City website once the site is operational.

Other concerns may be directed to the City at shelters@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5119.

- **Can you provide information to the community in Russian, Cambodian and Korean?**

The City is able to connect with interpretation services in person or by phone. To access City information or resources in a language other than English, please contact 3-1-1 or (253) 591-5000 if outside of Tacoma city limits.

- **How do you plan to partner with the community moving forward?**

Neighbors and community stakeholders are encouraged to get involved with the site directly by volunteering, providing donations or connecting on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC). The City and Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI) participate in all CAC meetings and are available to respond to ongoing issues that arise during the CAC meetings.

Neighbors participating in community block watch or other neighborhood groups through also have regular contact with City staff in order for us to help with community problem-solving and accessing City resources. To learn more about community groups in your area or to start a new group, contact Erik at EHasstedt@safest.org.

For response to an active concern regarding site safety, neighbors will be able to contact LIHI at the 24-hour security phone number which will be posted to our website once the site is operational. To report a crime in progress, neighbors should immediately contact 9-1-1.

COMMUNITY HEALTH AND SAFETY

- **How do you plan to address the traffic congestion at the corner of 6th Avenue and Orchard St?**

Due to COVID-19, Tacoma residents are encouraged to stay home and avoid travel; however, we do expect TEMS residents to have transportation needs. LIHI will accommodate transportation needs with ride-for-hire services and bus passes, as needed.

Neighbors experiencing community concerns, such as unanticipated traffic impacts, as a result of the TEMS site are encouraged to attend the monthly CAC meetings. City staff are available at these meetings to hear from the community about any issues they may be experiencing and help find solutions.

We do expect TEMS residents to have transportation needs that LIHI will accommodate with ride-for-hire services and bus passes, as needed.

- **How are you going to protect the vulnerable neighbors in the surrounding area?**

The City is confident that the TEMS site will be a well-run community asset by LIHI and the site location will not put vulnerable community members at an additional risk of being impacted by crime. The site will be fenced and 24-hour security will be provided by LIHI. Neighbors are encouraged to stay connected about community safety concerns through the Community Advisory Committee and neighborhood block watch groups.

- **How will this site impact my property value and taxes?**

Property valuation and taxes are set by the Pierce County Assessor's office. In other neighborhoods in Tacoma where the City has established TEMS sites we have not seen a negative impact on property values, which correlates to property taxes.

- **If my property value declines, I plan to seek compensation from the City. How do I begin this process?**

A resident may choose to file a claim for damages within the applicable statute of limitations. More information can be obtained by contacting the City Clerk's Office at (253) 591-5505 or downloading a [Damages Form and Instructions](#).

- **What impact on crime has the TEMS site at 60th and McKinley made?**

The TEMS site at 60th and McKinley and 8th and MLK have generated very few calls for service and reported crime. The locations are monitored by security personnel and are well managed by on site staff. All residents must adhere to a personal conduct agreement. Tacoma Police has not seen an increase in crime or nuisance activity in businesses adjacent to 60th and McKinley.

- **What kind of assurances can you give us that this encampment will not negatively impact the safety of this community?**

The TEMS site will be staffed 24-hours a day, be fully fenced and have site security cameras. The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) also engages in regular trash pick-ups in the nearby area to keep the neighborhood clean.

- **How will panhandling be addressed?**

Panhandling is a protected First Amendment right and is typically not directly associated with micro shelter village locations or the stability site at 1421 Puyallup Ave. Unless subjects are blocking traffic, a danger to themselves or others, or engaged in aggressive panhandling officers will not take action. For concerns about panhandling, please contact your Tacoma Police's non-emergency line at (253) 789-4721.

- **Will police patrols increase in the area?**

Tacoma Police will continue to patrol and monitor the various micro-shelter sites and adjacent neighborhoods and business districts.

- **Are there plans to increase the street lighting in the area in order to improve safety for the neighborhood?**

City staff recently assessed the lighting in the immediate vicinity and determined that the number of City street lights were adequate; however, the tree covering on the block between 6th and 8th of North Orchard is significant and blocking light. The City will be reaching out to specific property owners and encourage them to consider trimming back excess tree overhang in order to improve visibility at night.

