

City of Boise Recommendations for

SHELTER BETTER TASK FORCE

Recommendations

Updated August 2021

JULY 2021

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

In our commitment to ensuring a home for everyone, we need housing solutions for all, including those who are experiencing an immediate crisis. The Shelter Better Task Force will provide a foundation for community partners, leaders and residents to better understand homelessness in our city. The team's work will include a review of a shelter needs analysis and strategic land assessment to develop a final advisory recommendation for Mayor McLean, Boise City Council, shelter leadership and the public. The goal of the recommendation will be to guide community decisions around Boise's emergency shelter response as it folds into Our Path Home's strategic plan for ending homelessness.

MAYOR'S STATEMENT

Interfaith Sanctuary provides critical services to those experiencing homelessness in our city. And, as we look to do shelter better, we will incorporate best practices and data into our decision making. To do this, we quickly convened a task force comprised of community leaders with unique perspectives, diverse expertise, and view homelessness through a dignity lens. Members include Our Path Home partners, a Boise City Council member, health providers, residents who have experienced homelessness, and neighborhood leaders, to conduct a comprehensive shelter needs analysis over the course of approximately two months. The analysis will evaluate potential locations for the proposed emergency shelter, including the State Street location, and will fold into Our Path Home's strategic plan to end homelessness.

Like any other community in our country, Boise is challenged by balancing how to respond to the immediate crisis faced by those who need a safe and welcoming place to shelter tonight with the housing solutions that end homelessness. I know that together we can find solutions that uplift everyone in our community. As Boiseans, we don't shy away from hard decisions and will never turn our back on those who need our support.

As we move through the process of the shelter needs analysis and ultimately identifying the right location for a new emergency shelter, I ask that we center conversations around our values of compassion, community and service.

PARTNER STATE OF COMMITMENT

As members of the Shelter Better Task Force in leaders in the Boise community, we commit to developing recommendations that serve our entire city. We commit to listening carefully to multiple perspectives, including the diverse views and values of community members, service providers, and especially our fellow community members experiencing homelessness. We will work collaboratively and in partnership with the city, Interfaith Sanctuary, and service providers to make recommendations that reflect the evidence-driven approaches.

Signed,

Members of the Shelter Better Task Force

Adopted August 2nd, 2021

MEMBERS OF THE CITY OF BOISE SHELTER BETTER TASK FORCE

The team is comprised of multidisciplinary people who are involved in working towards ensuring a home for everyone. The task force members have demonstrated commitment to responding strategically and compassionately to the housing and homelessness crisis.

FACILITATOR

- Dr. Jen Schneider, Professor and Interim Associate Dean, School of Public Service Boise State University

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

- **Chair:**
 - Courtney Washburn, Chief of Staff, City of Boise (non-voting member)
- **Boise City Council:**
 - President Elaine Clegg (non-voting member)
- **Interfaith Sanctuary:**
 - Jodi Peterson, Executive Director
 - Andy Scoggin, President Board of Directors
- **Our Path Home Executive Committee:**
 - Stephanie Day , Our Path Home Chair, CATCH Executive Director
 - Bea Black, Our Path Home Executive Committee Member, WCA Executive Director
- **Hospital systems/Health Clinics:**
 - Rebecca Lemmons, Regional Director Community Health & Well-being, Saint Alphonsus
 - Penny Beach, Chief Medical Officer, Family Medicine Residency of Idaho

- **Street Outreach Team:**
 - Jeannette Curtis, Outreach Program Director, Our Path Home OUTREACH
- **Neighborhood Association Presidents:**
 - Katy Decker, President, Veterans Neighborhood Association
 - Hillary Takahashi, President, Collister Neighborhood Association
 - Tom Helmer, President, Sunset Neighborhood Association
- **Neighborhood Leaders:**
 - Jennifer Godoi
 - Annie McCutcheon
- **Lived Experience/Expertise:**
 - Serena Hinojosa
 - Joe Hernandez and Tammy Peagy
- **Faith Leaders:**
 - Rev Dr. Andrew Kukla, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church
 - Rev Sara LaWall, Minister, Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
- **Business Leader:**
 - Charity Nelson

CITY EMPLOYEES

- Maureen Brewer, Senior Manager Housing & Community Development
- Casey Mattoon, Our Path Home Manager
- Racheal Hall, Our Path Home Coordinator
- Lana Graybeal, Senior Communications Manager Strategic Initiatives
- Laura Pape, Community Engagement Intern

