

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources

Please forward any resources (articles, websites, etc) to add to this resource list that will be helpful exploring the issues of the homeless and houselessness in our community. Send them to our committee listserv email address: houseless-l@sellwood.org, or to Jim Friscia at jim.friscia@sellwood.org for adding to the list.

The SMILE Housing Solutions committee meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 6:30-7:30

Zoom meeting link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89510655006?pwd=eGdwc3pUK1M5YkFiQVpRTzIxWjBkdz09>

Meeting ID: 895 1065 5006

Passcode: 102030

City/County Resources

- [Joint Office of Homeless Services](#) (Multnomah County) - The Joint Office of Homeless Services was established in 2016 to oversee the delivery of services to people experiencing homelessness in Multnomah County. The office represents a shared commitment between Multnomah County and the City of Portland to make services easier to access for those in need.
 - [Built for Zero](#) - Portland, Gresham, and Multnomah County have joined [Built for Zero](#), a national initiative of more than 90 cities and counties working to measurably and equitably end homelessness.
 - [Homelessness Toolkit](#) (City of Portland) - A comprehensive set of city resources for education and action addressing homelessness. It includes a [One Point of Contact page](#) for reporting campsites and problems.
 - [Portland Street Response](#) (City of Portland) - Portland Street Response assists people experiencing homelessness or low-acuity behavioral health issues. The program is in its pilot phase and is responding only in the East Precinct in 2021; requests are made through calling 911.
 - Multnomah County Commissioner Susheela Jayapal's *Houselessness in Multnomah County presentation slides*.
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Community/NA Resources

- [SE Uplift Houselessness Resource Guide](#) - Comprehensive resource site from SE Uplift
- [A "Community First" Strategy to Address Houselessness in Portland](#) (Sunnyside NA) - This "Community First" document finds its origin in the [North Portland Joint Statement on Homelessness](#), which was endorsed by six of eleven North Portland NAs (Bridgeton, Arbor Lodge, Overlook, University Park, Kenton, and St. Johns) in May 2020. The Homelessness Committee of the Downtown NA and the Old Town Community Assoc., together with some of the original authors of the North Portland Joint Statement on Homelessness drafted the "Community First" document.
 - [Sunnyside NA's showers for houseless neighbors](#)

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources

- [WeShine](#) - The goal of *WeShine* is to develop and operate welcoming, safe, and empowering transitional micro-villages in Portland neighborhoods for some of the most vulnerable individuals among our houseless population.
 - [Group hopes to bring micro-villages for homeless to all Portland neighborhoods](#) (KATU)
- [Neighbors Helping Neighbors](#) - Neighbors across North Portland are working together to provide support for people experiencing houselessness, housing instability, and food insecurity.
- [Portland State University's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative](#) - HRAC addresses the challenges of homelessness through research that uncovers conditions that lead to and perpetuate homelessness. Our goal is to help reduce homelessness and its negative impacts on individuals, families and communities, with an emphasis on communities of color.
- [Transition Projects](#) - Transition Projects, a leader in transitioning people from homelessness and living on the streets into housing in Portland, Oregon, operates and manages ten unique locations as well as facilitates hundreds of apartment placements each year, throughout the Portland Metropolitan area. The agency offers programs, resources, and tools to individuals through access to social services including caseworkers, healthcare, mentorship, and housing. TP operates [the Willamette Center](#), the shelter located on SE Milwaukie Avenue at the north end of Westmoreland.
- [JOIN](#) - *JOIN* exists to support the efforts of individuals and families experiencing homelessness to transition into permanent housing. Our efforts are directed at individuals sleeping outside or in their car in the Portland Metro area. Our service provision is not dependent on age, gender, race, ethnicity, faith, culture, language, sexual identity, specific diagnosis, or identifiable issue. [JOIN program list](#).
- [Welcome Home Coalition](#) - A diverse coalition in the Portland metropolitan region that uses its collective resources to ensure that everyone has a safe and stable place to call home. We use community education, research, and advocacy to advance housing policies that enable all our neighbors to succeed.
- [Shelter Now](#) - *Shelter Now* believes that all people have the right to a community, beginning with a place to sleep that is safe and secure, where they can establish a footing to face the demands of daily life. Shelter Now is determined to build community and governmental programs to ensure services, sanitation and shelter options to those in need.
- [HereTogether Oregon](#) - *HereTogether* began as a coalition of service providers, business leaders, elected officials, leaders from communities of color and faith, and community advocates who all believe homelessness in the Portland metro area is not an unsolvable problem. We organized a region-wide community who voted to pass a region-wide measure to effectively solve homelessness; a response that targets the roots of the problem, and that, for the first time, matches the scale and scope of the response to the crisis.
 - [2022 Roadmap](#) - Accelerating Relief for the Portland Area's Housing Affordability & Homelessness Crisis