- **Who do we call to pick up used needles and empty bottles in our alleys? What does the City plan to do to mitigate that?**

To report needles or illegal dumping in your neighborhood, please contact 3-1-1 or (253) 591-5000 or [submit a request online](#) for City support.

SITE IDENTIFICATION AND ESTABLISHMENT

- **How was the location at 602 N Orchard selected?**

In 2019, this location was identified as a potential shelter location during community conversations about possible locations for emergency and temporary shelter. The site at 602 N Orchard has a where a willing property owner to work with us on a lease agreement. If community members have additional sites they would like the City to consider they may email shelters@cityoftacoma.org or call (253) 591-5119.

- **Can you expand on the permitting process for this proposal, given the fact that it is in a residential zoning district that would typically require a Conditional Use Permit?**

The Temporary Shelter would typically require a Temporary Use Permit. However, under the City Manager's State of Public Health Emergency related to homelessness the City can modify the process, provided the intent of the code is met. In this case, Neighborhood and Community Services is conducting the public process typically conducted by Planning and Development Services. To this end, public notice of the project has been provided and comments have been accepted. Further, the operational requirements of the shelter site are consistent with those set forward in Title 13 of the Tacoma Municipal Code related to temporary shelters.

- **What are the laws surrounding establishing a shelter so close to a school?**

There is no legal restriction to siting shelter locations within a specific distance from a school or daycare.

- **Why didn't the City choose to put this site in a different area where there is more community need?**

Unauthorized encampments exist throughout our community. The City's [encampment response map](#) indicates that there are encampment locations in the immediate vicinity to the site and individuals experiencing homelessness reside throughout our city. The City supports shelter locations throughout the community and encourages property owners interested in siting shelter on their property to contact shelters@cityoftacoma.org or (253) 591-5119.

- **Has the City considered saving money by locating the site on City property?**

The City established the Stability Site at 1421 Puyallup Ave on City property. We have conducted site analysis on all City owned available properties and will continue to assess as properties are identified as surplus. At this time we have not identified additional viable City-owned locations.

- **Why not use an abandoned property like the Safeway on 6th Ave or the empty K-Mart building to locate the site?**

The City continues to explore options with property owners throughout the City. Any site that is selected would have to be made available by the property owner and would have to be financially feasible for the City to fund.

- **Who is paying for the project and how exactly are funds being allocated?**

The City is funding the shelter through a combination of State (Department of Commerce shelter grant) and Federal funds (ESG CV-2) dedicated to the set-up and operation of non-congregate shelter in response to COVID-19. Funds are being allocated to LIHI for operations, First Christian Church for lease payments, and some funding will be used for direct payment of set-up and utilities.

- **Why did the TEMS site on S 8th and MLK Jr Way only last eight months and this site is expected to last nearly three years?**

The length of the previous agreements have been primarily due to the availability of land to lease from property owners. At the time of lease for both sites, the property owner had planned future development. Construction of a low-income senior housing complex is underway at 8th and MLK.

- **Is it possible that this project would extend beyond July 2023?**

Funding is available until 2023. An extension would be dependent upon available funding, the status of the City's State of Emergency, willingness of the property owner to continue to lease the land and Council authorization.

- **How is the property zoned in order to handle this housing?**

602 North Orchard Street is zoned "R-3 PRD" [Planned Residential District](#). The R-3 District is intended for one, two, and three-family dwellings. Some lodging and boarding homes are also appropriate. The R-3 District is characterized by low residential traffic volumes and generally abuts more intense residential and commercial districts. The setback requirements are the same as the R-2 District. The maximum building height in this district is 35 feet.

- **What is being done about the current criminal activity in the area of the church?**

Tacoma Police has worked with First Christian Church to obtain a no trespass order, which allows Police to remove unauthorized campers from the property. Additionally, the introduction of a 24/7 presence on site with regular foot patrols should deter illicit activity on the property.

