



## Tiny Village Frequently Asked Questions

### 1. **Where did the idea of a tiny house village come from?**

Cities across the United States are using tiny house villages as one component of programs to address homelessness. Over the past decade, tiny house villages have been built in Seattle and Olympia, WA; and in other cities including Los Angeles, CA; Portland and Eugene, OR; Detroit, MI; Syracuse, NY; Nashville, TN; and Austin and Dallas, TX.

### 2. **Who is involved in creating tiny house villages in Kitsap?**

*Homes for All* is a partnership of elected leaders, service clubs, Housing Authorities, businesses, churches, social service nonprofit organizations, United Way of Kitsap County, Kitsap County Habitat for Humanity, school districts, and Kitsap County residents who want to help people who are experiencing homelessness find shelter until they can transition into more permanent housing.

### 3. **What is the plan for creating these villages?**

*Homes for All* partner organizations are working to first create a pilot tiny village in Port Orchard. It is planned to have 14 tiny shelters – very simple small structures that function as stand-alone bedrooms; they will have electricity, heat, and fire suppression, but no bathrooms. They will be grouped around several larger buildings containing cooking facilities, a gathering space, restrooms, showers, storage space, and office space for social service providers. Using lessons learned from this pilot, other tiny villages could be developed throughout the county.

### 4. **Will these villages comply with county ordinances?**

Yes. Kitsap County Code (KCC) Title 17.505 Transitory Accommodations allows for permitting of temporary housing of this nature. The village must meet Kitsap County ordinances regarding sanitation, heating, air conditioning, ventilation, energy efficiency, fire suppression systems, and fire department access. The Kitsap County Department of Community Development will administer the permit process to ensure compliance with these ordinances.

### 5. **Who will manage the village?**

For the Port Orchard pilot project, Housing Kitsap, which has extensive experience managing housing, will be the official property manager for the village. They will be the point of contact for physical aspects of the village and will assure that the property is respectfully maintained. The Kitsap Rescue Mission will work with each resident on their individual goals for moving toward self-sufficiency and will design a governance model in collaboration with village participants. Residents will be required to participate in weekly meetings (may temporarily be excused for work or illness), as well as clean-up, security, litter patrol, and community engagement activities. The villages in other municipalities typically hold a monthly meeting with neighbors from the surrounding area to maintain positive relationships and to address issues that may arise.

### 6. **What about security?**

The Transitory Accommodation permitting process requires perimeter fencing that encloses the entire village. A security checkpoint at the village entry will assure that only residents and approved guests enter. The entrance will be closed from 10 p.m. until 6 a.m. each day.

#### Contact Information

Email: [homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us)

**7. What about power, water, sewer and waste management?**

The property owner or church will coordinate with Kitsap County, local businesses, church members, and professionals who specialize in this type of work. The monthly utility charges will be paid for out of modest fees collected from the residents. In addition, a waste disposal plan is required.

**8. How will residents be selected to live in a village?**

The Housing Solutions Center (HSC) is a one-stop intake program where individuals and families who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless can seek housing assistance. The HSC will recommend applicants for village residency. The HSC will perform a background check for all applicants and require an initial drug test for prospective residents. The Port Orchard village pilot project will allow singles, couples, and households with children to live in the village, as long as they meet all screening requirements.

**9. You say residents will be screened to be “low risk”. What does that mean?**

The screening process includes a background check, drug test, and interview to help the Housing Solutions Center (HSC) determine which applicants qualify for residency. People with a history of serious mental illness that pose a threat to the safety of other residents or the public, or current drug and alcohol dependency, will not be housed in the village; nor will sex offenders, violent offenders, or people with convictions for crimes of arson or manufacture of meth. Other criminal history will be evaluated according to when it occurred, actions taken since that time, and any mitigating circumstances.

**10. How will the village ensure that there is no drug or alcohol use?**

Residents must sign a rules and conduct agreement before residing in the village. There will be zero tolerance rules which forbid the use of drugs and alcohol on the site. Residents who violate these rules will be removed from the village.

**11. How will this village affect property values in the neighborhood?**

Other communities that have established church-hosted villages with similar resident requirements have not seen negative impacts to their property values.

**12. How long will residents typically live there?**

There is no time limit for residency. The goal is for households to find permanent housing as quickly as possible. The typical length of stay at similar communities is about 90 days.

**13. What “case management” will be provided?**

A wide range of support services will be available for village residents including connections to more permanent housing. After evaluation, each person will receive the specific support they need from local organizations. For the Port Orchard pilot, Kitsap Rescue Mission will coordinate connecting residents with services to meet their needs, to include everything from prenatal care and childhood education to housing, energy assistance, as well as employment and training. The goal is to help each client return to self-sufficiency as quickly as possible.

**14. Who do I contact if I have more questions?**

More information is available at the Homes for All website:  
[https://spf.kitsapgov.com/BOC\\_p/Pages/HomesForAll.aspx](https://spf.kitsapgov.com/BOC_p/Pages/HomesForAll.aspx)

For specific questions, email to [homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us](mailto:homesforall@co.kitsap.wa.us)