

ECHRC—East County Homeless Resource Center (previously the Cook Plaza)

Questions:

- 1) What will be the hours for the Day Center? Will the closing time allow people to get to local transit in time to go to their overnight housing, or will there be transportation to help people get to their overnight housing?
- 2) Will there be a staffed 24-hour number that people can use to report any problems? If not, how will community members be able to contact Sunstone Way 24/7?
- 3) When ECHRC opens to serve homeless individuals how long will individuals be able to stay in the exterior pods being placed there? What options exist for them to transition to more stable housing?
- 4) Will there be a limit on the number of people that the day center serves?
- 5) What is the cost for the shelter pods at ECHRC and who is providing the pods?
- 6) How long does the County plan that ECHRC will operate as a homeless shelter/facility?
- 7) What security will occur in the area of ECHRC to help residents feel more assured that drug selling or other undesirable activity is not occurring? What law enforcement support will the County be providing to prevent camping, RV parking, etc. outside the facility confines?
- 8) When the facility serves as a severe weather emergency shelter, what does the County do to avoid having a large group of people who had been in the emergency shelter from hanging around in the neighborhood after the emergency is over?
- 9) How would the County respond if there is a quantifiable rise in crime and an increase in homeless campers in the neighborhood? If the situation isn't being controlled by police or other agency intervention, would the County relocate the center? How will the County be collecting metrics on reported incidents in the neighborhood and releasing that information publicly?
- 10) How is the County contacting nearby residents about meetings and the Good Neighbor Agreement? Who will serve on the community advisory committee?
- 11) What communication has occurred with Gresham Police Department regarding ECHRC? Are Gresham Police altering patrol schedules with increased homeless people in that area given the problems typically associated with that?
- 12) What about the increased traffic and difficulties getting in and out to the apartments next to the center if provider vehicles and homeless vehicles use limited parking spaces?

Other Homeless Program Questions:

- 13) The County spent \$143.5 million on homeless services in FY2024. Only 20% of 6,297 homeless were able to move into housing of some type. Why is the percent so low with this level of expenditure?
- 14) In FY2025 the County spent \$28 million in just the first quarter for homeless services, more than three times that spent in the first quarter of FY2024. Why did the expenditures increase this much?
- 15) The 2678 shelter beds in 2024 averaged \$46,485 annually per bed. Why are costs this high for simply shelter as that is more than average rent of \$1,750 per month would be?
- 16) In the context of the above question, what are the costs for all forms of shelter & services (e.g. jail bed, pod, congregate shelter bed, psych ward, ER bed, etc.) in terms of capital acquisitions, materials and services and personnel?
- 17) The Jamii shelter in NE Portland beds are costing up to \$80,000 per year according to a report in The Oregonian. How long can individuals be housed at this level of support? Is there a maximum amount of support or subsidy the County can provide to a single individual say in a period of 1 to 5 years?
- 18) What percent of identified homeless in the County who are substance abusers entered treatment programs in 2024? What percent completed the program and entered transitional or stable housing?
- 19) What is the number of available placements for mental health clients who need more care than a shelter can provide?
- 20) Given that over \$500 million has been spent by local governments in the last 5 years to address homelessness why is the number of homeless still increasing substantially as just reported by the County? Is the County only dealing with symptoms and not the core problem(s) driving homelessness?
- 21) What are the terms you use to classify people living in our locality? For example, resident, housed, sheltered, unsheltered, unhoused, homeless? Do your classifications collectively include everyone living in our locality? Do the classifications overlap, or are they discrete?
- 22) How do you count the number of people in each classification? How frequently do you update each count?
- 23) What are the actual counts, i.e. the absolute numbers, per classification?
- 24) How many person-days of shelter were provided in the past year? What was the average duration per stay? How many individual people were served in the past year counting each person once?

- 25) Part of the reported 26% increase in homelessness over the past year has been attributed to higher sensitivity counting. What part of the 26% was due to that, and how can you tell?
- 26) Is by-name counting only happening in Multnomah County? Can you tell when people relocate from site to site within our County? Can you tell when people relocate into homelessness here from outside our County?
- 27) How is information for individuals relocating from site to site within our County shared and cataloged?
- 28) How is case-specific data shared among service providers inside of and outside of the county? Does the County keep data on those who come from outside the County and apply for services?
- 29) What data is kept to track and assess hard-to-house individuals?
- 30) How is responsibility for homelessness divided and shared between municipalities, the County, and the state? Correspondingly, who sets targets, requirements, regulations, and fiscal responsibility for each governmental level?
- 31) Does discussion of harm reduction by mental health intervention occur openly in responsible agencies of the County?
- 32) The Oregonian in April 2025 reported using County generated data “only 14.8% of people who sought refuge at one of the County’s congregate shelters moved into permanent housing from July 1, 2023, to June 30, 2024. Another 8.6% went into temporary housing, while 42% returned to homelessness.” What is the County doing to reduce the 42% figure of those in shelters returning to homelessness?
- 33) What are the rates at which people enter and leave the condition of homelessness in our County? How can you tell?
- 34) Is the County encouraging housing developers to build single-room occupancy (SRO) housing for permanent and transitional housing in East County and Gresham in particular?
- 35) Are more hotels going to be converted to SROs in Gresham?