

What are the immediate plans for the Johnson Street Temporary Emergency Shelter?

This year, the City of Missoula, Missoula County, and the Poverello Center are again partnering to provide an emergency shelter program at the Johnson Street Shelter at 1919 North Ave. W. for one year. The shelter is funded from mid-September 2023 through August 2024, as needs dictate.

The City and area partners are beginning the process of determining a long-term shelter solution for the Missoula community. The plan and possible location for this has yet to be determined.



Why can't you move this to another area in town?

There is no "perfect" location for a shelter, as we recognize that shelters impact communities no matter where they are located. Our goal is to make impacts as minimal as possible for community members by training staff and involving security and police.

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After this year, the shelter may continue to be in this location while the City and local providers explore permanent solutions, or it may move to a different location in Missoula. The City will provide details on this as they are determined.

Why is this going on year after year when it was promised to be temporary many years ago?

The shelter was initially going to be temporary due to the pandemic. When the shelter initially opened in 2020, we could not have predicted the impact that COVID would have on our world, community, housing climate, and homeless population.

The Mayor, Missoula City Council members and the Missoula County Commissioners believe it's everyone's responsibility to help those in need. Although the 2020 emergency shelter was initially intended to be temporary, the shelter has provided life-saving resources for multiple years, which have been crucial in keeping individuals safe.

Our community needs additional shelter space, and the Johnson Street Shelter is successfully filling this need right now.

Why is there a need for this shelter?

The Poverello Center continues to turn people away each night because it is full. Our community is in a housing crisis and has many people living without shelter.

When is the shelter opening, and how long will it stay open?

The Poverello Center's trained, professional staff will operate the shelter from mid-September 2023 through August 2024.

How is the City going to deal with security issues?

The Johnson Street Shelter will be staffed around the clock. A local security company will work to secure public safety on the shelter property and in nearby parks and on trails. Missoula Police will conduct directed patrols in the area.

CONTACTS

Who can we reach out to if we have security concerns?

If you feel threatened or unsafe, or you believe a crime is being committed, please call 911. For general questions or problems with shelter operation, please call Clair Bopp at (406) 532-6682.

Who can we contact with general houselessness program questions?

Contact Emily Armstrong, City of Missoula at (406) 552-6393.

