

RESOURCES FOR THOSE EXPERENCING HOMELESSNESS DURING COVID-19

For those Living along the Bear Creek Greenway

All living along the Greenway are encouraged to **shelter in place**.

Hygiene: Handwashing stations and portapotties were set up along the Greenway during the week of March 16, 2020 by Jackson County to encourage personal hygiene and slow the spread of transmission.

Social Distancing: Information about social distancing was distributed along with other information by law enforcement during the week of March 23,2020.

How this information was distributed: Medford Police and law enforcement from other municipalities distributed announcements, COVID-19 resource cards, and a red laminated “help needed” card on March 24, 2020 asking residents to shelter in place. This announcement also covered the additional hand washing stations and portapotty locations that were installed during the week of March 16, 2020, along with instructions on how daily meals would be distributed along the Greenway between 11 am and 1 pm and medical care would be provided to those who displayed the red laminated card on the trail near their campsite. The COVID-19 resource card included facts about COVID-19, including symptoms, virus transmission, how to limit the spread of infection, how to care for a sick person, and how to contact an outreach worker for assistance.

Meals for this effort are provided by the Jackson County Jail’s food service. ACCESS provides a truck and driver for meal distribution Monday-Sunday along the Greenway.

Healthcare: EMTs from Mercy Flights will participate in the food distribution at least every 2 days and be available to care for those who distribute the “red” card.

Healthcare: La Clinica’s mobile health clinic is offering healthcare services for community members that are experiencing homelessness or not currently engaged in the healthcare system. The unit is located behind the Medford Senior Center on East Main Street (in the parking lot under the 9th Street Bridge). The clinic provides acute care and assessment/referral services from 9AM-4PM (Tuesday – Friday). COVID-19 testing is not offered on site at this time.

Hygiene: Set Free Ministries is offering shower and laundry services at 1032 W Main Street on M/W/F/Sun from 9:30AM to 2:00PM. Capacity is 25 showers and 14 loads of laundry each day.

Services for those not in isolation or quarantine

- **Meals/Food Box Distribution**

Please see “Greenway” section for details about meal delivery to those living along the Bear Creek Greenway.

Those experiencing homelessness who do not live along the Greenway receive bagged meals at the following locations:

First Presbyterian, Monday-Thursday, 9 AM to Noon – The long mealtime distribution was designed to ensure that large crowds would not gather at one time. Volunteers place several bag lunches on an outdoor table and encourage individuals to approach one at a time to receive the meal. Additional lunch bags are replenished, as necessary.

St. Vincent de Paul, Monday-Friday, 10 to Noon – Lunchroom is closed and volunteers distribute bagged lunches and ask guests to maintain social distancing.

Compassion Highway, dinner distribution twice weekly – meals are taken to individuals.

Gospel Mission (Men's location) – Dining room is closed. Volunteers distribute to-go meals.

Food Pantries: As of April 6th, ACCESS' Medford food pantries moved to a food box distribution system at two temporary pantry locations. The distribution system could change daily, so please call ACCESS (541-779-6691 M-Th 8 am to 5 pm) to verify hours at each site prior to going to the following pantries:

Location 1: On ACCESS' campus at Lear Way and Grumman Drive, Medford – Monday through Thursday 10 am to 1 pm

Location 2: Seventh Day Adventist Church, 1900 Greenway St., Medford: Tuesday, Thursday 10 am to 1 pm

For those in isolation or in quarantine (For those awaiting test results or those who have tested positive for COVID-19)

Jackson County Public Health has implemented a sheltering policy for those who are experiencing homelessness and are awaiting COVID-19 test results or for those who have tested positive for COVID-19.

COVID-19 Resources in Ashland for those who are Unsheltered

- **Car parking:** The City of Ashland is designating three overnight parking areas, each accommodating up to 10 cars, where individuals can park safely and without fear of tickets. Each parking area is near a park where there are hand washing stations, toilets, and trash receptacles. Individuals can obtain a "permit" for these designated areas from Options for Helping Residents of Ashland (OHRA).
- **Laundry and showers:** OHRA has negotiated an agreement with Henry's Laundromat (located near Wendy's) to enable individuals to do laundry. OHRA will give individuals a pass, and Henry's will make a machine and soap available. Similarly, the Petro station in Phoenix is offering free showers for individuals who have an OHRA pass. Those individuals can get free bus passes from OHRA, if needed to get to Phoenix.
- **Toilets and hand washing:** The City of Ashland deployed these around the community to make sure that they are available at key locations. Hygiene is obviously a huge concern, since many of

the bathrooms unsheltered residents have relied upon (library, coffee shops, etc.) are closed to use.

- **Meals:** The schedule is: Uncle Foods has increased its meals from Tuesdays only to four days a week. The Unitarian Church provides one meal per week, and Jobs with Justice is providing two. All meals will be prepared as “to go”. The City of Ashland has agreed to a significant per meal subsidy for agencies that need it.
- **Delivery:** OHRA now operates a van around the community to deliver meals, information, laundry and shower permits, etc. The goal is to help residents stay in place as much as possible, and to make sure they have meals and services needed for daily survival.
- **Medical:** Rogue Community Health is working with the OHRA outreach team to set up a telehealth system so that individuals who are struggling have rapid access to medical assessment.
- **Electrical Outlets:** Recognizing that people need to charge their phones or access other electrical devices, the Ashland Parks Department has unlocked and checked all outlets in our parks and at the Ashland Plaza for these uses.
- **COVID 19 positive individuals or those awaiting results:** Jackson County Public Health has identified motel and medical care options for individuals who do not have a home and are diagnosed with COVID 19. Jackson County Public Health and Jackson County Emergency Operations Center have developed a system with healthcare providers to house those who need to be isolated or quarantined. People can access these services by speaking with their primary care provider or with public health.