

## **New 24-pod transitional housing community coming to Clackamas County**

By Makenna Marks

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CLACKAMAS COUNTY Ore. (KPTV) - Construction is underway on Clackamas County's newest transitional housing community which will include 24 sleeping pods and a long list of services available to residents.

The county said Clackamas Village is scheduled to open in May and will include a central community building, offices, a kitchen and bathrooms.

"Transitional housing should really feel like this is an experience, this is a safe place for you to stay and be and learn and grow and heal," said Brandi Johnson, executive director of LoveOne and The Father's Heart. Both organizations help people experiencing homelessness in Clackamas County.

Clackamas County Commissioner Ben West said that while the facility is designed to meet people where they are and get them the help they need, it's also designed to help them develop the skills they need to secure permanent housing.

"It's more of a stabilization, kind of transitional housing with intensive wraparound treatment," West said. "But they can be here for up to a year to get stabilized, to get that care that they need."

As West said, each resident will be able to stay at Clackamas Village for about a year. In time, West said this model will allow the facility to serve hundreds of people in need. Clackamas Village will be modeled after Veterans Village, located right next door. Veterans Village has been successful at getting veterans off the streets in Clackamas County, according to West.

Sunstone Way, an organization that runs a homeless shelter in Portland, will be operating Clackamas Village once it opens.

CEO Andy Goebel said Clackamas Village will offer a long list of services to its residents, including 24-7 onsite staff, substance use recovery services, life skills training and more.

"Having that sense of security and safety and also that sense of community that can be built in those spaces is fantastic as we're moving toward what we hope will be a permanent sense of community in their new apartment, or home, or wherever that may be," Goebel said.

Johnson echoed Goebel's message about transitional housing facilities. She said communities like Clackamas Village are designed to make a difference.

“The biggest piece of success for folks when they’re moving from unhoused, to transitional, to hopefully longer-term stable housing, is the ability to be in a space to learn and relearn some of those skills and get connected to resources,” she said. “With Clackamas Village, there’s going to be 24-7 staffing, which is a game changer.”