



FAMILY CENTER INTERIM HOUSING PROGRAM

*Expanding Non-congregate Shelter to Improve Housing and Health Outcomes
for Families Experiencing Homelessness*

BACKGROUND

In April 2021, under the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) Crisis Core Function Group, the Ending Family Homelessness Task Force was spearheaded to focus on evaluating current systems and emergency shelter for families. The task force community partners included The Road Home, Department of Workforce Services, the YWCA, Family Promise, South Valley Services, McKinney-Vento liaisons, Powerful Moms Who Care, Crossroad Urban Center, and Utah Community Action. In tandem with the task force, national and local research and best practice, and lived expertise, the Ending Family Homelessness Plan was created, envisioning a shift in three key areas: emergency shelter, housing, and supportive systems.

Each key area has a focused approach to supporting families in having homelessness be rare, brief, and non-recurring in our community. Under the first key area of emergency shelter, the task force recognized the need for additional emergency shelter for families to better serve families from a family-centered, national best practice lens.

In June 2022, the system has had an influx of families seeking emergency shelter. For the first time in years, the Midvale Family Resource Center (MFRC) was unable to accommodate all the families seeking emergency shelter. While able to serve a few families through scattered site motel vouchers, the need continued to outpace the available resources. Recognizing the need to expand emergency shelter options for families in our community, The Road Home developed a comprehensive program model for non-congregate family emergency shelter to meet the emergent need in the community. In November 2022, The Road Home proposed its model to the larger community to gather input and feedback from critical stakeholders.

PROPOSAL

To align with best practice, we will need to reduce the number of families served at the MFRC congregate facility to one family per alcove with a total capacity of 42 families. In order to achieve this goal, a non-congregate facility model was identified as an emerging best practice and added to the Ending Family Homelessness Plan. This program will serve up to 100 families with critical emergency shelter and wrap-around services and supports. The gap of shelter beds available for families was found to be 151 per Salt Lake City's HOME-ARP Allocation Plan Draft. Our goal is a holistic new approach that will include new services indicated in our evaluation as well as an infusion of housing resources for families.

PARTNERS

To align this proposed facility with current operations and models in our community, it was determined that the most appropriate owner for this facility would be Shelter the Homeless, who serves as the owner of four of the homeless resource centers in Salt Lake County. Program referrals will be made from homeless resource centers and street outreach teams to the unsheltered. All tenants of the facility will be prioritized for placement using Salt Lake County's Coordinated Entry prioritization process. The Road Home will serve as the day-to-day property manager and service provider. Shelter the Homeless will serve as the site owner.