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources

Events


[SE Uplift Houselessness Action Committee Meeting](#) meets every fourth Monday at 5:30 pm. All meetings are held virtually. Any community member in SE Portland can join this committee. Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83571314991?pwd=MWlhSXp4VHM4R3lTTTS83NTN5dWNqdz09>

Meeting ID: 835 7131 4991

Passcode: 176666

Podcasts/Video recordings

-  **12-15-21 City Club Forum: Portland's Homelessness Crisis** A virtual forum on our region's homelessness crisis. We heard from local government and policy leaders about how a recent influx of voter-approved funds is increasing the pace of implementing affordable housing and homelessness solutions. Panelists: Christine Lewis, Metro Councilor, District 2; Deborah Kafoury, Multnomah County Chair; Kathryn Harrington, Washington County Chair; Mercedes Elizalde, Public Policy Director, Central City Concern.
 - [Understanding Homelessness Podcast](#) (Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative, Portland State University) -- This podcast illuminates the underlying causes of homelessness, explains systems that perpetuate it, explores innovative solutions, and shares stories from those with lived experiences. Dr. Marisa Zapata, director of [PSU's Homelessness Research & Action Collaborative](#), talks with experts, including those with lived experience, on how to better understand and address homelessness in Portland and beyond. [Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)
 - [Fall 2021 Friends & Allies Summit: Parks and Homelessness - Building compassion and equity](#) (Portland Parks Foundation) - Recording of presentation with Commissioner Dan Ryan, the City of Portland Commissioner overseeing the Housing Bureau, the Joint Office of Homeless Services. Commissioner Ryan discusses the Safe Rest Villages initiative. Jonny Lewis, program coordinator of the Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program discusses reducing the impact of encampments on communities.
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Websites

- [National Alliance to End Homelessness](#) - a nonpartisan organization committed to preventing and ending homelessness in the United States.
 - ["Data Visualization: The Evidence on Housing First."](#) A May 25, 2021 resource from the National Alliance to End Homelessness. "Housing First has been thoroughly studied as an effective approach to ending people's homelessness. System leaders, advocates, policymakers, and others are encouraged to review the following visualization, which demonstrates the overwhelming volume of research and data supporting Housing First. It

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources

includes the most significant domestic studies, international studies, and literature reviews on the issue."

- [The Coalition For The Homeless](#) - the nation's oldest advocacy and direct service organization helping homeless individuals and families.
 - [Myths and facts of homelessness](#)
 - [Doers Gathering Toolkit](#) - A Toolkit to amplify community-driven solutions addressing pressing local issues. (Agora Journalism Center, Univ of Oregon)
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Articles - National

