

The HUB Site

MDC will pilot a program to respond to the increasing need for response to visible street homelessness in Tacoma-Pierce County. The program plan is to fill an existing gap in services. MDC will create an outreach and hygiene hybrid program called the HUB.

MDC will set-up and manage two HUB sites in Tacoma – it will consist of two temporary outdoor locations close to existing high use encampment areas. The sites will provide individuals the ability/opportunity to take care of life's day-to-day needs. These are essential, life sustaining needs all humans have – we will centralize as many of these basic needs to one location as possible.

Some of the services available will be supportive and compliment services found at local shelters and other homeless services programs (Catholic Community Services, The Rescue Mission, Associated Ministries, Comprehensive Life Resources, The Rainbow Center, VALEO, YWCA, etc.). The goal of this is not to duplicate services, but rather relieve some of the bottlenecks and stresses currently found at these agencies.

While at the HUB, all visitors will have access to a comprehensive menu of services, including:

- Showers
- Bathrooms
- Secure storage
- Mail (without a mailing address, many things are nearly impossible – housing, employment, etc.) – just a need we have
- Coordinated entry assessment and enrollment.
- Medical screening and basic medical services – potential partnership or monthly/weekly satellite site
- Connection to MHSUD services (including Detox and services at the ENT).
- Connection to outreach/navigation services through MDC.
- Connection to employment programs
- Private meeting rooms for partner providers from the community to meet with individuals – possibility if we set up a container office

The HUB Sit - outdoor (1-2 locations)

- Strategically placed close to large encampments and high use areas, ideally in a low community impact locations.
- Individuals will have access to basic human necessities, including:
 - Bathrooms
 - Showers
 - Fresh water
 - Laundry services
 - Garbage and recycling services
- There will also be access to:
 - Secure storage for valuables and belongings
 - Connection to outreach services
 - Mental health
 - Substance use
 - Coordinated Entry
 - Employment
 - Connection to other needed services

We need to be willing to not only hear the voice of those experiencing homelessness, but listen to it, and let this voice guide our service model and interventions. With this in mind, we have come up with the following shelter and housing options for individuals. Most are not conventional and outside the box. Some can be set-up inside while many others, will be set-up in an outdoor, managed setting. Many individuals prefer an outdoor setting for numerous reasons. We need to meet them where they are at. We need to learn from what is working, build off it, and tailor it to the unique needs of our community.

Site Costs (per site)

- Hygiene Unit (3 bathroom and showers) - \$80k
- Laundry Unit (2 or 3 washers and dryers) - \$20k
- Secure Storage Container - \$5k
- Private meeting space - \$10k
- Garbage area/services – depending on site
 - Total per site - \$125k +/-

***This may be a part of this or maybe this is a separate project/something else
(Pam thoughts)***

MOST - Mobile Outreach Services Team

There will also be an important mobile outreach team piece to the HUB Site. If we truly want to meet people where they are at, we need to do it with wheels and our feet.

- 2-person crew that works flexible hours (including weekends).
- 1 vehicle/van to visit sites around town and also assist with transport.
- Basic hygiene supplies and food essentials to share with individuals.
- Crew will be trained in de-escalation, trauma informed care, motivational interviewing and connected to the existing system – including the ability to assess/enroll in coordinated entry.