

This newsletter contains information from the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

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**JOHS Monthly**  
*October 2024 Edition*

To our partners and community, welcome to our monthly newsletter!

Learn about the collective work that our office, service providers, and partners do, and our shared commitment to make homelessness a rare and brief experience throughout Multnomah County.

**If you are experiencing or at risk of homelessness,  
call 211 or visit [211info.org](https://211info.org) for assistance.**

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## FY2024 System-Wide Numbers



**9,101**

People Served in  
Shelters



**5,477**

People Placed into  
Housing



**15,074**

People Enrolled in  
Housing Programs

Data from Fiscal Year 2024

During Fiscal Year 2024, Joint Office-funded providers served more people than ever before in both emergency shelters and permanent housing.

[View the latest numbers on our data dashboard](#)

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**Director's Corner**

In a City Council meeting last week, we heard from three commissioners that they lack confidence in the Inter-Governmental Agreement that guides the collaboration between the City of Portland and Multnomah County to maintain the Joint Office of Homeless Services.

While the unplanned straw vote caught many by surprise less than 3 weeks before an unprecedented election, it doesn't undermine the Joint Office's tremendous progress over the past year. As noted during our briefing before City and County leaders on October 8th, we are on track to hit many of our key milestones. We have been re-housing and sheltering people at a faster rate than ever before. This includes steady progress toward our community shelter strategy goals, and measurable success on our supportive housing goal, including a 76% increase in the number of people who have gone into permanent supportive housing in FY 2024. We're also expanding important investments in day services, workforce stabilization, transitional recovery housing and employment programs.

This year Portland and Multnomah County worked collaboratively in an unprecedented partnership to develop a clear, detailed strategy for the next two years. Highlights include adding over 1,000 shelter beds and hundreds of new units of permanent supportive housing. We've also built key success metrics, a framework for oversight and accountability, and a governance structure that brings more people to the table. As noted by City staff in last week's Council hearing, the goals set for the first two months of implementation of this Homelessness Response Action Plan (HRAP) are largely being met.

So, despite the heightened rhetoric generated by the impending election, we are on the right track. I'm confident that moving people off the streets and into shelter and housing is a goal we all share. Regardless of what happens in the coming weeks, we will remain focused on supporting every person experiencing homelessness into safe, stable and supportive housing.

- JOHS Director Dan Field

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## New Housing Developments Opening Soon



Three new supportive housing developments are nearing completion, and will soon be welcoming residents! [Tistital Village](#) in North Portland (57 new units), [Meridian Gardens](#) in SE Portland (85 new units) and [Beacon at Glisan Landing](#) (41 new units).

Many of these new units will provide permanent supportive housing for people currently experiencing homelessness in our community. Thank you Metro area voters for the [Supportive Housing Services measure](#) passed in 2020, which is helping to make all of this possible.

[More info on these and other housing developments](#)

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## Fairfield Apartments Opening



This week marks the grand opening of the newly-renovated Fairfield Apartments in downtown Portland, located at 1117 SW Harvey Milk St.

Fairfield Apartments is a 75-unit permanent supportive housing (PSH) development that will provide culturally appropriate services to people exiting chronic homelessness, specifically within the Black/African American community. This preservation project ensures the availability of affordable housing in Portland's downtown area, close to public transit and essential neighborhood amenities.

We are proud to celebrate this milestone and the completion of a project that reflects our collective commitment to addressing the homelessness crisis in Portland.

### **Project Partners**

Sponsor: Home Forward

Services Partner: Urban League of Portland

Construction and Design: Walsh Construction, Peter Meijer Architect

Financial Partners: Oregon Housing and Community Services, City of Portland, Joint Office of Homeless Services, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Congressional Direct

Appropriations Funding, U.S. Bank, Key Bank

Commercial Space Funder: Prosper Portland

Property Management: Pinehurst Property Management

[Find out more about the Fairfield](#)

## Podcast S3E1: Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance

The first episode of season 3 of the Joint Office podcast “Out of the Streets of Portland” has been released. Click the link below to listen and subscribe!