SHELTERING STRATEGY

- **With so many people experiencing homelessness in our community, why is the City investing so many resources into temporary sheltering instead of permanent structures?**

The most cost effective strategy for providing services to individuals experiencing homelessness is to pursue permanent supportive housing and other housing options, which is why the City is pursuing these actions in the Affordable Housing Action Strategy. However, temporary and emergency shelters and supporting our community partners in shelter expansion efforts provides immediate relief to our residents living outdoors in unsafe conditions.

- **COVID 19 has had a significant impact on our community and household stability. When eviction protections end, is the City prepared to support the community with rent and other resources?**

In April 2020, the City launched a COVID-19 rental assistance program to support individuals experiencing household stability issues related to COVID-19. Applications are currently being accepted until the end of the year and funding is allocated on a lottery basis. We do expect to allocate continued funding from this program in 2021. To learn more or apply, visit [LASA's website](#).

Our [Landlord-Tenant Program](#) Coordinator is working with renters and landlords to help prepare them for when the moratorium on evictions is lifted and for compliance with the Governor's mandates regarding rental payment plans. As part of the proposed budget the City has included hiring an additional program specialist for the landlord-tenant program and to retain the fair housing investigator.

- **What does our community data show us about individuals experiencing homelessness in Tacoma? Are they from Tacoma and the surrounding areas? What caused them to become homeless?**

According to the [most recent Pierce County Point-in-Time Count](#), most individuals experiencing homelessness in our community lived in the county prior to experiencing homelessness. The top three reasons that people identified for loss of housing were a family crisis, lack of affordable housing, and domestic violence.

- **The Public Health Emergency Declaration was made in 2017 and extended multiple times until there is no end in sight if we are waiting for 95% of people to have available shelter space for three consecutive years. What is the future plan to fund this "temporary" program?**

Funding for the 602 N Orchard site is available through July 2023. Other funds are allocated as part of the City Council's biennial budget. At this time, City Council is evaluating the proposed sheltering budget for 2021-2022. To learn more, visit our [budget website](#).

- **Has the city talked with Seattle City Light, Port of Seattle or the other land owners that have camps on properties associated with Low-Income Housing Institute (LIHI)?**

Yes, prior to beginning our partnership in 2019, City elected officials and staff visited other properties managed by LIHI and spoke with other jurisdictions about their partnership.

- **It seems many shelters already offer programs for women and children. Will this site address the highest community need?**

According to the [2020 Point-in-Time Count](#), there are families and women still unsheltered in our community. Bethlehem Baptist's temporary shelter currently serves the same population and they are regularly at full capacity. The TEMS site will continue to meet the needs of our some of our most

vulnerable populations experiencing homelessness, such as families with children and single senior women.

- **Why has the Public Health State of Emergency been extended several times?**

The Public Health State of Emergency has been extended as a policy decision by City Council. The most significant adjustment to the extension was to change the completion of the State of Emergency from a fixed date to a metric stating it would end when 95% of unsheltered individuals had access to shelter based on our Point-in-Time count.

- **If there are issues with this site and it cannot continue, what is the back-up plan?**

If the City or property owner determine that the site cannot continue, the City will look for an option to shelter individuals as an alternate location.

- **Has the City identified a location for a permanent solution?**

In 2019, the City contributed \$1.6 million to Tacoma Rescue Mission's shelter expansion project. Due to COVID-19 and new safety protocols, the need for non-congregate sheltering, such as micro-shelters has increased. The City is working to adapt sheltering options to meet the demand for services. At the same time, the City is working to increase access to affordable housing using the [Affordable Housing Action Strategy](#). With increased access to affordable housing, the need for shelters is expected to decrease.

- **What is City leadership doing to reduce transient homelessness from other cities?**

The City recognizes homelessness is a regional issue and will take a regional, coordinated approach. We continue to work with our neighboring jurisdictions and engage with local, state and federal leaders to help generate innovative solutions through [the Continuum of Care](#).

