

# Multnomah County Sobering and Stabilization Center

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## **What to expect from the new center:**

Multnomah County is taking steps in 2025 to purchase and develop a permanent, 24/7 Sobering and Stabilization Center. The Center will offer a critically needed first responder drop-off that provides an alternative to leaving intoxicated individuals in crisis on our streets. The County is committed to undertaking this effort responsibly, and in good partnership with neighbors in this industrial district.

## **What is happening now?**

The County has identified a building at 1901 S.E. Grand Ave. that meets key search criteria and is being evaluated for suitability. The site has space for the planned services, has no school within 1,000 feet, and is centrally located with good access to hospitals.

## **What is the County planning?**

While this work is under way, we are simultaneously expanding existing behavioral healthcare services in early 2025, adding 13 sobering beds at the Coordinated Care Pathway Center which provides deflection services. The permanent Center will expand this reach to 50 beds split between sobering and withdrawal management. These beds will help fill a critical gap in crisis services that has existed since Portland's Sobering Center closed in 2019. Since then, first responders have had nowhere to take intoxicated people for their welfare except jail, 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 this Center. In January 2024, Commissioner Julia Brim-Edwards convened a project team with behavioral health leaders, the judiciary, law enforcement, City representatives, and the Multnomah County Health Department. They shared a preliminary plan with the Multnomah County Board of Commissioners and Portland City Council in March 2024. The current 24/7 Sobering and Crisis Stabilization Center plan is an updated version that includes sobering, crisis stabilization, and withdrawal management services for up to 50 beds. The County will announce the opening date for the 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 and applying lessons learned from the Coordinated Care Pathway Center to improve communication with the community as we address any potential impacts around public safety, encampments, graffiti, and other livability issues. Information will be provided through direct outreach, and there will be a website for regular updates at

<https://multco.us/info/sobering-center>.

# How can community members learn more and participate?

## During Phase 1 — the current period of site evaluation for feasibility (now - March)

- If you'd like to receive official project communications and updates, fill out the form at <https://multco.us/info/sobering-center>, which provides the County with your contact information.
- The materials will include informational flyers.
- A community meeting will be scheduled in March 2025.

## During Phase 2 — Design and construction (Starting March 2025)

- A Good Neighbor Advisory Group will be convened to engage businesses, community-based organizations, providers/peer organizations, law enforcement, elected officials, and other community stakeholders.
- The community will work together to establish a collaborative Good Neighbor Agreement.

## During Phase 3 — Operational planning Engagement Phase 3 (2025-2026)

- Feedback and agreements from Phase 2 will be collected and reported back to an ongoing Sobering and Crisis Stabilization Leadership Team for program or operational adjustments.
- Providers, peers, hospital systems, and law enforcement 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.
- Regular updates will be provided to the public on how the work to open the site is progressing, including tours and press releases.
- The community will continue to work together to implement the Good Neighbor Agreement.

To connect with someone more directly, please email [stabilizationcenter@multco.us](mailto:stabilizationcenter@multco.us).

