



## **Sleeping Center FAQ's**

1. What is a sleeping center?
  - a. A Sleeping Center is a location that is offered to anyone who is living unsheltered to have access to a safe place that provides shelter from the elements. The Sleeping Center will have an administrative building which will be used for checking in guests at the Center, as well as be available for use for service providers to provide services to guests that wish to utilize them. There will be 35 shelters which have been insulated and sheeted on the interiors to provide as much warmth as possible and provide a safe space for unsheltered populations to sleep away from the weather. There will also be a bathroom facility, which includes multiple stalls for use and a shower on each side.
2. Will the Sleeping Center have management?
  - a. Yes, the City of Moses Lake has partnered with HopeSource to provide site management. This will include checking in guests, screening for COVID-19 exposure and over-sight of the Center's policies.
3. Will the Sleeping Center have security?
  - a. Yes, the Sleeping Center will have over-night security from 9:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m.
4. How is the Sleeping Center accessed?
  - a. The Sleeping Center will operate in a drop in design. The Center will open at 6:00 p.m. to start checking in, and will close at 10:00 p.m. for check-ins, unless previously arranged with Center staff or security.
5. What are the hours for the Sleeping Center?
  - a. The Sleeping Center will open at 6:00 p.m. daily until 10:00 p.m. to allow for guest check-ins. At 6:00 a.m., staff will begin wake up calls and the site must be vacated by 8:00 a.m.



6. Are there measures in place to prevent the spread of COVID-19?
  - a. Yes, there is a sanitation plan in place that has been approved by the Grant County Health District. Guests and staff will have access to hand sanitizing stations and masks will be readily available for those that do not have them. The Sleeping Shelters will be limited to 1 occupant per shelter to ensure compliance with social distancing and all shelters will be sanitized daily between uses.
7. Are there rules in place to prevent the Sleeping Center from becoming a safe haven for drug use?
  - a. Yes, policies have been enacted by the City of Moses Lake. These policies will be enforced by site staff, on-site security and Moses Lake Police Department will be readily available to enforce these policies as well.
8. Are the Shelters heated?
  - a. No, the individual shelters are not heated. The Shelters have been insulated in the walls and the ceilings, and have been sheeted on the interior. The guests of the site will have access to multiple heating areas around the Center to warm up.
9. How will guests be prevented from starting a fire in the shelter?
  - a. The shelters are all equipped with a tamper-proof smoke detector. Over-night security will also be conducting sweeps of the Center on a regular basis.
10. How is the City funding the Sleeping Center?
  - a. The City entered into a sub-recipient agreement with Grant County to utilize grant funds specifically allocated for Homeless Programs. These grant funds will allow the City to fund this program through June of 2022.
11. What other resources are available through the Sleeping Center?
  - a. The City is working with providers such as Grant Integrated Services to provide mental health care and drug addiction care to guests that wish to utilize that service. HopeSource will also be providing resources, such as case management to work with the unsheltered population to attain stable housing.



12. Will there be storage available for guests to leave personal items in when the Center closes each morning?
  - a. Yes, there will be storage containers with individual locks that will provide a safe, weatherproof place for guests to leave their items during the day. Storage containers can be left for up to 72 hours before the storage will be cleared out. All items will be held for a period of up to 60 days if left uncollected.
13. Will the Sleeping Center provide a reason for more unsheltered peoples to flock to our community?
  - a. Research shows that is not happening in Cities that are operating similar programs in their areas. For example, Walla Walla has been operating a Sleeping Center for 5 years and they have seen zero increase in their unsheltered populations coming from areas outside of Walla Walla. Grant County's homeless population consists of 98% native residents of Grant County, so it is unlikely that unsheltered peoples would transition to Moses Lake when the Sleeping Center is opened.
14. Why are the shelters only allowed to have one person per night?
  - a. Due to COVID-19 guidelines, the shelters have to be limited to one person per shelter. Limiting the shelters to one occupant per night will help in reducing the potential spread of COVID-19.
15. Will couples be allowed to share a Shelter?
  - a. Yes, couples will be allowed to share a shelter when they check in.
16. How will the Sleeping Center be prevented from becoming an eyesore?
  - a. There are several garbage containers through-out the site. Each morning, guests will be able to sign up to volunteer to help go around the site and ensure there is no garbage laying around and that the Center is clean. Staff and volunteers will also have a hand in this. The garbage receptacles will be emptied twice per week.
17. Are guests required to somehow prove they have ties to Moses Lake/Grant County?
  - a. No, they are not required to prove they have ties to Moses Lake or Grant County. The Sleeping Center is available to all that have need for it.



18. How will Sleeping Center staff determine who takes priority if the facility fills up?
  - a. The Sleeping Center is operated on a first come, first serve option. Through analysis of prior years of warming centers, we know that the average usage is approximately 20-25 people that will utilize these services on any given night. Any unsheltered families with minors will be directed to an emergency shelter, as minors are not allowed to stay at the Sleeping Center.
  
19. Is there a back-up plan or place to send the overflow of people anywhere?
  - a. Yes, the City will have an emergency shelter that could be utilized, with a priority given to those in most need. We will also have additional sleeping areas available for any over-flow of guests.
  
20. Does the Sleeping Center's opening help Grant County advance to fewer state guidelines for COVID-19 restrictions?
  - a. No, the Sleeping Center does not advance the County to fewer state guidelines. The State did not designate that County's must have a homeless program in place in order to advance in the phased re-opening.
  
21. Will the City assign extra police officers to patrol the Sleeping Center?
  - a. No, extra Police Officers will not be assigned to patrol the Sleeping Center. There will be over-night security on-site. However, Moses Lake Police Department will have officers that are on regular duty patrol in the area throughout the night to offer additional oversight.
  
22. Will guests be allowed to bring their pets?
  - a. Yes, pets are welcome. Policies outline that pets are welcome as long as they are not aggressive or cause a disturbance and they must be picked up after at all times.