



**WORK STUDY SESSION OF THE  
ROSEBURG CITY COUNCIL**

**JULY 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM**

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**Electronic Meeting**

**Public Access:**

**City website at** <https://www.cityofroseburg.org/your-government/mayor-council/council-videos>

**Facebook Live at** [www.Facebook.com/CityofRoseburg](http://www.Facebook.com/CityofRoseburg)

**Charter Cable PEG Channel 191**

**CALL TO ORDER – Mayor Larry Rich**

**City Councilors**

Beverly Cole

Sheila Cox

Bob Cotterell

Alison Eggers

Linda Fisher-Fowler

Ashley Hicks

Brian Prawitz

Andrea Zielinski

**DISCUSSION ITEM**

1. Council Goal #6 – Explore Strategies to Address Issues Related to Unhoused Individuals Within the Community
  - A. Local Agency Presentations
    - 6:05 p.m. – Roseburg VA Healthcare System (RVAHCS)
    - 6:25 p.m. – Dream Center
    - 6:45 p.m. – Peace at Home Advocacy Center
    - 7:05 p.m. – Roseburg Rescue Mission
    - 7:25 p.m. – Casa de Belen
  - B. Informational Materials from Local Agencies
    1. Housing First Umpqua

**ADJOURNMENT – 8:30 p.m.**

**\*\*\* AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE \*\*\***

Please contact the City Recorder's Office, Roseburg City Hall, 900 SE Douglas, Roseburg, OR 97470-3397 (Phone 541-492-6866) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900.



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*Housing Ends Homelessness*

## ***Mission***

***Housing First Umpqua exists to reduce homelessness by increasing access to income, housing and services, resulting in a healthier community.***

Housing First Umpqua works to accomplish our Mission by providing individual and systemic advocacy. This document focuses on the help HFU volunteers provide to individuals who are homeless, as well as those who are at risk of homelessness or inadequately housed.

HFU Individual Advocacy is focused on providing individuals help with accessing:

### **Income**

Employment and related services. :

Disability Benefits:

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and/or

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

VA Benefits

### **Affordable Housing**

Government Rent Subsidize

Below Market Rate

Market Rate Options

All other shelter and long term housing choices

### **Homeless Services**

HUD Funded

Other government agency provided or funded

Non-profit non government funded charitable

### **Other Services:**

Health care

Legal services

Basic survival needs

HFU provides assessment and works to identify the needs in any of these areas, that are creating a barrier for the person to get off the streets. Our volunteers are trained in various program and advocacy requirements.

(541) 236-5047 . . . 1614 SE Stephens Street #5, Roseburg OR 97470 . . . [info@housingfirstumpqua.org](mailto:info@housingfirstumpqua.org)

Mail: P.O. Box 685, Roseburg, OR 97470

*Housing First Umpqua is a not-for-profit public benefit volunteer based organization.*

## **Housing First Umpqua Individual Advocacy Services**

**Assessment:** Housing First Umpqua provides a comprehensive assessment of all factors that play a role in getting and keeping someone housed.

**Income:**

Jobs--job skills, readiness,  
Disability Income; Determine potential qualifications for Social Security Disability & SSI,  
veterans benefits,

**Housing:**

Availability  
Eligibility  
Barriers

**Homeless Services:**

Current Availability  
Eligibility and  
Barriers

**Any Other Services:**

Health care needs  
Mental health services  
Substance abuse resources

**Assistance:** Once we understand an individual's needs, we know best how to help them achieve the goal of permanent housing. Our assistance may be limited to:

Information-Resource  
Working on reducing barriers to housing and services  
Referral to other program services and agencies  
Helping with Applications for housing and program services  
Helping them advocate for themselves, (or others they know)

*Note: Everyone who comes to us for help can get the assessment and basic assistance. However not everyone can get our individual advocacy services. This can be due to the person's circumstances or the availability of a volunteer to adequately address their needs. HFU will always help an individual, or someone they know, do their own advocacy even if we do not have the resources to provide them an HFU advocate.*

**Advocacy:** Due to the limits of our all volunteer program, our individual advocacy is currently limited to mostly helping people apply for disability benefits under the Social Security Administration.

**Social Security Disability and SSI.** HFU will provide individual case representation for people applying for Social Security Disability and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Because we are limited by the number of advocates we have, HFU has established a priority of helping those most vulnerable who cannot be their own advocate and cannot find someone else to help them.

