

Homelessness



Our community has a responsibility to understand the many root causes of homelessness and engage in efforts that will ensure homelessness is rare, brief and for those that experience it, a one-time experience only.

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Summary:

There are surprising and heart-wrenching stories behind so many who find themselves homeless. Some have lost their homes because of a gap between wages and rapidly escalating rent and housing costs; others are fleeing domestic violence; some battle mental health or addiction issues; and others experience a series of mishaps that leave them without any other option. There are many paths into homelessness and we as a community need to help create many paths out. We know this is a complex issue, but everyone in Redmond is welcome and equally responsible as community members. Criminal activity is not tolerated, but keep in mind that it is not a crime to be homeless.

*I'm behind on rent.
I see a tent along a trail,
who should I contact?
I got an eviction notice,
what should I do?
My sister just became homeless,
and I don't know how to help.*
.....
Contact the City's
Outreach Administrator
Kent Hay, 425-556-2413



Tackling homelessness together



272
homeless kids
in Lake Washington schools

39% increase
in homelessness
For every \$100 increase in rent

Last year, 337 individuals
were without shelter
in East King County.
2019 Point In Time Count

More details at redmond.gov/Homelessness

Actions and strategies to combat homelessness:



Implementing key recommendations of the Community Task Force on Homelessness which includes:

- Addressing public safety concerns raised by downtown businesses by deploying bike patrols.
- Engaging the community and increasing awareness.
- Expanding programming at the drop-in center for young adults.



Connecting individuals experiencing homelessness to resources through a dedicated Outreach Program.

- Following an initial pilot phase, Redmond hired a full-time outreach specialist to partner and coordinate with Police, businesses, non-profits, and the broader community.
- Services are provided through direct outreach as well as through drop-in hours at accessible locations throughout the community such as the Redmond library, safe parking sites, and at the Together Center.



Collaborating with King County, other Eastside cities—including police—in support of regional strategies and best practices for addressing homelessness in our communities.

- Offering services first, outreach works hand-in-hand with police officers when enforcement is needed.
- Sometimes, this means addressing personal items or camping in public spaces, as health and safety is our top priority.



Ensuring that anyone experiencing homelessness has access to shelter here on the Eastside.

- The Friends of Youth Landing shelters young adults ages 18-24 here in Redmond.
- Sophia Way and Catholic Community Services are moving from a rotating, winter shelter model hosted by faith communities to a permanent year round shelter for women and families.
- Congregations for the Homeless provides shelter to men experiencing homelessness. Plans to develop and build a permanent facility in Bellevue are underway.



Investing in programs that support people on a path out of homelessness as well as supporting the broad safety net of services.

- 2019-20 City budget increased its investment in human services by 18%, spending nearly \$600,000 on programs for individuals and families experiencing homelessness or at risk of becoming homeless.



Learn More:

Please visit redmond.gov/Homelessness



Get Help:

Community Resource Center

Every Wednesday, 1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Redmond Library, Meeting Room 2

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