- **What mechanism will be in place to ensure we are serving our community, rather than individuals that have relocated from other areas?**

Our most recent Point-in-Time count data, most individuals experiencing homelessness in our community are from our community. Those who are not still impact community health and safety by residing in unauthorized encampments.

- **Does the loitering and homeless activity tend to increase around micro-shelter sites?**

Loitering is not allowed per the Code of Conduct. In regards to general encampment activity, we have not seen a significant increase in the immediate vicinity of either of the other micro-shelter sites in Tacoma. More details on encampment activity over time can be seen on our [encampment response map](#).

- **What factors were used in determining the success of other TEMS sites?**

As of October 2 2020, 44% of TEMS site residents who exited the program left for permanent housing. The average exits to housing for all other City funded shelter providers combined is an average of 16.5%.

The City, current TEMS residents, and neighbors agree that the TEMS model provides additional stability to residents and neighbors by operating 24/7, which is one way it differs from many other shelters in the

community. Allowing residents to have designated space and not require them to leave during the day adds stability for residents to focus on moving into housing and accessing other necessary services.

- **What is considered “affordable housing”?**

Housing is typically considered affordable if total housing costs do not exceed 30% of a household’s gross income.

- **Did the city consider buying or leasing a closed or underutilized hotel?**

The City does provide support the use of hotel vouchers in certain cases. Some City funded community providers currently utilize this option, when appropriate.

- **Can new buildings built within Tacoma city-limits be required to reserve spaces for low-income residents?**

The City currently offers a 12-year multi-family tax exemption (MFTE) incentive to encourage developers to build affordable housing. Tacoma's MFTE program provides a tax incentive to encourage development of a minimum of 4 new multifamily units to be located within one of 17 designated mixed use centers. The 12 year tax exemption requires at least 20% affordable units. The City is pursuing multiple options under the [Affordable Housing Action Strategy](#) to increase affordable housing stock including a new project, [Home in Tacoma](#), which focuses on increasing affordability by creating new housing types in Tacoma neighborhoods.

ENCAMPMENT RESPONSE AND REMOVAL

- **How will removals be done of unauthorized encampments? What happens if the encampments are on private property compared to on public property?**

The City inspects and removes unauthorized encampments on a routine basis based on complaints received and the conditions of the encampment. We generally do not perform encampment cleanups on private property. Instead, the City will follow the Tacoma Municipal Code to work with private property owners to ensure encampments are abated. At this time, we are also following guidance from the Center for Disease Control (CDC) about [COVID-19 safety and encampment removal](#). Learn more about our response to encampment removals on [our website](#).

- **What happens if individuals residing in unauthorized encampment reject the homeless outreach team's offers for services?**

Individuals experiencing homelessness are not required to accept supportive services. Encampments on public property may still be cleaned after 72-hours’ notice even if individuals chose not to accept services and the encampment removal falls within COVID-19 guidance from the CDC.

SITE OPERATIONS

- **Who specifically will this site serve and how will clients be referred to the site?**

The site will serve families with children, couples and single women. Residents with pets are also permitted. Residents are referred from the City of Tacoma’s Homeless Outreach Team and local providers.

- What is the screening process for residents? Will there be any preference given to individuals or families based on their demographics or other factors (ex: families, BIPOC communities, chronically homeless)?

All residents over the age of 18 are screened through the sex offender registration database. There is no special preference given to families or other individuals based on their demographics or other factors. LIHI will be looking for families and individuals that can adhere to the code of conduct, be successful in our program and be great neighbors to the community.

- **What type of background checks occur and what criminal convictions would disqualify someone from residency? What happens if someone doesn't have proper Identification?**

Serious offenses like murder, sex-related offenses, and others disqualify persons from residency. If someone does not have identification LIHI partners with Tacoma Police who have the additional capabilities to verify identify. LIHI also connects residents and potential residents to community organizations that can help them obtain the proper identification.

- **Is this completely free housing for residents?**

Rent is not charged to residents. Residents are expected to contribute to the village by completing assigned chores and work toward stable housing with their case managers.