Understanding  
Regional Long-Term  
Rent Assistance



**S3:E1**

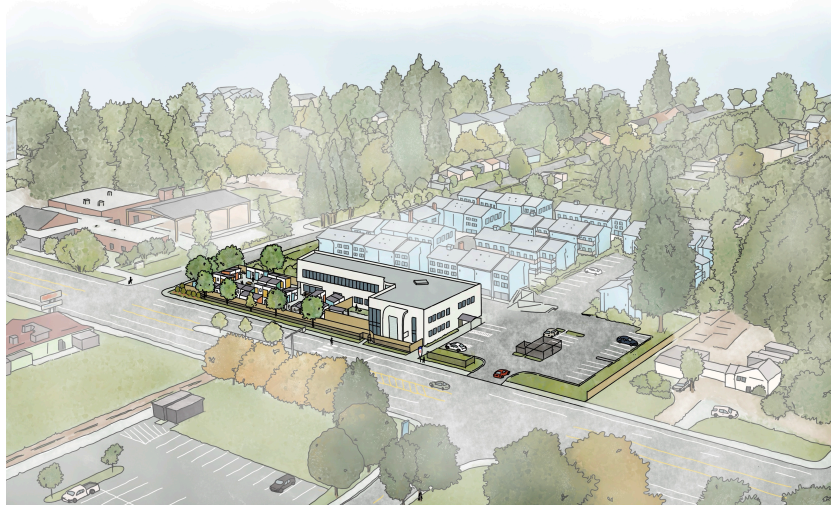
### Out of the Streets of Portland

On this episode of Out of the Streets of Portland, we bring you a panel discussion about the [Regional Long-Term Rent Assistance](#) program, which has been a key factor in helping people maintain stable housing, providing rent assistance to the most vulnerable households.

[Listen and subscribe](#)

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## East County Homelessness Resource Center Update

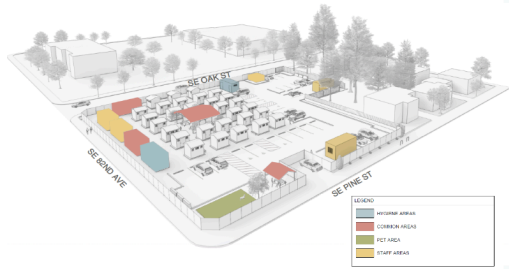


On September 23rd, the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) hosted the first public community event about changes planned for the Cook Plaza facility and its future as the East County Homelessness Resource Center (ECHRC). More than 50 guests attended to hear from their elected leaders Multnomah County Commissioner Lori Stegmann and Gresham Mayor Travis Stovall, and share their ideas and provide feedback on the project. Guests were also able to tour the facility and discuss areas of interest regarding the facility, programming, and the [Community Sheltering Strategy for Multnomah County](#).

The Joint Office of Homeless Services have tentatively planned to hold its next public Community Engagement event in early 2025 to introduce the service provider selected to operate the ECHRC to the local community, and discuss the process for developing a Good Neighbor Agreement, estimated to begin in early Spring of next year. For more information about this project and responses to questions asked at the September 23, 2024 event, visit: [johs.us/echrc](https://johs.us/echrc)

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## Oak Street Village



The alternative shelter site located at 333 SE 82nd Ave has officially been named the Oak Street Village. The shelter will be operated by Straightway Services and will be opening in early 2025.

[More info on the Oak Street Village](#)

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## 'Life is good today': Monique's Story

For years, Monique was struggling with addiction and was unable to find stability. She would couch surf, staying with family members and moving on to the next place after she wore out her welcome.

