



**City of Missoula, Montana  
City Council Committee Agenda Item**

**Committee:** Housing, Redevelopment and Community Programs

**Item:** Operation Shelter Interlocal Agreement with Missoula County

**Date:** August 31, 2022

**Sponsor(s):** Montana James, Eran Pehan, Dale Bickell

**Prepared by:** Montana James

**Ward(s) Affected:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 1	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 4
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 2	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 5
<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 3	<input type="checkbox"/> Ward 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> All Wards	<input type="checkbox"/> N/A

---

**Action Required:**

Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement with Missoula County for the provision and operation of the Operation Shelter projects for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

**Recommended Motion(s):**

I move the City Council: Approve and authorize the Mayor to sign an interlocal agreement with Missoula County for the provision and operation of the Operation Shelter projects for Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023.

**Timeline:**

Committee discussion:	September 14, 2022
Council action (or sets hearing):	September 19, 2022
Public Hearing (if required):	N/A
Final Consideration	N/A
Deadline:	September 20, 2022

**Background and Alternatives Explored:**

The City of Missoula and Missoula County have been working collaboratively for many years to address houselessness and shelter options for our most vulnerable residents. The City and County created a team to identify and vet potential locations for community members currently camping near Reserve Street and elsewhere in the community in early 2021. The team presented a report and their recommendations during a July 8, 2021, public meeting. The City and County then used funds from the American Rescue Plan Act to hire a temporary staff member to research operational and logistical needs for potential sites, including necessary sanitation, security, and staffing. The implementation of those Operation Shelter recommendations has unfolded over the past year and both entities budgeted in FY2023 to continue operations.

**Authorized Camping Site**

The Authorized Camping Site is located on Clark Fork Lane, near Garden City Compost, and opened January 18, 2022. The City, County and local social service providers are working with people camping near the Reserve Street bridge, in parks, and other public places to relocate to the new site or find alternate housing solutions to meet their needs. We are collaborating with our partners who have built trusting relationships with unhoused community members to help ensure the transition is as smooth and compassionate as possible. The Authorized Camping Site has 40

camping spaces, with up to four people allowed in each space. Residents bring their own tents and supplies. The site is equipped with bathrooms, water, fire pits, and trash and recycling services. This site also allows residents to bring their pets.

### **Temporary Safe Outdoor Space**

Missoula's Temporary Safe Outdoor Space is a safe, healthy, secure, staffed (24/7) environment on private land that serves – with dignity – up to 40 individuals experiencing homelessness who are not accessing existing services or resources. Initially set up in response to the pandemic, the Missoula TSOS continues to offer people experiencing homelessness a safe space to live while connecting them to appropriate, sustainable housing resources and providing a safe, reliable location for case managers and service providers to reach their clients.

The site is currently located off Highway 93 just south of Missoula, near Buckhouse Bridge. The TSOS will not remain at its current location long-term. Local government staff are working to relocate it to County-owned land near the detention facility and future Trinity Apartments site. The goal is to have the new site open this fall.

### **Emergency Winter Shelter**

The City of Missoula, with support from Missoula County, has operated an Emergency Winter Shelter program the past three winters in collaboration with the Poverello Center and the Salvation Army. The Missoula City Council and the County commissioners are committed to preventing winter deaths of residents simply because of lack of shelter. The program runs Nov. 1 through April, as needs dictate. Winter shelter from November 2021 to April 2022 was again at the City-owned building at 1919 North Ave. W., which served over 500 individuals. Being a good neighbor is a top priority for both the City and its contractor the Poverello Center.

### **Community Care Team**

The Community Care Team is comprised of a Registered Nurse, an Outreach Administrator, two Tenancy Support Specialists, and a Peer Support Specialist. The goal of this team is to meet basic medical needs through the RN, coordinate with Partnership Health Center and other healthcare entities to support comprehensive care and follow-up as needed, and provide care coordination and assist individuals prioritized by the Missoula Coordinated Entry System (MCES) with finding and retaining their housing. The mission of the team is:

- to be experts in best practices in working with people who are unhoused.
- to be experts in the Missoula Coordinated Entry Systems (MCES) and local housing resources.
- to support multiple shelter sites across Missoula: Authorized Camping Site, Temporary Safe Outdoor Space, Emergency Winter Shelter, Poverello Center (sites are subject to change).
- to be reliable, recognizable faces to individuals staying in all sites.
- to work with individuals who might not qualify for other programs or resources.
- to meet basic medical needs through the RN.
- to refer/coordinate with Partnership Health Center for comprehensive service.

### **Financial Implications:**

This interlocal agreement commits the City to funding Operation Shelter projects in a 50/50 split with Missoula County in amounts agreed upon and passed in the fiscal year 2022 and fiscal year 2023 budgets. Funding for both fiscal years come from American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF).

### **Links to external websites:**

- <https://www.engagemissoula.com/safe-shelter>
- <https://www.ci.missoula.mt.us/2124/Houseless-Initiatives>