- ["Interactions," "Mental Health Intervention," "Cleaning Up Encampments": The Squishy Euphemisms Media Use to Make Liberals Feel Good About Criminalizing Homelessness](#) - Media critic Adam Johnson looks at how the media use language that has the effect of sterilizing homelessness policies. (The Column)
- [Is Our Homelessness Crisis Really a Drug Problem?](#) - NYT columnist Jay Caspian Kang looks at whether drugs are to blame for the crisis of homelessness. (New York Times)
- [Two Cities Tried to Fix Homelessness, Only One Succeeded](#) - Housing First is considered a best practice for addressing homelessness, but where one city succeeded, another still struggles. A surge in pandemic homeless aid will help, but experts say only with strategic planning. (Howard Center for Investigative Journalism)
- [Can We Help the Homeless?](#) - NYT columnist Jay Caspian Kang explores what it's like to live in a tiny home village and why homelessness has no easy answers. (New York Times)
- ["Why Is Homelessness Such a Problem in U.S. Cities?"](#) - A July 2020 Bloomberg News feature that "seeks to provide a baseline level of knowledge about homelessness, a phenomenon that has long been linked to urban life in the United States....What are the forces that create homelessness? What are the main strategies aimed at helping people exit homelessness? (Bloomberg News)
- [A New, Cheaper Form of Meth Is Wreaking Havoc on America](#) - article about the problems of meth in Portland Oregon and elsewhere. (The Atlantic)
- [Homeless people gain 'de facto right' to sleep on sidewalks](#) - article about the Martin v. City of Boise ruling. "The ruling means that unless there is enough shelter space for the homeless population of a city such as Seattle or San Francisco, city officials can't enforce anti-vagrancy laws or prohibitions against camping in public parks or sidewalks. The court can't force cities to build adequate shelter space or homeless housing, but it can make it unconstitutional for them to criminalize homelessness until that burden has been met." (Curbed.com)

Articles - Local

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources

- [Opinion: A Plan to Accelerate Help For Homelessness](#) - Opinion piece from three of the stakeholders of the Here Together Roadmap to improving regional response to homelessness crisis (Oregonian)
- [False Promises: 75% of unsheltered Portlanders contacted by a housing worker never heard back](#) (Oregonian - subscription only)
- [Opinion: We can end unsheltered homelessness in Portland](#) (Pamplin Media)
- [Opinion: Compassion for homeless means action, not neglect](#) (Oregonian)
- [There is Room for All in This Circle](#) - When housed and unhoused neighbors gathered at a Portland park to listen to each other, new opportunities emerged (Street Roots)
- [How Helping My Houseless Neighbors Helped Me](#) - A Sunnyside resident shares her experience with outreach and hygiene support in the hopes it will inspire other Portlanders to do the same (Street Roots)
- [Bikes power trash cleanup along Springwater Corridor](#) (Bike Portland) - *PDX Remove By Bike* cleaned up a section of the Springwater Corridor at Oaks Bottom (the event was organized by Solve).
- [Salem micro-shelter project showing early signs of success](#) (KGW) - Seven families have already transitioned into housing or other programs since the micro-shelters opened off Portland Road NW about a month ago.
- [You, Housed Person, Are Not The Victim Of Homelessness](#) (hannabrooksolsen.medium.com)
- [Opinion: We won't surrender our city to People for Portland's bleak vision](#) (Oregon Live/Oregonian)
- How much money has been spent since Portland declared a homeless emergency? (KATU)
<https://katu.com/news/following-the-money/how-much-money-has-been-spent-since-portland-declared-a-homeless-emergency>
- Stolen vehicles in homeless camps (KOIN News) -
<https://www.koin.com/is-portland-over/car-thefts-rampant-across-portland/>
- Portland's meth crisis apparent on city streets, former addicts say (KGW) -
<https://www.kgw.com/article/news/local/the-story/meth-crisis-portland-streets-former-addicts/283-a094fc14-ab6f-40bd-8b55-cc0010243509>
- Portland neighbors beg for help as homeless camp takes root (KOIN) -
<https://www.koin.com/is-portland-over/portland-neighbors-beg-for-help-as-homeless-camp-takes-root/>
or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pCWzMUkflwo>

Books

- [Loaners: The Making of a Street Library](#) - A book by Ben Hodgson and Laura Moulton In 2011, Laura Moulton founded Street Books, a mobile library serving people living outside in Portland, Oregon. That summer, Ben Hodgson became one of her most dedicated regulars. Then Ben's routine changed, and he didn't cross paths again with Laura for almost two years. Loaners is the story they began to tell when they reconnected, offering a street-level perspective of a community whose stories are seldom told.

SMILE Houseless Committee Resources