



Ashland Emergency Shelter (AES)

Neighborhood Meeting
September 14, 2023

Homelessness Overview

U.S. Dept. of Housing & Urban Development

- Around 582,000 individuals are homeless in the country
 - 18 of every 10,000 people in the U.S.
 - More than 270,000 - nearly half of homeless - are in California, New York & Florida
 - 40% are unsheltered nationally
 - Odds of becoming homeless are 1 in 200
 - Life expectancy of homeless is 42 to 52 years without assistance

Triggers

- Poverty or debilitating condition
- Traumatic event
- Loss of a job
- Healthcare costs
- Criminal Background preventing employment



Homelessness Overview

Types of Homelessness

- Transitional (less than year; result of life change/event – divorce, abuse, family/health crisis, etc.)
- Episodic (at least three periods in 12 months)
- Chronic (at least a year or repeatedly for four periods in 12 months – with disabling condition)
- Hidden (live with others temporarily)

Who is Homeless

- Nearly 75% are 25 or older
- 18% are children under 18
- 8% are 18-24
- Families are the fastest growing segment
- The vast majority of homeless are not considered a danger (including those with mental illness)



Homelessness Overview

West Coast

- California – 44 of every 10,000 in state
 - Highest rate of homelessness
- Oregon – 42 of every 10,000 in state

Oregon

- State has fourth highest rate of unsheltered homelessness in US
 - At least 18,000 experience homelessness per 2022 count
- 63% increase in homelessness in six years (2017-2022)
 - Center Oregon – 86% increase
 - Eugene-Springfield/Land County – 110% increase
 - **Medford-Ashland/Jackson Co. – 132 % increase**
 - Salem/Marian-Polk Co. – 150% increase
 - 62% of state's homeless are "unsheltered" (outdoors/cars)



Homelessness Overview

Governor's Emergency Declaration

- Effective dates – Jan. 10, 2023–Jan. 10, 2024
- For areas with increase of 50% or greater homelessness
- Funding – \$11,125,617 to address unsheltered homelessness
- Goals
 - Prevent 8,750 households from homelessness
 - Add 600 low-barrier shelter beds
 - Rehouse at least 1,200 households

Jackson County/Ashland Goals

- Prevent 1,200 households from homelessness
- Add 67 low-barrier shelter beds
- Rehouse at least 133 households



Homelessness Overview

Ashland

- Homelessness estimated at 80-125 (approx. 10% of Jackson Co. est.)
- Balance needs of all citizens
 - Preserve health and public safety
 - Dusk-to-Dawn sleeping lawn
 - Severe Weather Shelter – prevent health risk or loss of life
 - Emergency Homeless Shelter – stability & navigate to housing
 - Enforce behavioral expectations
 - No exclusive use of parks & public rights-of-way (ROW)
 - Trespass
 - Partner with community organizations
 - Multi-agency coordination for continuum of care approach



Ashland Support – 2023–2025 BN Budget

Funding

Oregon “All In” Grant	
Expend by Jan. 10, 2024	\$1,158,100
Oregon Admin. Service Grant (DAS)	\$1,000,000
Ashland General Fund	
FY2023–2024	\$ 100,000
FY2024–2025	\$ 100,000
	<u>\$ 2,358,100</u>

Expenditures

Emergency Shelter Purchase (\$2 mil. with \$600,000 seller note)	\$ 1,413,961
Seller’s note service	\$ 74,704
Homeless (bldg., ops. & navigation, etc.)	\$ 669,435
Severe Weather Shelter & Dusk-to-Dawn lawn	\$ 200,000
	<u>\$ 2,358,100</u>



Severe Weather Shelter

There are several criteria used to call a Severe Weather Shelter:

- Health & Public Safety Measure Activated by City Manager
- Levels
 - Cooling/Warming Locations
 - Peak Time Cooling/Warming Shelter
 - Overnight Cooling/Warming Shelter
 - Emergency Shelter
- Shelter Thresholds
 - Cold Weather – 32° or below
 - Hot Weather – 95° or above
 - Smoke – Air Quality Index of 150 and above (“unhealthy for everyone”)



Severe Weather Shelter – Location Criteria

- Accommodate priority use
 - Emergency shelter/event congregate – (approx. 3,000 – 4,000 sq. feet)
 - Supply distribution/management
- Near transit – within walking distance to a bus stop (1/4 mile)
- Near existing retail – within walking distance (groceries & personal items)
- Access to City utilities (water, sewer, electric)
- Located outside of natural hazard areas
(floodplain, steep slopes, vulnerable to wildfire, inaccessible in severe weather)
- Allow flexible/multiple functional use (pallet houses, temp. car camping)



Emergency Homeless Shelter – Location Criteria

- Existing Structure
- Adequate transportation to commercial & medical services
- Does not pose reasonable risk to public health or safety
- Includes sleeping and restroom facilities
- Complies with applicable building codes