- **Is there a time limit on how long one family can stay?**

There is no set limit on how long families or individuals can stay. They must continue to follow the Code-of-Conduct and work toward on obtaining other housing with their case managers. The length of stays varies based on resident circumstances.

- **Are the shelters going to be as shown in the presentation slides?**

Yes. The shelters will be similar and all shelters will be 8 feet by 12 feet.

- **How many children are going to be housed at this site?**

The number of children living at the site will likely vary over time as residents cycle through. Site capacity at any given time will not exceed 60 residents.

- **What service are offered to help residents find alternative housing?**

Case management services will be provided on-site and often involves partnership with other local agencies that can help resident overcome their individual barriers to housing.

What kind of compensation is the First Christian Church receiving for this site?

First Christian Church will receive \$3,000/month as agreed to in the lease agreement for the land by the City.

- **How will the city deal with trash and solid waste associated with the 40 units? Will there be additional trash collection services and collection bins that are serviced?**

Trash collection service is provided by the City and serviced regularly. There will be an appropriate ratio of bins to residents at the TEMS site.

- **What kind of sanitary facilities will there be?**

The site has shower facilities, bathrooms and laundry on site.

- **If the other shelters are full, what happens if a resident of this shelter site is turned away due to breaking code of conduct? Where will they be taken if all is full?**

The TEMS site is not a traditional shelter with a daily walk-in lineup for service. Should someone come to the site seeking services, LIHI staff would connect them with outreach workers to help find options for where they can go and how to get on appropriate housing lists.

- **Is this site going to have security 24 hours a day?**

Yes. The site has 24-hour security, seven days per week.

- **How is Low-Income Housing Institute partnering with Tacoma Public Schools to ensure resources for children are available and the school district is ready to support them?**

LIHI will be reaching out to Tacoma Public Schools to learn about the best ways to partner in support of resident families.

- **How does LIHI and the City help keep the community clean of trash and debris that may increase as a result of new tenancy in the neighborhood?**

Residents are expected to contribute to the maintenance of the TEMS site. LIHI staff provide a rotating chores list each week and one of the chores includes neighborhood (immediate vicinity) cleanup. Supplies for this are provided by LIHI.

- **Can you clarify the number of units and people served by this site?**

There will be 40 individual shelters and the capacity of the entire site is 60 individuals. Some shelters may house a couple or a family.

- **How are the utilities going to be paid? Who is responsible for that cost?**

The City makes direct utility payments for the TEMS site.

- **What is included in the code of conduct?**

The code of conduct includes information about site policies and expectations of residents. A current copy of the code of conduct is available on our [website](#).

- **Can you explain COVID-19 protocols for residents, volunteers and staff? What protections are in place to keep people safe?**

At this time LIHI is not allowing any visitors at any villages. All guests receive temperature checks upon arrival of the village. All staff, volunteers, and residents must wear a mask when they are not inside their micro-shelter. Hand sanitizer and Lysol spray is available throughout the village and cleaning occurs often. Residents are asked to maintain six feet of distance when in common spaces and we are limiting volunteer work in order to stay in compliance with public safety guidance.

- **What do the residents do during the day? Are there employment or education requirements?**

Residents are expected to work toward finding stable housing. Sometimes, this might include recovering from illness or seeking employment first. Case managers support residents through this process and provide resources as well as hold them accountable to making progress on their plans.

- **How are client referrals made? What is the application process when an open shelter becomes available?**

Residents are referred from the City of Tacoma's Homeless Outreach Team and local providers.

- **What kind of staff resources and site security will be on site every day?**

LIHI will have staff present 24-hours a day, seven days per week. Case managers may hold regular office hours, however, and not be on-site every day.

- **Looking at the most recent site report, I see only a fraction of residents who leave move on to permanent housing. What happens to the others?**

Residents could exit the program into another form of long-term housing, such as transitional housing, or into another form of shelter that better meets their needs, or may re-enter homelessness. Residents may also leave the program on their own and not share their outcome or destination. As much as possible, and when appropriate, LIHI case management staff will continue to stay in touch and work with residents who exit the program without housing or another form of shelter for as long as the resident who exited is able and willing to engage. LIHI assists residents exiting for any reason with transportation.

