

Department: Joint Office of Homeless Services **Program Contact:** Daniel Field

Program Offer Type: New **Program Offer Stage:** Adopted

Related Programs:
Program Characteristics: One-Time-Only Request

Executive Summary

This program offer funds a limited-duration consulting project team who will work with the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and microvillage providers to develop a microvillage system. The team will formalize a plan, assess current village approaches, summarize user experiences, and analyze cost effectiveness of the current proposed village housing. The team will also oversee development of three villages. This builds off the work of the “Village People” team that was led by Commissioner Meieran and included microvillage providers, an architect, neighborhood coalition representative, housing advocates, and people with lived experience of homelessness and substance use.

Program Description

Pre-pandemic, at least 2,037 unsheltered neighbors lived in Multnomah County. The most recent Point-In-Time Count estimates this number at 2,460. Multnomah County's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) for the Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Measure identified a critical need for an expanded range of shelter options for people living unsheltered that differs from traditional congregate shelter models. Historically, alternative shelter was not prioritized by Multnomah County except for in a few isolated - and often very expensive - settings. However, alternative shelter holds the promise of sheltering hundreds to thousands of people faster, cheaper, and in a way they want to be sheltered, while optimizing their pathway to long term housing.

Over the past few months, Commissioner Meieran convened a small group of visionaries and doers (informally the “Village People”) who have established a specific type of alternative shelter, referred to as “microvillages”, in the face of seemingly insurmountable barriers. A microvillage is essentially a community located on a very small plot of land (often a parking lot of a faith institution), with a small number of dwellings (10-15), hosting basic amenities, where people can have their basic needs met, sleep safely, and live with dignity.

According to PSU's Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative, microvillages have shown promise as a viable shelter alternative. The microvillages established and operated by individuals on Commissioner Meieran's team have demonstrated success, and Commissioner Meieran has been working with the group to develop a replicable approach to establishing a distributed and coordinated network of microvillages across the County. This program funds a limited-duration consulting project team who will work with the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) and microvillage providers to develop a microvillage system, as well as oversee development of three villages, to be operational in six months and operating at capacity within a year. In addition, this offer funds the one-time development costs such as land, construction, as well as time-limited operational and service costs for three villages.

Performance Measures

Measure Type	Primary Measure	FY22 Actual	FY23 Budgeted	FY23 Estimate	FY24 Offer
Output	Number of micro villages developed and operating for six months.	N/A	N/A	N/A	3
Outcome	Number of operational emergency shelter beds	N/A	N/A	N/A	30
Outcome	Number of individuals transitioned directly from living unsheltered to living in a microvillage site	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Outcome	Improved self-reported well-being of individuals living in microvillages compared to when they were living unshelt	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Performance Measures Descriptions

Revenue/Expense Detail

	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds	Adopted General Fund	Adopted Other Funds
Program Expenses	2023	2023	2024	2024
Contractual Services	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$460,000
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$440,000
Total GF/non-GF	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000
Program Total:	\$0		\$900,000	
Program FTE	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Program Revenues				
Beginning Working Capital	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000
Total Revenue	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$900,000

Explanation of Revenues

\$900,000 one-time carryover from the FY 2023 Supportive Housing Services (SHS) allocation to Multnomah County through the SHS Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with Oregon Metro Regional Government.

Significant Program Changes

Last Year this program was:

This is a new temporary project proposed by Commissioner Meieran.