

Waitlist Emergency Housing

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Why Emergency Housing?

On Friday March 7th, 2025 OnTrack Rogue Valley had 398 people on the waitlist for one of our 47 residential treatment beds.

The majority are unhoused, want help, and can't access the level of care they need.

Without a safe place to wait, they can't be located when a bed is available, and many have died.

People discharging from detox without treatment beds go back to the street and end up needing detox again before a bed is available. They are stuck in a cycle.

Waitlist Emergency Housing Concept

Our first Emergency Housing programs were funded by M110. We knew that until Oregon builds more treatment capacity, we needed to help get people off the streets and into a safe place while they wait.

This is low barrier. The only criteria is that you must be on the waitlist for residential treatment or detox, agree to safety rules, and be unhoused.

This is not a traditional shelter. The rooms are single occupancy, and limited to people who have a severe substance use disorder, want treatment, and can't access the right level of care.

Why do we need waitlist housing?

Traditional shelters are not designed to support people with severe substance use disorders and can take a long time to connect people with permanent housing solutions.

After 1 year of operating, our average length of stay is 3 ½ weeks. This prevents our emergency housing from filling up and creating another lengthy waitlist.

We are able to provide care coordination and case management to efficiently connect individuals with the correct level of care.

Our goal is to provide immediate, safe housing and support for basic needs while helping the individual get into the correct treatment center.



Oasis (6 Beds opened Sept 2023)

- Oasis and OnTrack partnered to open the first 6 beds in September of 2023.
- These beds are attached to Oasis and are specifically for pregnant women and mothers with young children.
- 82 mothers have moved from being unhoused into a treatment bed.



Beatty Street-10 Beds

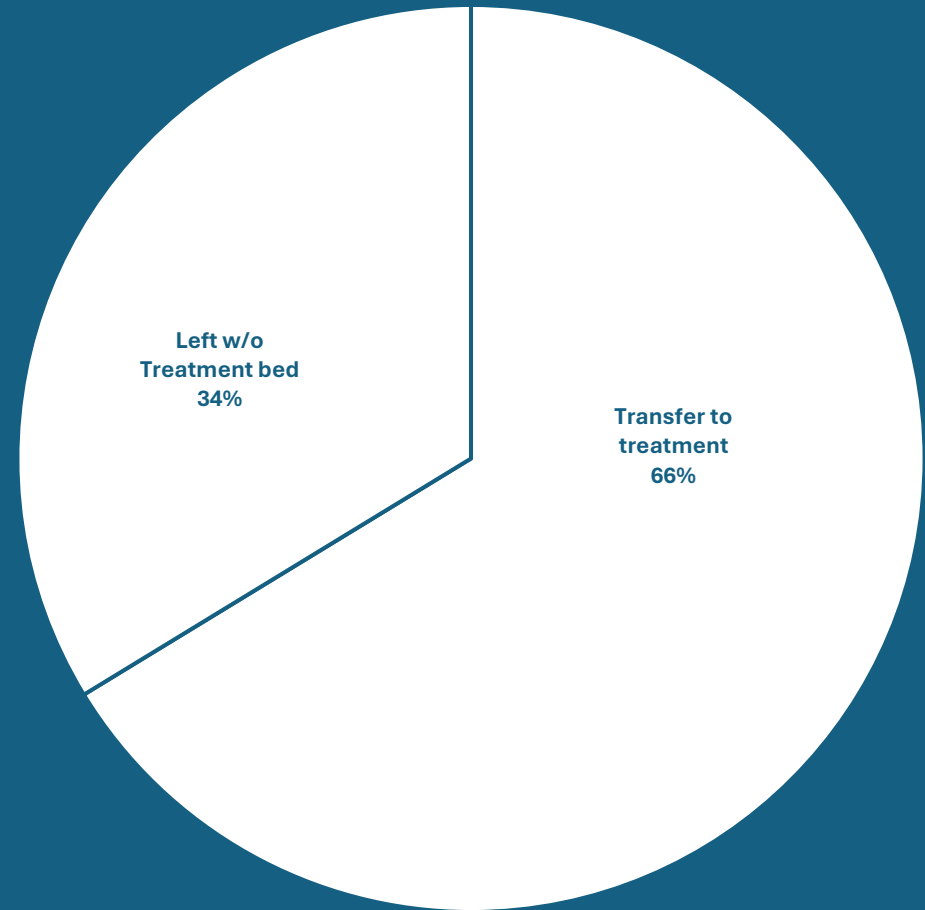
- OnTrack opened 10 beds in February of 2024.
- These units are for any adults and include ADA accessible rooms.
- Beatty Street has helped 91 people move from the streets to treatment in 1 year of operations.



Does it work?

- This program has worked much better than anticipated. It is so successful that we have been asked to expand. We are adding 12 more beds in March and another 12 in June.
- Unintended benefit is that it is improving efficiency and utilization for detox and residential treatment.
- People feel safe and have their basic needs met. Emergency Housing guests have a lower dropout rate once they reach treatment.

TOTAL EMERGENCY LODGING SUCCESS: 173 PEOPLE TRANSFERRED FROM THE STREETS TO TREATMENT BEDS



Fiscal responsibility and decision making

- This does not address Oregon's behavioral health capacity crisis.
- We must build more residential treatment facilities to meet the demand, but that will take time and large investments.
- Waitlist Emergency Housing is cost-effective and able to utilize many different spaces with minor renovations (apartment complexes, large houses, small motels).
- It can be implemented rapidly and have an immediate, positive impact on the community by reducing the number of people who are unhoused while waiting and improving efficiency in our residential treatment systems.
- Once Oregon has enough residential treatment beds across the state, these emergency housing locations will be easy to convert to transitional, supportive, or recovery housing units.