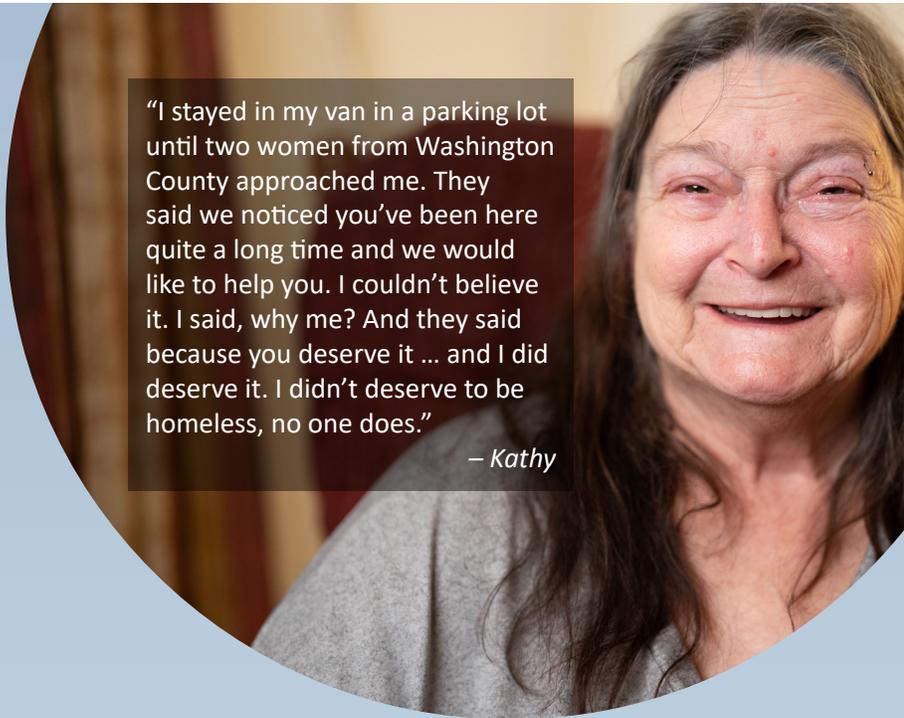




# EMERGENCY HOUSING SERVICES BUILDING

11/7/2024



“I stayed in my van in a parking lot until two women from Washington County approached me. They said we noticed you’ve been here quite a long time and we would like to help you. I couldn’t believe it. I said, why me? And they said because you deserve it ... and I did deserve it. I didn’t deserve to be homeless, no one does.”

– Kathy

## Emergency housing for adults without children

As housing costs rise, more people are left without stable homes. Washington County is faced with creating emergency housing options to combat the growing homelessness crisis. Without enough emergency housing, people face increased vulnerability. We urgently need more housing to support our community members.

All people in Washington County deserve a safe and dignified place to live. Recognizing the importance of emergency housing in fostering a caring community, Washington County is proud to announce the upcoming Emergency Housing Services Building (EHSB) on the Government Center campus.

## Snapshot of current hotel-based program

(data collection beginning April 2020)

**300** Total individuals served

**15%** BIPOC

**83%** Caucasian

**37%** Ages 55+

**66%** Received support for a disability

**44%** Accessed stable housing



“It’s hard to maintain full-time employment if you don’t have shelter at all. You have no place to take a shower, no way to cook any food before going to work. Struggling while homeless and working all at the same time is a struggle all in itself.”

– James

## How does Washington County compare?

Despite the increase in emergency housing capacity for individuals post-pandemic, Washington County remains behind for individuals when compared to other Minnesota counties. Due to lack of adequate emergency housing in Washington County, more than 70 of our residents had to seek shelter in neighboring counties.

*Permanent emergency housing capacity for adults without children*



## This project is different from a traditional “shelter”

Washington County commits to providing dignity for individuals experiencing homelessness and delivering professional support to help them move toward the stability of housing. The Washington County Emergency Housing Services Building includes:



Around-the-clock staffing, improving access to support services for residents to accommodate their jobs and schedules.



The opportunity to stay with loved ones; adult households may stay together. Pets can stay with the household to provide comfort and companionship.



Possessions are welcome. Residents can avoid losing their belongings, causing less stress as their personal items are kept safe and secure.



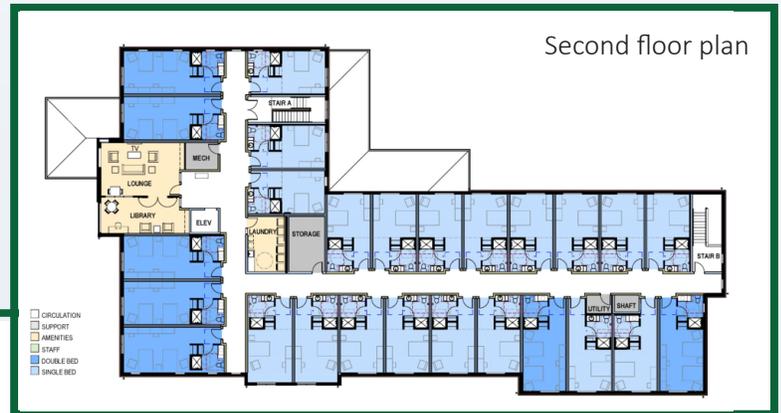
Convenient access to an array of services such as economic assistance, connection to jobs, social service support, help in finding housing and gathering important documents, and health and well-being support.



Emergency housing will include individual rooms and bathrooms and will be trauma-informed, gender-inclusive, and integrated into the community in order to provide a safe, dignified space for residents.

# A thoughtful design

- 30 private rooms and bathrooms (four on the first floor and 26 on the second floor)
- Professionally staffed 24/7 (by contracted service provider)
- On-site computer lab to aid in job search/development
- Commercial kitchen and large shared dining area (meals and snacks provided on-site)
- Storage space
- On-site parking
- ADA accessibility



“I think the main thing this gives someone is hope, and a sense of security. There’s nothing like having a room you can go into and lock the door and lay down in a bed and, you know, feel secure.”

– Terri & Kory

# EHSB Tentative Timeline

**FEBRUARY 2022 -  
APRIL 2023**

CDA and architect evaluate multiple sites throughout Washington County, including hotels. Area within County campus identified as site for new development.

**JUNE 2024**

City Planning Approvals Secured

**NOVEMBER 2024**

November 2024 – Groundbreaking



## Project cost

- Capital costs = \$12.3 million
- Ongoing annual operating costs = \$1.2 million (\$100,000/month)

Capital and ongoing operation costs are funded by various state and federal grants and state tax aid.

## These are our neighbors, our friends ...

We are here to help those in need in our communities- help them heal, grow and thrive in secure and dignified ways. To understand the true mission of this project, please scan the QR code at right and watch a video of our neighbors sharing their lived experiences with homelessness.



## Stay in the know

For additional information and updates on the project, visit <https://co.washington.mn.us/EHSB> or contact [EmergencyHousing@co.washington.mn.us](mailto:EmergencyHousing@co.washington.mn.us)

“What I would like people to know about homelessness is there are many out there like me who are one paycheck away. One twist of fate can bring you to a spot you never thought you’d be.”

– Iver