HFU uses the evidence based model SOAR to help people apply for these Social Security Administration programs. SSDI/SSI Outreach Access & Recovery (SOAR) was created by the

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), which is part of the US Department of Health & Human Services (DHHS).

<https://www.samhsa.gov/homelessness-programs-resources/grant-programs-services/soar>

## **How HFU Provides Help:**

### **Office:**

1614 SE Stephens #5, Roseburg, Oregon  
Walk In (no appointment needed): Fridays, 11 am to 4 pm  
Other Times by Appointment

Housing First Umpqua has a small office in the Senior Center building. We provide open drop in help one day a week, which is the free bus day. We also make appointments at the office at other times, including evenings & weekends.

### **Phone: (541) 236-5047**

HFU provides phone access most days of the week via our online phone system. If folks don't reach someone directly, a HFU volunteer will call back usually within a day.

### **Online:**

There are a few ways to connect online to get Housing First Umpqua help:

**Website:** [www.housingfirstumpqua.org](http://www.housingfirstumpqua.org)

Our website provides useful information for people who are homeless, as well as anyone interested in helping end homeless in Douglas County. The website has an online portal to request our help.

### **Facebook:**

To get the most updated information, check us out on Facebook. We share a lot of current information about what is working to end homelessness. We encourage comments and questions about local issues, as a way for our homeless and other neighbors to connect with Housing First Umpqua.

**Page: @HousingFirstUmpqua**

[https://www.facebook.com/pg/HousingFirstUmpqua/about/?ref=page\\_internal](https://www.facebook.com/pg/HousingFirstUmpqua/about/?ref=page_internal)

**Page: @Homeless Not Helpless:**

<https://www.facebook.com/HomelessNotHelplessInOregon/>

### **Online Appointment:**

We can even do online appointments to meet with people when it is best for them. We use both ZOOM and Google Meet to do assessments, provide information and other assistance.

### **Outreach**

Housing First Umpqua goes into the community where people are to help them. During the summer months, HFU volunteers will be in local public places, like parks, offering our assistance. For the specific locations and times, people can check us out on our Facebook pages: Housing First Umpqua and Homeless Not Helpless.

### **Gaps/Barriers:**

- Lack of permanent income based affordable housing to get people housed.
- Lack of sufficient number of people helping individuals access income they may be eligible for like, Social Security Disability & SSI, as well as VA and other benefits.
- Lack of collaboration and coordination among housing, homeless and other services providers to make sure someone not just gets housed but stays housed long-term.
- Criminalizing or creating law breakers of people who have no home.

Note: These are only some of the most glaring problems.

### **What the City of Roseburg Can Do:**

The city has an important role in eliminating barriers for homeless people to get housed. Although they have historically done little to actually improve the situation, we have the opportunity before us to change and start doing the right things. Here are some that can be started right now:

**Assess** what part of our local city budget is being used to address issues caused by so many people being homeless here. We need to honestly look at the money we are now using to fund law enforcement (police, as well as the cost of court), other emergency services.

**Change** local policy that treats homelessness as a law enforcement issue instead of the public health and social crisis that it is. No longer use "Prohibited camping" and other acts of living laws that create more barriers for homeless people to get off the streets. Look at the city budget to determine the amount of local tax dollars that are being used to police homelessness and/or the homeless. The enforcement of these laws and the constant moving people around is one of the biggest obstacles for people being able to access the services they need.

**Create** safe ground spaces in the city where people who are homeless can stay and provide sanitation facilities at these locations. This will facilitate keeping people off the riverbanks and in more manageable locations. It will also provide places for service providers to go to them, which can facilitate better delivery of services to the homeless.

**Redirect** resources to fund alternative intervention when problems arise among those who are homeless, instead of waiting for a crisis and the need for police to respond. Use homeless outreach /social workers who are culturally competent who can intervene.

**Fund** a local Public Advocate to help the homeless access the services and benefits they are eligible to receive. A PA can also help facilitate the badly needed collaboration among agencies to better coordinate services for folks who are homeless.

**Reduce** barriers to getting truly affordable housing that is based on a % of household income. This would include removing development fees and other obstacles for housing dedicated to ending homelessness, whether this is done as a larger project or ADU in a homeowner's backyard.

**Establish** an on-going city commission or committee that is tasked with helping to develop a comprehensive evidence based approach to addressing homelessness in Roseburg. Such a commission or committee should include members of the general public who are residents of this city, as well as folks who are homeless and their advocates. Priority should be given to implementing the recommendations that have already been made in the Roseburg Homeless Population Study conducted last year, including the Housing First model.