



June 14, 2023

- Funding for Unity Shelter comes from a mix of state and federal grants (awarded annually on a competitive basis, typically for July-June), foundation awards, and private donations. The bulk of that funding for the last three years has come from awards received through Community Services Consortium (CSC), the agency authorized to manage many of these funds for Oregon Housing and Community Services, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development. We rely on funding that is normally awarded in May/June to support our operations for the next 12 months.
- Due to the walkout of Senators in the Oregon Legislature, the Senate has been unable to pass a budget for 2023-2025. This has meant that funding opportunities that would typically be announced in May by CSC have not been announced, as their budget for awards is dependent on the state budget.
- Unity Shelter has limited reserves, and without either new funding, or a shift in operations, we are at risk of running out of money to sustain staff and operations within the next few months.
- At our current level of operations/spend, we will eliminate our reserves by the end of July, 2023. With significant changes, reducing spend approximately \$100,000 monthly (~50%), we can continue to operate through September.
- The Board and leadership of Unity Shelter is committed to supporting those we serve, and the staff that serve them to the greatest extent possible.
- Our goal is to maintain support for the most vulnerable of those we serve, sheltered and unsheltered. In pursuit of that goal, we will cease our 50 bed shelter operation at the Men's Shelter, and create a shelter for men and women at the site of the Room at the Inn Women's Shelter with a combined capacity of 50. This reduces available beds for both men and women, but will allow us to host the most vulnerable safely. We will support those without shelter through slightly reduced operations at the Hygiene Center. While we won't reduce capacity in our SafePlace transitional housing program, and the Third Street Commons non-congregate shelter, we will make staffing adjustments for cost savings. In all of these changes, we want to prioritize the safety of those we serve, while acknowledging that a loss of shelter for anyone puts them at risk.
- To achieve a level of savings required to allow continued operations until new funding is secured, we have to reduce the number of people we can serve in shelter, and layoff a number of staff.
- We are a non-profit, dependent on funding streams which are never guaranteed, so there's always risk as we enter grant season (usually April-June). But we've never seen funding so completely at risk, and are still hopeful the Oregon Legislature will approve a budget quickly and allow us to avoid dramatic changes that will impact so many. However, we expect that by mid-June, we will have to execute contingency plans to extend our reserves as long as possible. This will impact many – those who will go without shelter, our staff, and the broader community – and we will work diligently to minimize those impacts.