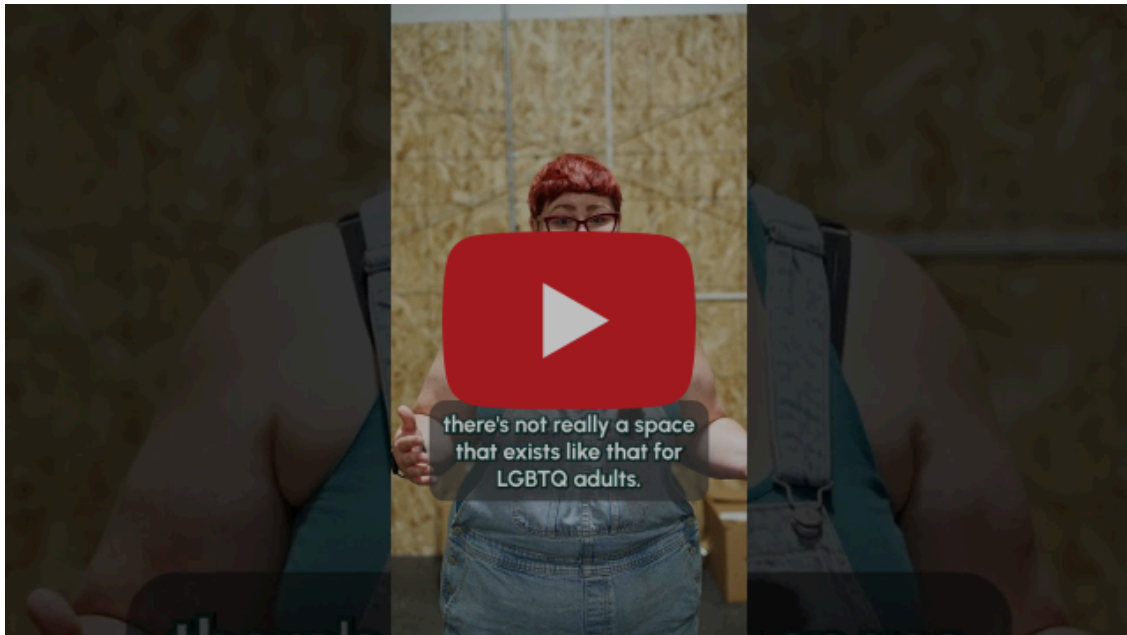
Her life began to change after she entered residential treatment through the [Native American Rehabilitation Association of the Northwest](#) (NARA NW).





[Read the full story here](#)

## Marie Equi Center now open!



Community members gathered on Friday, Oct. 11, for a grand opening celebration at the new [Marie Equi Center](#), which will serve LGBTQIA2S+ people with drop-in health and housing services.

The 13,000-square-foot day center, in Portland's Brooklyn neighborhood, was funded by the Joint Office of Homeless Services using funding from the [Supportive Housing Services](#) measure. It is the first day center of its kind in the region, providing culturally specific housing resources and other supports tailored to LGBTQIA2+ people who are low-income or experiencing homelessness.

[Find out more about the Marie Equi Center](#)

Learn about the Joint Office's expansion of day services at multiple sites

## Film screening: No Place to Grow Old



The team at [Humans for Housing](#), a new Portland-based nonprofit, explores the issue of aging homelessness in their film, [No Place To Grow Old](#). The film, directed by Davey Shaupp, offers an intimate portrait of the growing crisis of senior homelessness in Portland, focusing on the personal narratives of those experiencing it firsthand.

[HereTogether](#) and [New Narrative](#) are hosting a screening of the documentary on November 8 at the Patricia Reser Center for the Arts in Beaverton. This showing will be followed by a panel discussion with the nonprofit hosts and [Community Partners for Affordable Housing](#).

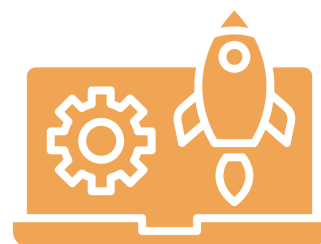
Since 2020, the number of adults aged 65+ who are unhoused in Multnomah County has increased by 15%. Older adults are the fastest-growing demographic of people experiencing homelessness. Learn more about the growing crisis at this screening on November 8th.

[Tickets can be found here](#)

## Coordination Access Redesign Launch

# Coordinated Access Redesign Launching Soon

**Monday, October 28**



The new Coordinated Access process, which includes the new Multnomah Services and Screening Tool (MSST), the Housing Priority Pool, and the Housing Preferences and Matching Tool for prioritized households will launch Monday, October 28.

As part of the launch, the current Coordinated Access HMIS provider for entering VI-SPDAT assessments will be turned off in HMIS on Monday, October 28. Assessors will no longer be able to enter VI-SPDAT assessments and all VI-SPDATs should be entered before this date.

