

July 2023

Medically Vulnerable People Program FAQ

What is the Medically Vulnerable People (MVP) Program?

The Medically Vulnerable People Program will provide interim housing for seniors, veterans, and individuals who are aging, vulnerable, medically frail, in need of recuperative care, and/or have an underlying health condition. The MVP program provides a safe and supportive environment where participants can connect with housing services, rehabilitate from illness, and access connections to the necessary health care and care management services with the goal to find stability and move toward permanent housing and other long-term solutions.

How many people will the MVP program serve?

The MVP program will provide safe, stable, interim housing with onsite health care and support services with capacity for up to 165 participants in private or semi-private rooms.

Who will run the MVP program?

The Road Home and Fourth Street Clinic will operate the MVP program and facility. The Road Home will provide onsite 24/7 staff, building operations, and housing case management. The Fourth Street Clinic will provide health care, assessment, referral and care oversight. Shelter the Homeless owns the facility and will manage security services and the upkeep of the property.

Who will the MVP program serve?

The MVP program will serve seniors, veterans, and individuals experiencing homelessness who are aging, vulnerable, medically frail, in need of recuperative care, and/or have an underlying health condition. The program will serve as a crucial resource to address the unique challenges faced by these individuals who have fallen into homelessness because of a combination of the lack of affordable housing, serious illness, fixed-income limitations, or age-related factors.

What types of services are available at the MVP facility?

The MVP facility offers several services including access to health care, housing case management, access to social services, meals, transportation and other supportive services. This ensures that participants can receive regular check-ups, medication management, and assistance with navigating the healthcare system. Additionally, case managers and social workers help connect participants with community resources, such as food assistance programs, mental health services, and employment support.

How will people be admitted to the MVP program?

Program participant referrals will be made based on need primarily from Homeless Resource Centers (HRCs) and street outreach teams working with the unsheltered. All participants in the facility will be prioritized for placement using a community prioritization process for seniors and medically vulnerable individuals. Walk-ins will not be accepted.

How long will people stay at the MVP facility?

Most participants will reside in the MVP facility for the briefest period until suitable, permanent housing or other long-term placements into medical care facilities that best meets the needs of each individual can be obtained. Participants may transition to assisted living, end-of-life care, permanent supportive housing and other housing options. The length of time it will take each person to move into a permanent housing option will vary, and we anticipate most participants resolving their stay at the MVP within six months.

How is the MVP different from other homeless facilities?

The MVP facility provides interim housing and services specifically for a population of seniors, veterans and individuals with serious medical challenges. These individuals must be referred by a qualified community partner based on pre-screened vulnerability criteria. At the facility, they reside in private and semi-private rooms.

Why is the MVP program needed?

In Salt Lake County, 507 individuals aged 62 and older and 1,586 individuals with a chronic health condition sought homeless services in 2022. The MVP program is needed to address an immediate gap of supportive care for this population of individuals experiencing homelessness who are aging, vulnerable, medically frail, in need of recuperative care, and/or have an underlying health condition. Other homeless facilities do not provide a recuperative care setting. For example, individuals recovering from surgery or with other medical ailments may have to walk long distances to shower, use the restroom, access meals, etc.

Where will the MVP facility be located?

The MVP facility will be located in the former Sandy Econolodge Inn & Suites, 8955 South 255 West.

What type of approval is required for the MVP facility to open?

The facility must be approved through a formal public process with the Sandy community, zoning administrator, planning commission and city council.

When will the MVP facility open?

The MVP facility will open upon receiving city approval, adequate operational funding, and once the limited remodel is completed. It is hoped the facility will be ready in time for cold weather in late 2023.

Who is supporting the MVP Program?

The MVP program has been endorsed as a top priority by the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness and has received funding and support from the State Office of Homeless Services, Salt Lake County, other municipalities and private donors.

How is the MVP Program being funded?

The acquisition of the property, remodel and start-up costs are being funded by the State of Utah, various municipalities, and private donors. Ongoing funding to operate the MVP program and facility will be provided by a mix of government and philanthropic support.

What type of security will there be at the facility and in the surrounding area?

Facility operations will include a security plan to ensure the safety of participants, staff, and neighbors. While it isn't anticipated that the new facility will experience significant concerns, it is anticipated there will be mitigation funding awarded through the State Office of Homeless Services to Sandy City to support additional public safety services. Based on experience with similar facilities for the medically vulnerable, there is no reason to anticipate an elevated demand for public safety services.

What is Shelter the Homeless?

Shelter the Homeless is a nonprofit organization created over 30 years ago to alleviate human suffering and foster economic well-being by holding land and facilities to serve individuals experiencing homelessness.

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About Shelter the Homeless

Shelter the Homeless, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to serving individuals experiencing homelessness and working with partners to develop safe facilities and expand solutions to prevent and end homelessness in Utah.

About The Road Home

The mission of The Road Home, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, is to help people step out of homelessness and back into our community.

About Fourth Street Clinic

Fourth Street Clinic helps individuals experiencing homelessness improve their health and quality of life by providing high-quality integrated health care.

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