

TEMPORARY SHELTER COMMUNITY

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Why is the City piloting a new temporary shelter?

Camping on City streets is dangerous for people living unhoused. It also creates a difficult environment for surrounding communities. There is currently not enough space in the Homeless Resource Centers (HRCs) for everyone who needs it. Shelter models with dorm-style beds, like the HRCs and winter overflow facilities, are also not conducive to every person in need of shelter.

Salt Lake City and the State Office of Homeless Services are piloting a new approach to shelter. This pilot aims to prove that:

- Adding different shelter type options to the existing HRCs and winter overflow will increase the acceptance rate with shelter-resistant individuals and couples
- This operational model is one that does not detrimentally impact a neighborhood



What is the Temporary Shelter Community?

It is a **temporary**, non-congregate shelter located on RDA-owned property at 558 West 300 South in Salt Lake City with \$500,000 for operations and additional investments by the City and State to develop the site. Our goal is to provide pod-like, hard-sided structures to give each individual private space.

- Provider staff on-site 24/7
- Portable bathrooms on-site
- Fencing around the site for security and privacy
- Lighting Plan
- Safety and Security Plan
- No walk-up services



When will the Temporary Shelter Community open? How long will it be open for?

Our goal is to have this temporary site open for 50 residents when other winter overflow options are also opening—November 2023. We anticipate it will close in April when winter shelters also close, and as we move into the State's second phase of the model next spring.



Why is the City and/or State not opening something permanent?

This will be a first-of-its-kind shelter in Utah. We reviewed evidence-based practices and similar models across the country and determined that a capacity of 50 people can be best supported in this pilot. The goal of Phase 2 involves the State leading a more permanent facility next year that utilizes the lessons learned from the Temporary Community Shelter. For now, we're working through this as a pilot to determine best practices and identify a provider who can staff the facility and work with residents who will live there.



What's the plan to ensure the safety of businesses and neighbors?

Safety is an important part of this pilot. We're working with the Salt Lake City Police Department (SLCPD), outreach providers, public cleaning teams, Downtown Ambassadors, and the SLC Park Rangers to develop a safety and security plan that will ensure public safety and the safety of residents of the shelter.

Those efforts are beginning before the shelter opens and will continue through its duration. We're improving the current issues already identified by the neighbors.

SLCPD has seen great success in reducing crime around the Gail Miller Homeless Resource Center since a dedicated squad was put in place in the Summer of 2023. There will be increased patrols in this area during the pilot. We will be diligent in keeping the area, residents, and visitors safe.



What services and resources will be available to help the 50 individuals in the Temporary Shelter Community?

There will be 24-hour support staff on-site, and we will work with a contracted provider to provide access to showers, food, case management and housing support, and other basic needs. One of the goals of this shelter will be to assist residents in finding and securing permanent housing as soon as possible.



What is being done right now to address the needs of other people who remain unsheltered?

This Temporary Shelter Community is in addition to 600+ beds and services that will open this winter at other locations across Salt Lake County, including the medically vulnerable populations (MVP) facility. Unlike previous years, almost all of those are 24-hour facilities so people will not need to leave each morning to seek services elsewhere.

The City is working with the State on long-term, year-round shelter options as well. More than 700 permanent supportive housing units have been funded by the State, County and City partnership and are already open or in the pipeline, with more to come.



How can I get involved and help?

We hope that many people will be able to join and offer their expertise and energy. Work to prepare the site will be done by professional crews and a full-time provider which will be determined in the next month. To be notified of future volunteer opportunities, sign up for SLC Corps updates at www.slc.gov/mayor/slc-corps/.



Where can I go for more information or questions?

Salt Lake City constituent liaisons are available to take questions and address any concerns. A website has been set up with details and a full FAQ at www.slc.gov/temporaryshelter/. When an operator for the Temporary Shelter Community is determined, they will also field feedback.