The new Coordinated Access HMIS provider for entering the new tool - the Multnomah Services and Screening Tool (MSST) - **will be**

**turned on in HMIS on Monday, October 28.** MSST assessments and housing problem solving can then be recorded in HMIS.

For more information on our engagement process and an overview of the new tool and process, please watch our recent, learn more about the redesign, or view our frequently asked questions below.

[View FAQs](#)

[Watch the Webinar](#)

[Learn More about the Redesign](#)

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## Upcoming Meetings

We welcome the public to attend our advisory committee and board meetings!

Find the meeting schedule for the following committees and boards below. You can also find more details on our website.

### **Community Budget Advisory Committee**

Please visit [johs.us/community-budget-advisory-committee](https://johs.us/community-budget-advisory-committee) for upcoming CBAC meetings

### **Continuum of Care Board**

Thursday, November 21 · 11:00am – 1:00pm

Click here for [Virtual Meeting](#)

## Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 14 · 3:00 – 4:30pm

Click here for [Virtual Meeting](#)

Please email [johnscommunityadvisory@multco.us](mailto:johnscommunityadvisory@multco.us) with any questions.

[View our Boards & Committees](#)

## Resources for People Experiencing Homelessness

▶ [Who to Call for What](#)

A list of hotlines, helplines and other useful phone numbers.

▶ [Oregon Law Help](#) or [Oregon Renters Rights](#)

Information about rental assistance and eviction protection.

▶ [Street Roots' Rose City Resource Guide](#)

Searchable list of food, housing, and other resources in PDX.

## Racial Justice & Equity Resources

▶ [Data on Race, Ethnicity and Homelessness](#)

A report from the National Alliance to End Homelessness.

▶ [Resource Guide: Race and Homelessness](#)

A guide produced by the Homelessness Research and Action Collaborative at Portland State University

▶ [Multnomah County Workforce Equity Strategic Plan](#)

How the County is addressing historic and institutional inequities within local government.

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## Employment Opportunities

Joint Office/Multnomah County:

[Homelessness Response System Director](#) - open until filled  
[Accounts Payable Specialist](#) - applications due October 24

- [All Good NW](#)
- [2-1-1 Info](#)
- [Beacon Village PDX](#)
- [Blanchet House](#)
- [Bradley Angle](#)
- [Bridges to Change](#)
- [Call to Safety](#)
- [Cascade AIDS Project](#)
- [Cascadia Health](#)
- [Catholic Charities](#)
- [Central City Concern](#)
- [City Team Portland](#)
- [Cultivate Initiatives](#)
- [Do Good Multnomah](#)
- [Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon](#)
- [El Programa Hispano Católico](#)
- [Home Forward](#)
- [Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization \(IRCO\)](#)
- [Janus Youth](#)
- [JOIN](#)
- [Latino Network](#)
- [Multnomah County](#)
- [Native American Rehabilitation Association \(NARA\)](#)
- [Native American Youth & Family Center \(NAYA\)](#)
- [Neighborhood House](#)
- [New Avenues for Youth](#)
- [Northwest Pilot Project](#)
- [Our Just Future](#)
- [Outside In](#)
- [Path Home](#)
- [Raphael House of Portland](#)
- [Self Enhancement, Inc.](#)
- [Transition Projects. Inc.](#)
- [Urban League of Portland](#)
- [Volunteers of America](#)
- [Washington County](#)
- [Worksystems](#)
- [YWCA of Greater Portland](#)

Thank you for reading our newsletter!

It is important that we continue to acknowledge the underlying issues that make homelessness so pervasive across the U.S. From structural racism and disparities, to the economic and social impact from COVID-19, the lack of affordable housing and healthcare, and other challenges of meeting people's basic needs, homelessness is a collective issue we need to address together.

Share this newsletter to spread awareness about the meaningful, impactful, and life-saving work taking place in Multnomah County.

Thank you for your interest, work, and care in helping our neighbors experiencing and at risk of homelessness get the support they need to get into and maintain their housing.

Let's make homelessness a rare and brief experience for all!

This notice was distributed to those who have [signed up](#) to hear about opportunities to participate and receive updates on the Joint Office of Homeless Services and the local implementation of [Metro's Supportive Housing Measure](#) in Multnomah County.

Did you receive this email from someone else and would like to join our mailing list for future updates? Click below to sign up!

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