- **What happened to the micro shelters that were at 8th & MLK?**

The shelters at 8th and MLK were moved to the site at E 60th and McKinley.

- **What offerings are available in the communal kitchen? Are meals provided or do residents cook for themselves?**

Donated meals are provided for all daily meals and easy to prepare kitchen staples are available. The communal kitchen has microwaves, refrigerators, toaster ovens and basic food preparation items, but does not include full ovens.

- **What happens to residents when the TEMS site is moved? Do the residents move with them?**

Any residents living in a micro-shelter location that is expected to be relocated are able to move to the new location.

- **If a resident doesn't comply with the code of conduct, what happens? If they are removed, where do they go? Is there a plan?**

As much as possible, and when appropriate, LIHI case management staff will continue to stay in touch and work with residents who exit the program without housing or another form of shelter for as long as the resident who exited is able and willing to engage. LIHI assists residents exiting for any reason with transportation.

- **What are the statistics for the Puyallup Ave location?**

The most recent site report of client outcomes at the Stability Site and TEMS sites can be found on [our website](#).

- **I read the meeting minutes for the CAC teams for both shelter sites (MLK and McKinley) and saw concerns around pop up tents and loitering. What is being done to ensure that does not continue or carry over here?**

Issues like tents and loitering occur around the City and have a history of occurring at the proposed 602 N Orchard Site, as well. The CAC is available to problem solve these issues that may arise so that they may be addressed quickly and hopefully not become a pattern. We believe that CACs have been effective in this effort.

If encampments do establish, we encourage residents to request outreach from the Homeless Outreach Team by [making a request in online](#) to 3-1-1 or calling (253) 591-5000.

- **How many medical calls are related to drug or alcohol overdoses? Will there be recovery meetings on hand such as AA?**

The medical nature of calls for service cannot be disclosed due to HIPPA protections for patient confidentiality. Residents in need of substance use services can be connected with those through their case manager.

- **How does TEMS support people who are living in their vehicles? Do they have parking for residents?**

A parking area will be available on site, if a resident has long term vehicle storage needs LIHI will work with that resident to arrange for vehicle storage off-site.

- **Where are other TEMS sites in Tacoma located?**

Currently, LIHI operates a TEMS site at E 60th and McKinley Street. This site was re-located from S 8th and MLK Jr Way and shelter capacity was expanded in July 2020.

- **How long will people be able to stay at the facility?**

There is no set time limit for TEMS residency. All residents are required to work with case managers on their housing action plans in order to help them move through the program as quick as possible.

- **Are residents recommended to attend church services?**

Religious offerings are not a part of the TEMS operations or services. It is possible that church services are offered to residents by various partner organizations; however, none of these services would take place inside the micro-shelter community and any participation would be voluntary.

- **What background checks are part of the screening process?**

All prospective residents need to submit to a background check and a sex offender registry check as a condition of staying at the site. Serious offenses like murder, sex-related offenses, and others disqualify persons from residency.

- **Will you require drug testing?**

Drug testing is not required. The Code of Conduct clarifies that drugs or alcohol are not permitted on site and periodic room checks are conducted by staff to ensure resident compliance.

- **Who is staffed on site to help with services? Church staff or trained professionals?**

LIHI professional staff will operate the site and provide site security and case management services. Community partner organizations that contract with the City may also visit the site to provide services. The church may partner with LIHI to offer support in a volunteer capacity that would be supplementary to other services received.

- **Are same sex couples allowed to stay in the encampment?**

Yes, same sex couples are permitted to stay at the TEMS site.

- **Will residents get bus passes, so they can get to other social services, job interviews, jobs, etc.?**

Yes, residents will have access to transportation, such as getting bus passes and connection to ride shares or taxis from LIHI case management staff.