

# CHURCH @ THE PARK

## POLK COUNTY MICRO COMMUNITY FAQS

### WHAT IS A MANAGED MICRO COMMUNITY?

A Managed Micro Community offers a safe and stable place where families & individuals who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness (like sleeping in a car or tent) can stay temporarily while they seek to resolve their homelessness. Policies, procedures, and a well-trained staff ensure that the site is:

**Safe:** On-site staffing 24x7x365, licensed safety team support, an exterior fence, and a digital monitoring system ensure the site and surrounding neighborhood is safe.

**Sanitary:** On-site laundry, showers, bathrooms, storage for guest belongings, weekly trash removal, weekly shelter checks, and monthly deep cleans of every shelter ensure the site remains sanitary.

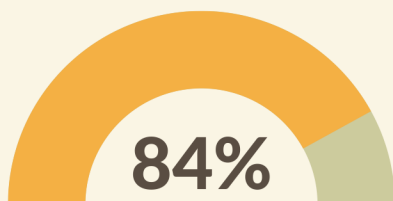
**Supportive:** On-site access to physical health services, behavioral health services, addiction / recovery support, case management, peer support, pet care, transportation, chaplain services, employment supports, and housing navigation ensure the shelter supports guests to end their homelessness.

### WHO IS MANAGING THE MICRO COMMUNITY?

Church at the Park (C@P), which has been serving the area's unsheltered since 2007, manages the Micro Community. C@P employs staff who are offered robust training weekly in the areas of Trauma Informed Care, De-escalation, Crisis Response, and Outward Mindset. C@P seeks to employ people with a variety of expertise, including the expertise of people who have experienced homelessness.

### WHO WILL STAY HERE?

Unsheltered rural Polk County residents. Individuals from Salem, Portland, or other communities without connections to rural Polk County will not be eligible to stay. In January 2023, the community conducted the annual Point-in-Time (PIT) Count and identified 91 unsheltered, rural Polk County residents. When there are openings, Polk County Family & Community Outreach (FCO) will pull from their existing list, prioritizing people who are most vulnerable. Key vulnerability factors considered are families with dependents, gender identity, age, chronic health conditions, and those fleeing domestic and intimate partner violence.



of individuals identified in the PIT who were experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness report having ties to rural POLK COUNTY



people identified were UNSHELTERED HOMELESS (Sleeping outside, in a vehicle, RV, or someplace not meant for human habitation)

## WHAT WILL THIS MANAGED MICRO COMMUNITY LOOK LIKE?

The design under consideration looks like a small, manufactured home. One model (for adults 18+) has 4 bedrooms measuring 10x8 with 2 bunks each plus a bathroom. Another model (for families) has 2 bedrooms measuring 10x16 with 4 bunks each and a bathroom. Each bedroom includes a locking door, an egress window, heat and air conditioning. The proposed community will have five trailers with 40 total beds. It will be enclosed by an attractive fence to match the feel and needs of the neighborhood for livability.



## WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF MANAGED MICRO COMMUNITY?

This is an emergency intervention designed to help unsheltered families & individuals move from homelessness to stability. A Managed Micro Community is a safe, sanitary, and supported temporary sheltering effort. The goal is to connect every guest to housing and employment within 90 days.

## HOW IS C@P KEEPING GUESTS AND NEIGHBORS SAFE?

C@P's proactive approach to safety for guests and neighbors includes: 24/7 staffing, a licensed security team that responds to non-emergent safety concerns on property or in the neighboring vicinity, video surveillance, and key partnerships with emergency responders. Through these measures, we have had a positive neighboring impact.

Additionally, the burden on local emergency services is likely to be diminished. People who are unsheltered and unsupported are often frequent users of emergency systems. Without access to medical care, they end up using 9-1-1 and hospital beds. Once people are engaged with on-site services, such as medical and behavioral health care, there is a drastic reduction in the use of emergency services.

## HOW WILL WE KNOW IF THIS IS EFFECTIVE?

In 2022, C@P provided emergency shelter to 592 individuals. 64% of the people that exited our Managed Micro Communities went to positive destinations (permanent housing, assisted living, rehabilitation centers, etc). Based on our current data, we expect to see about 70% of our guests move on to positive destinations.

FCO will partner with C@P to collect data on every guest by utilizing the community's Homeless Management Information System. FCO will be working with the Mid Willamette Valley Community Action Agency (ARCHES Project) to support many of the guests of the shelter with opportunities for Rapid Re-housing.

## MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS?

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