

In FY18 and FY19, the City has taken significant steps in its efforts to address homelessness. Accomplishments include expanding current programs, strengthening relationships with community partners, ensuring homelessness plans and initiatives are included as part of the community safety strategies, and working with a consultant group who identified specific strategies for improving our community's overall homeless crisis response system.

**Public Shelter Feasibility Study and Homeless Services System Analysis** – Following the City's \$1 million allocation in FY18 towards a future public shelter, the City partnered with Lane County and a nationally-recognized consultant, the Technical Assistance Collaborative (TAC) in Boston, on a shelter study and homeless services system analysis. In the FY19 December supplemental budget, Council approved an additional \$900,000 to pursue efforts related to addressing homelessness. In the final report presented to a joint meeting of the City Council and Lane County Commissioners in January, TAC provided a series of specific system recommendations (including a 75-bed low-barrier public shelter) that if implemented together could significantly reduce Lane County's unsheltered homeless population within a three-year timeframe. The study provides a focused path forward for impactful work by the City, County and partner agencies in several different areas in the coming months and years. Per most recent Council direction, City staff are working with Lane County to develop more detailed information around costs and proposed governance roles, and to implement initial steps for moving forward on the TAC recommendations.



*TAC presentation at Joint Meeting of Eugene City Council and Lane County Commissioners, January 2019*



*Dawn to Dawn site at Highway 99*

**Dawn to Dawn** – During the 2018–19 fall and winter seasons, City staff worked with Lane County through an iterative process that eventually led to a significant increase in shelter for people over the winter months. The Dusk to Dawn site on Highway 99 became a pilot Dawn to Dawn site in January, allowing daytime access. A smaller micro-site was also piloted through the winter which consisted of individual tents under a larger domed tent. The program's capacity expanded significantly, and it currently provides space for over 190 people per night. City and County staff are working together to shift the Dusk to Dawn program to be year-round in FY20.

The program has also increased housing navigation services this year and brings other service providers on-site for the benefit of its participants. The City contributed \$420,000 total for the program in FY19.

**Human Services Commission** – In FY19, the City committed \$1,266,013 in General Fund resources and \$350,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds to the Lane County Human Services Commission to help fund a range of social services that support low-income people, those who are experiencing homelessness and people with special needs. This funding includes \$36,000 from the Eugene Police Department for Looking Glass Station 7 (a homeless shelter for youth), as well as \$420,000 for the converted Dawn to Dawn programs operated by St. Vincent de Paul on Highway 99 (see above).

**Human Service Capital Improvements** – The City utilizes a portion of CDBG funds for capital improvements at social services facilities for low-income individuals and families. Recent and current projects include renovations and upgrades at the Eugene Service Station, the Eugene Community Service Center on 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, the Homeless Medical Recuperation Program, Looking Glass McKay Lodge for juvenile ex-offenders and the Whiteaker School Head Start program.

**Downtown Day Storage** – As part of a variety of efforts downtown, the City contracted with St. Vincent de Paul to open a daytime storage pod behind the Eugene Public Library, providing a place where people can store their belongings for free during the day, every day of the week. The service is being funded through the Downtown Operations budget.



*Rest Stop at 34<sup>th</sup> & Hilyard*

**Overnight Parking Program** – Managed by St. Vincent de Paul, the Overnight Parking (or Car Camping) Program provides approximately 70 people at over 40 addresses with safe and legal places to sleep in their vehicles. The City provided \$149,000 in FY19 for the program.

**Rest Stop Program** – Rest stops provide safe, legal, managed places for up to 20 people per site to sleep in tents on platforms or in Conestoga huts. With this year's approved expansion of one site to full capacity, four sites will now be able to support 80 people, providing stability and connections to services and housing. Funding for three Conestoga huts at one site and an Action Plan Advisor (case worker) at another is being provided by the City through Community Safety Bridge funding.

**Opportunity Village Eugene (OVE)** – OVE serves up to 35 people at a time in 29 temporary housing units with common bath, kitchen and gathering spaces. The City of Eugene supports the program with a Public Works-owned site at which to operate on N. Garfield.

**15<sup>th</sup> Night** – The City of Eugene continues to partner with 4J and Bethel school districts and several other community partners on the 15<sup>th</sup> Night Initiative to address youth homelessness.

