

Compass at First Presbyterian

Enhanced Shelter Program



COMPASS
HOUSING
ALLIANCE

Compass at First Presbyterian is a new 100-bed, enhanced, 24/7 homeless shelter and a partnership of Compass Housing Alliance, First Presbyterian Church and City of Seattle. Opening in Summer 2017, Compass at First Presbyterian will combine safe shelter, complete wrap-around services and intensive case management to bring 100 new, much-needed shelter beds to King County. Seattle First Presbyterian Church is providing an optimal space for the shelter's unique purpose and will be located at the property at 715 Spring Street in the First Hill neighborhood of Seattle.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Updated as of August 30, 2017

SITE + NEIGHBORHOOD IMPACTS

How was the decision made to locate the program in First Hill?

This program is a partnership between Compass Housing Alliance and First Hill's Seattle First Presbyterian Church – two organizations with deep roots in the community and a strong commitment to missions of service to those in need.

Compass recognized the opportunity to create an enhanced program through the City of Seattle's funding opportunity; Seattle First Presbyterian made the space available for this enhanced shelter facility; and both organizations have come together to create this resource to serve the neighborhood and the city. This enhanced shelter model is part of the City's Pathways Home Plan, which is guiding the actions the City and its partners are taking to address homelessness. Compass and Seattle First Presbyterian are pleased to work with the City on transitioning people to housing more quickly and successfully.

What impact will this program have on the neighborhood – for example on trash, crime, or other quality of life concerns?

We will work hard to ensure that this program is both a "good neighbor," and a positive contributor to the neighborhood. We are committed to supporting neighborhood goals of safety and security. We will be staffed 24 hours every day, and our trained staff will work with guests inside the program – and monitor activity immediately outside of the premises – to meet community needs for cleanliness and safety. We also believe that, because the facility can accommodate guests' possessions inside, there will be less left outside.

We are establishing important partnerships with key community partners to support these efforts, including Seattle Police Department and neighborhood stakeholder groups such as First Hill Improvement Association. We will work proactively with Seattle Police Department, including the East Precinct Community Policing and Crime Prevention teams.

How do we know the property will be well maintained?

We will work closely with our partner, First Presbyterian, to continue the upkeep and maintenance of the property. We are committed to making a positive contribution to the neighborhood – and that includes the cleanliness and upkeep of the area outside the program.

Is this program permanent? How long will you be here in the neighborhood?

Our partnership with First Presbyterian Church is a new one, but we are both working to ensure that it is a long-lasting one. We are starting with a 1-year lease, with the opportunity to extend that upon the end of the initial term. We have secured funding from the Seattle Human Services Department to operate the program through the end of the year, and anticipate continuation funding to support the program next year and beyond.

POPULATION SERVED + PROGRAM APPROACH

Who will this program serve?

The program will serve 100 homeless adults, both men and women, and can accommodate both single persons and couples/partners. Referrals to the program will come primarily from the city's Navigation Team (a specialized homeless outreach team that includes specially-trained police officers in partnership with non-profit outreach program REACH). We anticipate that the focus of initial referrals will be on persons staying in unsanctioned encampments or otherwise living outside.

Will people be lined up outside the doors waiting to enter?

As an enhanced shelter program, we will be open 24 hours every day; there will be no "line-up" for guests, and everyone will have a bed set aside for them. The program is based on referrals and not a drop-in model. Guests will be working actively with housing navigators to develop a housing stability plan, and staff will work with them to support their efforts. The focus of this program is on successful transitions to housing stability — and we know from our experience that this is a realistic goal, with the right supports.

What makes the 'Enhanced Shelter Program' different from other shelters?

As an "enhanced shelter program," Compass at First Presbyterian will include the following elements:

- **Reduce barriers** to entry ("low barrier") by serving both men and women; providing storage for important belongings; accepting pets/service animals
- **Focus on positive next steps** providing services that are designed to help guests achieve goals of housing stability, with trained staff to assist
- **Create a safe and supportive environment** by providing 24-hour services, the program can assist guests with a full range of support needs, and have more time to work with guests on taking those next steps

Will there be rules for people served by this program? What happens if people break the rules?

Yes, program participants will be expected to follow rules related to safety—such as no threatening or violent behavior. Staff will work closely with guests who have difficulty to follow these requirements; this may include contacting SPD, if needed, to ensure the safety of others. We anticipate that many guests will be challenged by active addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. For many persons, this continues to be an enormous barrier to securing housing. Staff will work with guests to help them access needed treatment, while focusing on finding stable housing. Guests are expected to not use alcohol or drugs while on the premises of the program; staff will monitor and reinforce this requirement.

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QUESTIONS? Let's connect

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