



Notice of Funding Availability: Alternative Shelter & Safe Park Programs

Issue Date: **10/31/2021**

Responses Due: **11/21/2021**

Not Later Than: **6:30 PM**

Refer Questions to: *Jordanna MacIntyre*, jordanna.macintyre@multco.us

1. Introduction

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is pleased to announce a Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) for Alternative Shelter in Multnomah County, OR. JOHS seeks responses from qualified shelter operators interested in running an outdoor 1) Safe Park Program, providing 24hr parking spaces and services to those living in passenger vehicles, and/or 2) Village, with individual modular sleeping shelters and services. Qualified providers include those who were approved in the following formal procurement processes: Alternative Shelter RFPQ 76-2021 in the Shelter Operators designation; Tri-County SHS RFPQ 5898202 in the Shelter & Transitional Housing designation; DV RFPQ 25-2022 in the Emergency Shelter & Crisis designation; and Adult RFPQ 26-2019 and 51-2020. Completed responses will be used to evaluate and prioritize providers for contracted services.

Please note that Safe Park and Village-style shelters will be collectively referred to as "Alternative Shelter" unless otherwise specified.

2. Background

Funding for this NOFA comes from the Metro Supportive Housing Services Program (SHS) which addresses homelessness and housing stability, prioritizing Communities of Color. The program aims to increase housing stability and equitable services delivery across the region through inclusive community engagement, investments in programs that advance equity, and tracking indicators that demonstrate success in these areas. Feel free to review the Metro SHS Work Plan [here](#) and Multnomah County's Local Implementation Plan (LIP) [here](#).

Of the 2,037 people counted as experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2019 Multnomah County Point-In-Time (PIT) Count, 310 (15%) self-reported having slept in a "vehicle (car, truck, van, camper)." With at least 3,057 people recorded experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the 2022 PIT Count, vehicular homelessness is expected to have risen as well. In alignment with the LIP, this NOFA seeks to expand shelter options available to the community.

3. Project Overview

The Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) is launching an Alternative Shelter program expansion of \$800,000 that will prioritize two low barrier, equity-centered, and best practice-informed Alternative Shelters for individuals experiencing or at risk of long-term homelessness in Multnomah County.

JOHS is seeking proposals that demonstrated understanding of and commitment to the following program components:

- **Low Barrier:** Low barrier shelter programs place minimal requirements upon guests in order to offer shelter to people who, too often, have been excluded from shelter. Programs should follow established best practices to deliver shelter services that minimize barriers and increase access for people experiencing homelessness. Examples of low barrier programmatic components include welcoming couples and pets and the absence of shelter curfews. These program components may vary by site and program, but providers should endeavor to reduce as many barriers as possible.
- **Informed Service Delivery:** Programs are expected to adhere to best practices in engagement and service delivery, including providing trauma-informed, person-centered, and culturally responsive or culturally specific services. Peer support and programs that allow for participant involvement in ongoing program and site development are encouraged.
- **Commitment to Racial Equity:** Alternative Shelter providers should work continuously to reduce and eliminate racial disparities in service access and provision. In accordance with that expectation, providers should engage in ongoing racial equity work in regards to their organizational structure; staff; policies, procedures, and practices; programming; biases; restrictions; and community engagement.
- **Culturally Specific Services:** The JOHS strongly encourages the participation of culturally specific service provider organizations, minority-owned, femme-owned, emerging small organizations, and service disabled Veterans in providing these services. Approaches to this work that deliver culturally-responsive and/or culturally-specific services will be prioritized.

4. Project Activities

The JOHS has two sites for these programs to serve as either Safe Park or Village-style sheltering. While subject to change, each site will have space for up to 30 guests. The facilities will include fencing around the site, toilets, showers, laundry, electrical connections and meeting spaces. The shelter operator will be involved in site beautification and adjunct site amenity decisions.

Services provided to participants will include hygiene facilities, access system and housing navigation support, case management, and a minimum of one meal per day.

Funding will be available to operators to cover the costs of ongoing administration and operations, staffing and maintenance of their Program, as well as for housing transition and other wrap-around support services. The Joint Office is able to provide a range of support to facilitate the success of the provider and program.

5. Pre-Submission Optional Information Session

Proposers are invited to attend the optional pre-submission meeting that will be held online on Wednesday, November 9th from 11am-12pm Pacific Time. To attend this meeting, please register [here](#).

A Frequently Asked Questions list (FAQ) will be made available online after the meeting.

6. NOFA Application Submission

Step 1:

If you are interested in this opportunity to operate an Alternative Shelter, be it a Safe Park or Village program, please review the attached documents.

Attachment A - Alternative Shelter NOFA Proposal Submission Outline

Attachment B - FY23 JOHS Budget Packet (required with submission)

Attachment C - Sample JOHS Contract (subject to change)

Step 2:

An optional information session will be held on **November 9th** to elaborate on this process, the intentions for Alternative Sheltering, and to address any questions.

Step 3:

A review committee will evaluate and score proposals. Selection emails will be sent out subsequently. More information about this process will be discussed during the information session.

7. Proposal Submission Schedule:

NOFA Issued	Monday, October 31, 2022
Pre-Submission Information Session (Optional)	Wednesday, November 9, 2022
Application Deadline	Monday November 21, 2022 @ 6:30pm

8. Accommodations:

Please contact Jordanna MacIntyre at jordanna.macintyre@multco.us

- If you require interpretation services for the Information Session
- If you need translation for any part of this NOFA process

9. Definitions:

- Chronic homelessness - People who have experienced homelessness for at least a year – or repeatedly – while struggling with a disabling condition such as a serious mental illness, substance use disorder, or physical disability.
- Homeless Information Management System (HMIS) - A local information technology system used to collect client-level data and data on the provision of housing and services to homeless individuals, families and persons at risk of homelessness. Local jurisdictions are responsible for selecting an HMIS software solution that complies with the Bureau of Housing & Urban

Development's (HUD) data collection, management, and reporting standards.

- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) - The Federal agency responsible for national policy and programs that address housing needs in the US, that improve and develop the Nation's communities, and enforce fair housing laws.
- Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) - A collaboration between the city of Portland and Multnomah County governments whose aim is to provide funding, support and services to help end homelessness and to ensure safe, supportive housing for all who need it.
- Person-centered approach - The person is placed at the center of the service and treated as a person first. Focuses on the person and not their condition or disability.
- Trauma-informed care - An approach, based on the knowledge of the impact of trauma, aimed at ensuring environments and services are welcoming and engaging for service recipients and staff.

Thank you for your interest and continued partnership,

Jordanna MacIntyre
Alternative Shelter Senior Program Specialist