**Downtown Youth Initiative** – In 2018, the City's Recreation Division piloted a street outreach and mentoring program targeting youth and young adults in Eugene's downtown core. The program included a street team, a drop-in space, and twice monthly activities. The pilot ended in October. In the time it operated, 73 youth were engaged in mentorships and 18 youth were supported into employment. The program was funded through the Downtown Operations budget in the amount of \$34,000.

**Alternative Approaches** – The City supports programs such as Community Court, CAHOOTS, EPD's Community Outreach and Response Team (CORT), and the Park Ambassador program, each of which deliver alternate approaches to helping people address more complex underlying needs that have likely contributed to their contact with law enforcement and/or the criminal justice system. Not all but many of those served in these programs are experiencing homelessness.

**Affordable Housing** – The City supports stable, safe and affordable housing opportunities for area residents through a suite of grants, loans, waivers, exemptions and other supportive policies. City programs are guided through the Eugene-Springfield 2015 Consolidated Plan. The following activities occurred in FY19:

- 1505–1525 River Road: Following a Housing RFP process, the City awarded St. Vincent de Paul the City-owned lot at 1505–1525 River Road for the creation of a 53-unit development targeted to very low income households, including units designated for survivors of domestic violence. In addition to awarding the lot, Council approved a Systems Development Charge (SDC) waiver of \$275,000 and use of \$725,000 in federal HOME Investment Partnership program funds for the development.
- The Commons on MLK: This new Homes for Good project will provide 51 studio units of permanent supportive housing for people experiencing homelessness. City Council approved a \$280,000 SDC waiver and use of \$150,000 in Low-Income Housing Funds and \$750,000 in federal HOME funds in support of the new development.
- Ya-Po-Ah Terrace: In December, the City closed its largest Rental Rehabilitation loan to date, lending \$1.5 million in federal CDBG funds to support the rehabilitation of Ya-Po-Ah Terrace, which provides 210 apartments for seniors with very low incomes.
- In FY19, City Council approved 20-year property tax exemptions for a proposed 70-unit affordable housing development in the Downtown neighborhood, as well as for a 22-unit tiny home development at Polk Street and Railroad, and for 211 units at Ya-Po-Ah Terrace. Council also renewed existing property tax exemptions for five different apartment complexes, helping to preserve 183 units of affordable housing for lower income households.



*Artist's rendering of Ya-Po-Ah Terrace after completed rehabilitation*

**Staff time and resources** from every department are employed in efforts to help address homelessness in the community. These include Library and Recreation staff providing services to unhoused community members at libraries and community centers, Police and Fire and EMS personnel responding to calls for service, Public Works staff helping coordinate and manage public spaces and parks and providing camp cleanup, Central Services staff helping coordinate homelessness programs, and Planning and Development staff operating affordable housing and human service programs and funding.

**Policy leadership** – The City supports and/or is represented on intergovernmental policy boards related to housing and homelessness, including the Housing Policy Board, the Poverty and Homelessness Board, and the Human Services Commission.

As unsheltered homelessness continues to be significant in both magnitude and impact in our community, balancing humane and urgent responses to unsheltered homelessness with a robust implementation of strategies to fix and improve our overall homeless service system for the long-term will be both a challenge and priority.

### FY20 Budget Allocations

Staff are currently working to implement the \$8.6 million in community safety bridge funding approved through FY20. Included in the Community Safety funding package are enhanced support for the Rest Stop Program, Overnight Parking Program, Dusk to Dawn Program, 15<sup>th</sup> Night, Lindholm Center weekend hours, and a proposal for a new day center. All of these are programs that work to meet immediate needs of people experiencing homelessness in the community, and the community safety funding will help maintain and stabilize these service options as well as provide added support for case management to help individuals move more successfully into permanent housing.

The FY20 budget allocates \$45,000 in one-time funding to the Human Services Commission FY20 Proposed Budget allocation to offset the expected reduction in Community Development Block Grant funding. Additionally, \$120,000 in ongoing funding was approved to improve and address downtown sanitation services.

The City of Eugene will continue to support a variety of homelessness programs and initiatives in FY20 through funding sources that include the Community Safety Bridge funding, the City's general fund, the downtown operations fund, and federal budget allocations.

Find more about the City's homelessness programs at [www.eugene-or.gov/homelessness](http://www.eugene-or.gov/homelessness).