



HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTER AMENDMENTS

Frequently Asked Questions

HOMELESS RESOURCE CENTERS

1. How does this proposal benefit people who need to use a homeless resource center for shelter?

A: This proposal provides a path for establishing future homeless resource centers in the city. The proposed process creates an opportunity for the city council to consider the funding needs of the operator and the impact to essential city services at the beginning. This provides more insight into how a future facility will be safe for those that need to use a homeless resource center.

2. If a new homeless resource center is proposed in my neighborhood, how would I know about it and how can I participate?

A: All neighbors within 300 feet, the community council where the proposed HRC is located, and subscribers to the Planning Division’s email list are notified of a minimum 45-day engagement period at the start of the process, a public hearing before the planning commission, and a public hearing before the city council prior to approval of a new HRC.

3. How does this impact a service provider who wants to open a new homeless resource center in the city?

A: This process is likely to take 6-12 months to approve a new homeless resource center. A future service provider would have to submit a zoning map amendment application to open a permanent HRC in the future.

4. How will the police department be impacted by a new homeless resource center?

A: This proposal requires consideration of the impacts to the police department. It includes analyzing data about police calls to existing homeless resource centers. The proposal also includes requirements for security and operations plans within an HRC, which is intended to reduce police calls to the facility itself so the police can allocate resources to other parts of the neighborhood and the city.

5. What are the impacts to the fire department by a new homeless resource center?

A: The fire department is impacted by a high number of medical related calls to HRCs. This proposal allows the city council to consider the impact of a future HRC to the stations that would be responsible to respond. If one fire station must respond to multiple HRCs, it may impact their response times to other calls. One of the goals of this process is to reduce that impact as much as possible. There are other actions that are being taken that are outside of this project, like the pilot project to provide a specific team within the fire department to respond to medical calls for those individuals experiencing homelessness.

6. Is it possible that a new homeless resource center will be proposed in my neighborhood?

A: Yes, it is possible. This proposal uses what is called an “overlay zone”, which adds requirements specifically for HRCs. Any future HRC in the city would have to “map” the overlay to the proposed site. Unlike other zoning regulations, the use is not limited to any specific zoning districts because mapping the overlay includes an extensive public review and analysis process to identify impacts and determine if resources are available to reduce the impacts as much as possible.

7. Who would approve a new homeless resource center?

A: Final approval could only be granted by the City Council. The Planning Commission would make a recommendation to the city council, similar to what happens with any other zoning map amendment.

8. Does this proposal create authorized camping for people who do not use a homeless resource center or shelter?

A: No, that is a separate issue that is not impacted by this proposal. This proposal is focused on homeless resource centers and homeless shelters.

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9. Does this proposal reduce the impact to my neighborhood?

A: The intent of this proposal is to have a more thorough public input process than what is possible under the conditional use or permitted use process. HRCs do impact broader areas and require more resources compared to most other land uses. This process allows the city council to consider the impact to the city budget to determine what resources are needed, what can be provided by the service provider, and how the neighborhood impacts can be reduced.

10. How would this proposal impact existing homeless resource centers or homeless shelters?

A: Existing homeless resource centers and homeless shelters would be mapped with the overlay at the same time if this proposal is adopted. Existing resource centers would still have to comply with the specific regulations that applied to it before this proposal. Otherwise, this proposal does not impact existing homeless resource centers or homeless shelters.

11. Can places of worship provide shelter to people who need it?

A: Yes, places of worship can provide shelter as part of their right to assemble guaranteed under the Religious Land Use and Institutionalized People Act. The United States Justice Department has issued an opinion that states this. That opinion can be found here:
<https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/918596/download>

Under RLUIPA, a place of worship can provide services to the unsheltered as part of the right to religious assembly and must be held to at least the same standard as a nonreligious entity provided the same service to the unsheltered. This proposal goes further and allows places of worship to provide shelter as a permitted use. This is based on several factors, including the fact that some places of worship are already provided shelter on their property and that the impacts to city services are generally less than similar uses that are not tied to a religious institution.

TEMPORARY RESOURCE CENTERS

1. Will the community have a chance to weigh in on an emergency resource center?

A: Under this proposal, a temporary resource center or shelter would be permitted in the city according to Utah Code 35A-16-502. This code requires the city to provide an emergency shelter in the city once every 4 years. As a permitted use, there would not be a public process to establish the use in the code, however the city may choose to provide some public engagement.

2. How will the neighborhoods that already have a resource center or shelter be impacted by a future temporary shelter?

A: State code provides a separation requirement between proposed temporary/emergency shelters and existing shelters. A temporary/emergency shelter would be required to comply with the following separation requirements in state code:

- i. One mile radius from an existing shelter
- ii. 1,000 feet from a community location which can be reduced by the CAN Director.

3. Is it possible that neighborhoods that have already hosted a temporary resource center will host one in the future?

A: State code says that a city can only be required to host a temporary shelter once every four years.

4. Could the same building host a winter overflow shelter year after year?

A: This proposal only allows a winter overflow shelter in the city once every four years unless the city council enacts temporary zoning regulations to authorize the use outside of the proposed zoning. The city council has used temporary zoning regulations each of the past 4 years to open a winter overflow shelter in different buildings each year.