The Commons on MLK: Housing First





Homes for Good and Lane County are leading an effort to develop a supportive housing apartment community on Martin Luther King Blvd. in Eugene, Oregon. This partnership will identify, engage, house and support whose who have been homeless the longest, utilize the most resources, and who have traditionally been the hardest to serve because they often struggle with complex and overlapping health, mental health, and substance abuse disorders.

The combination of housing and support services follows the Housing First/harm reduction model. Research has demonstrated that the Housing First model, which features wrap-around services and supportive programs, is more effective than shelters and transitional housing systems alone. Research also identifies that if not housed, the chronic homeless - those who will be served at this new community - otherwise utilize half of the shelter system resources, utilize a higher percentage of hospital emergency services and require longer care, and have higher rates of incarceration and recidivism.

The overall estimated cost for the project is \$13 million. Land for the project has been provided by Lane County. The State of Oregon has committed \$3 million in funding that has allowed Homes for Good to leverage other project funding, including 4% low income housing tax credits, Oregon Health Authority, Federal Home Loan Bank of Des Moines, HOME, grants from four healthcare providers, and other local funding. All units will receive project-based vouchers for rental subsidy. Construction will begin in the fall of 2019. Lease-up will begin in January 2021.

Housing Details

- Four-story structure of 35,100 square feet
- Commons area
- Laundry
- 24/7 receptionist/help desk
- Meeting rooms and offices for program and support services delivery
- 51 furnished studio apartments
- 6 fully ADA-compliant units
- All unites ADA-adaptable
- Studio is 360 square feet with full kitchen and private bathroom

Program Services

- 24/7 on-site supportive services
- Case management
- · Service coordination
- Community building
- · Social and recreational health
- Connections to mainstream resources, health care, substance abuse treatment programs, mental health services, self-health groups, and peer resources
- Connections to employment and educational services
- Assistance with independent living skills, including money management