

# Multnomah County's 24/7 Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center



## What to expect from the Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center:

Multnomah County is taking steps in 2025 to purchase and develop a permanent, 24/7 Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center. The permanent Center will offer a needed location for law enforcement and first responders to make a warm handoff for individuals in critical need of sobering and withdrawal management services. The County is committed to undertaking this effort responsibly and in good partnership with businesses and residents in the neighborhood.

## What is happening now?

The County has identified a building at 1901 SE Grand Avenue that meets key search criteria and passed suitability evaluation. It is centrally located, with good access to hospitals and public transit, and is not near a school.



## What is the County planning?

While this work is under way, we are simultaneously expanding behavioral health services in early 2025 by adding 13 sobering stations at the interim Coordinated Care Pathway Center, which also provides deflection services. Planning is currently underway for the new permanent Center which will have up to 50 stations devoted to sobering and withdrawal management. These stations will help fill a critical gap in crisis services that has existed since Portland's Sobering Center closed in 2019. Since then, law enforcement and first responders have had nowhere to take intoxicated people for their welfare except jail or emergency departments, or to leave them on the street.

In September 2023, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved the design and project planning work for the Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center. In January 2024, Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards convened a project team with behavioral health leaders, the judiciary, law enforcement, City representatives, and Multnomah County Health Department. This team shared a preliminary plan with the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and the Portland City Council in March 2024, which was updated in December 2024. The Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center Plan includes deflection, sobering, medication assisted treatment, withdrawal management, and other services. The County will announce the opening date for this new permanent facility once staff have a better understanding of the required renovations.

## How is the County working with neighbors?

The County is committed to convening community members to create a Good Neighbor Agreement. Applying lessons learned from the Coordinated Care Pathway Center to improve communication with the community is important as we address any potential impacts around public safety, encampments, graffiti, and other livability issues. Information will be provided through community group outreach, contact list emails, and web updates.

## How can community members learn more and participate?

### Stage 1: Site Selection

- » An in person community meeting, on Thursday, March 20, 2025
- » Project updates will be posted on the website: [multco.us/info/sobering-center](https://multco.us/info/sobering-center).
- » Engagement with the Central Eastside Industrial Council, Hosford-Abernethy Neighborhood District and other groups.
- » If you'd like to receive official project communications and updates, fill out the form on the website which provides the County with your contact information.

### Stage 2: Discovery and Timeline Alignment

- » Updates will be provided via email. Ensure that you sign up to receive informational posters.
- » Community meetings continue after the FAC-1 vote to continue planning and design, as well as, the selection of facility operator.

### Stage 3: Design, Construction, and Operations Planning

- » A Good Neighbor Advisory Group will be formed and a work session schedule developed. The community will work together to establish a collaborative Good Neighbor Agreement.
- » Ongoing community association meetings and facility tours.
- » Providers, peers, hospital systems, law enforcement, and first responders will be contacted to share operational and program details, and educate all partners on how the facility will address community safety priorities and fill gaps in the behavioral health continuum of care.

### Stage 4: Post Opening

- » The County, services provider, partners, and community will continue to work together to implement the Good Neighbor Agreement.

