

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



What to expect from the Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center:

In 2025, Multnomah County purchased a building with the purpose to develop a permanent, 24/7 Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center. The permanent Center will offer a needed location for law enforcement, first responders, and referral partners to make a warm handoff for individuals in critical need of deflection, 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 purchased a building at 1901 S.E. Grand Ave. Its new address to increase findability is 440 SE Stephens Street. The site met 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 have simultaneously helped to fill a critical gap in crisis services that have not existed since Portland's sobering center closed in 2019. Thirteen sobering stations were added at the interim Coordinated Care Pathway Center, which also provides deflection services. These services will transition to the permanent Sobering & Crisis Stabilization Center, which will provide additional capacity for law enforcement, first responders, and other partners to divert individuals from jails, hospitals, or the street and toward pathways for treatment and recovery. The new permanent Center will have up to 50 stations devoted to sobering and withdrawal management, and continue to provide deflection services.

In September 2023, the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners approved the design and project planning phase 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 plans to open the permanent facility in Fall 2027. The Pathway Center will remain operational until the permanent facility opens and then will transfer services to the new location.

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, targeted social media, and web updates.

How can community members learn more and participate?

Stage 1 - Site Selection

- » An in person community meeting was held on Thursday, March 20, 2025.
- » Project updates are posted on the website: multco.us/info/sobering-center
- » Engagement with the Central Eastside Industrial Council, Hosferd-Abernathy Neighborhood Association 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.
- » Engagement Planning and Community meetings continue.

Stage 3: Design, Construction, and Operations Planning

- » 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.