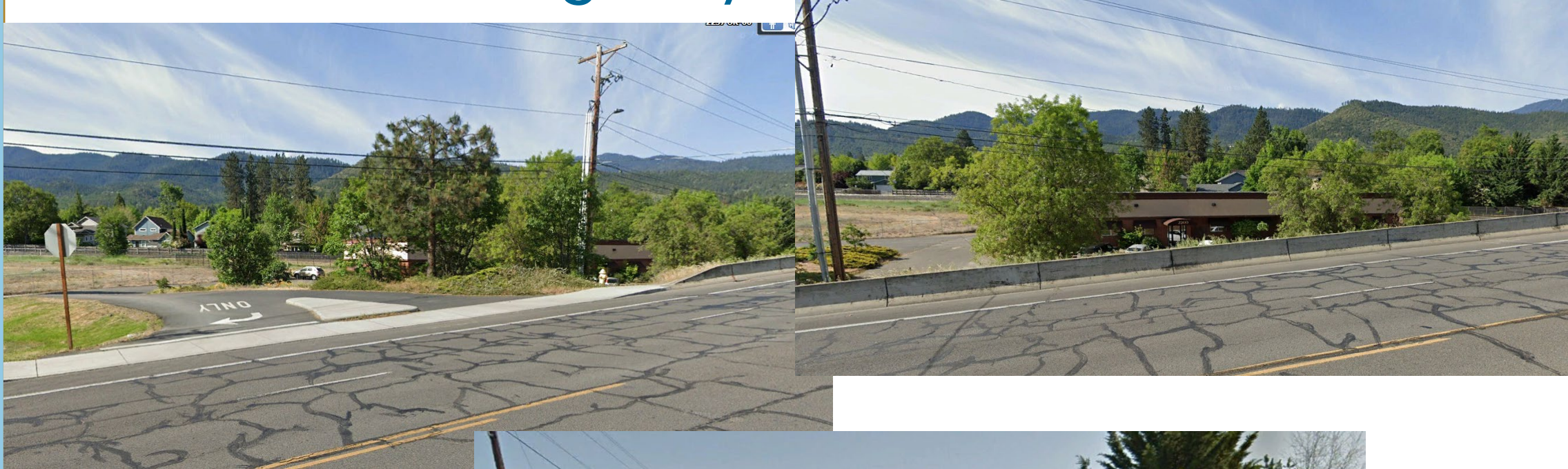
Ashland Emergency Shelter



Ashland Emergency Shelter



Ashland Emergency Shelter



Ashland Emergency Shelter

Shelter Is NOT

- A drop-in / “come & go” shelter
- A campground
- A nightly sleep/camping lawn

Shelter Is

- State funded for Nov. 1–Jan. 10 operation only
 - Assigned beds for at least 30 beds
- Requires Application/Screening for Admission
 - Court case history and sex offender registry website check
- Operated by an experienced shelter operator
 - Experienced on-site staff
 - Supervised during all operating hours
 - Behavioral standards for occupants
- Navigation support for permanent housing placement
- Includes limited food service



Ashland Emergency Shelter

Shelter Will Have

- Fencing & site plantings for screening
- Access gate with site curfew hours
- Interior access point and exterior security cameras
- Exterior security lighting & smoking area
- Adequate toilet & sanitation stations

During Emergency Shelter Operations

- APD Will
 - Expand patrol presence from downtown to include Ashland Street/Clay Street/bike path area
 - Expand cadet program from three using vacancy savings to assist in patrol of City parks & other properties
 - Explore possibility for store front office in Exit 14 area



Ashland Emergency Shelter

During Emergency Shelter Operations

- Other City, including Ashland Park & Recreation actions
 - Assist with provision of front gate and Clay Street Park access to Siskiyou School
 - Daily Clay Street Park visits and maintenance
 - Coordinate on activities at Clay Street Park and other parks with APD
 - Work to maintain the Clay Street Park, Emergency Shelter and railroad ROW free of wildfire hazards



Ashland Emergency Shelter – Timeline

2022

- **Apr.-Jun.** – The City received notice and accepts Housing Insecurity Grant for \$1,000,000
- **May** – Discussion of Shelter Site selection criteria at Housing & Human Services Commission meeting
- **Dec. 2022** – The City adopted the revised Severe Weather Shelter resolution, which changed criteria for activation

2023

- **Jan. 10** – Governor Issues Executive Declaration on homelessness emergency
- **Jan. 17** – Public presentation at Council meeting of Severe Weather Shelter next steps
- **Feb. 7 & May 2** – Staff exec. session presentation to Council of Severe Weather Shelter location alternatives
- **Apr. 18** – Council approves application for state “All In” Grant



Shelter Operation Planning – Timeline

- **Jun. 6** – The Council accepts “All-In” state grant at the regular business meeting; Severe Weather Shelter search transitions to meet grant requirements
- **Jun. 20 / Aug. 1** – Staff exec. session presentation to Council of Sever Weather Shelter location alternatives
- **Aug. 15** – Purchase offer acceptance at a City Council regular meeting for 2200 Ashland Street property acquisition.
- **Aug. 20** – Security walk of Siskiyou School property and Clay Street Park
- **Sep. 6-7** – Mailing of Mayor’s letter to residential neighborhoods on Emergency Homeless Shelter purchase and notification of Sep. 14th neighborhood meeting
- **Sep. 11** – City Council & City Manager neighborhood walks to notify about Emergency Shelter, Sep. 14 neighborhood meeting, and dedicated City questions and answers webpage
- **Sep. 12** – The City completes purchase of 2200 Ashland Street property



Shelter Operation Planning – **Next Steps**

- **Sep. 15** – Property’s seller will complete move out of building; site available for City remodeling and site improvements
- **Sep. 16 – October 15** – The City will make short term improvements and necessary site work to open the Emergency Shelter
- **Oct. 2** – Public forum on Emergency Shelter at Council Chambers, including update presentation on shelter implementation
- **Mid Oct.** – Emergency shelter open house at Emergency Shelter; Application process initiated
- **Nov. 1** – Full operation with accepted applicants

2024

- **Jan. 10** – Emergency shelter transitioning to Severe Weather Shelter operations status
- **Jan. 11 – Mar. 30** – Severe Weather Shelter operations



THANK YOU

**To submit questions/comments
and view updates, please visit
ashland.or.us/EmergencyShelter**