BACKGROUND

TASK FORCE GOALS

- Enlist a diverse group of multidisciplinary community leaders who represent critical stakeholders involved and committed to responding strategically, objectively and compassionately to the housing and homelessness crisis.
- Analyze all data points to ensure the solution(s) are informed and supported by data and matched to evidence-based interventions.
- Understanding that shelter will remain a critical component of Boise's response to homelessness, prepare a recommendation for a specific siting and suite of best practices for doing shelter better.
- Strengthen relationships between the city, residents, and community partners.
- Provide a clear course of action and a foundation for shelter as part of Boise's long-term response to homelessness.

FEASIBILITY CRITERIA

Set of criteria that are fundamental to the development of a feasible siting recommendation, adhere to best practices, and underpin all aspects of the work of the Task Force:

- **Shelter Design:** Shelter design must be manageable for Interfaith Sanctuary's sustainable operational needs and business plan.
- **Site Development:** Site development proposal must accommodate the needs of the night-by-night crisis in terms of the proposed size of the shelter (total beds) and the parcel's ability to support that (code compliance).
- **Proximity to Services:** The proposed location needs to be in close proximity to services for those experiencing homelessness or be along transit routes that easily connect community members to services.
- **Land Availability:** The proposed location needs to be on land owned by the City of Boise, Interfaith Sanctuary, another partner agency, or available for purchase.
- **Timeline Driven:** The proposed location needs to be available to develop/redevelop in a timely manner to ensure that Our Path Home is able to respond to the night-by-night crisis.
- **Right-Sized Investment:** The cost of the proposed project needs to preserve Our Path Home's ability to invest in housing first solutions that end homelessness, not just manage it.

[DRAFT]

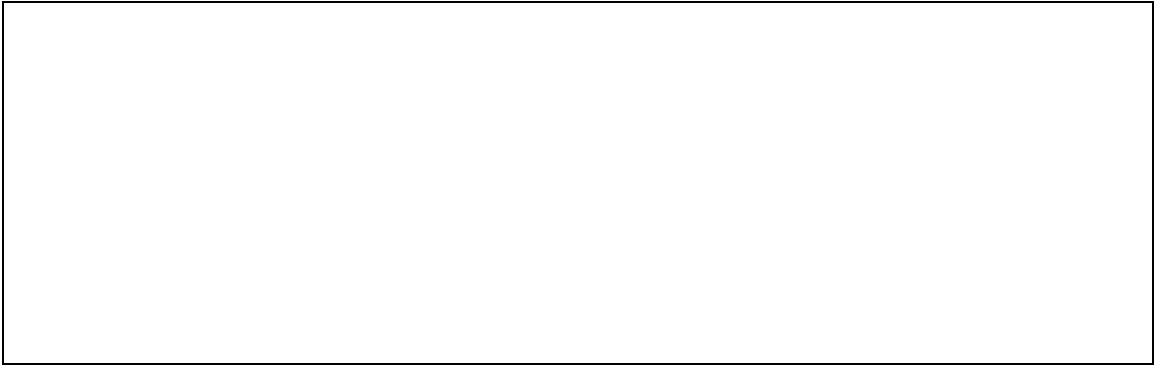
PROCESS FOR DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Task Force's recommendations were framed by a series of presentations from broadly-represented issue experts that provided a comprehensive overview of the local homelessness system response, advised on evidence-based practices for advancing the role of emergency shelter, delivered a data-driven shelter needs analysis, and presented a land scan for siting possibilities for shelter in Boise.

The Task Force worked to align their recommendations with the information presented and in alignment with Our Path Home's role as the public-private partnership driving homelessness system response in Ada County.

The Task Force prioritized recommendations in the following strategic focus areas:

1) Shelter Better Practices



2) Community Criteria



3) Recommendations for Leadership



APPENDICES

- 1) Feasibility Criteria Frequently Asked Questions
- 2) Public Input - Stakeholder Survey Packet
- 3) Shelter Needs Analysis
- 4) Siting Emergency Homeless Shelters: Community Opposition and Support Report
- 5) Issue Expert Presentation Summaries
- 6) Neighborhoods' Presentation
- 7) Land Scan Results
- 8) Public Input (email compilation)