

Tacoma Village FAQ

802 Martin Luther King Jr Way, Tacoma, WA



What is LIHI?

The Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI) is a nonprofit housing and service organization. LIHI owns and manages 2,3000 units of housing in 65 buildings through the Puget Sound region. LIHI supports 11 tiny house villages, nine in Seattle and two in Olympia, and has consulted on the development and operation of others across the state and county. The villages provide stability, safety, and community to 1,000 residents annually including single adults, couples, seniors, veterans, families, and people with pets. LIHI also operates three Urban Rest Stops in Seattle, providing showers, bathrooms, and laundry service to around 800 people experiencing homelessness per day.

Who will operate and manage the village?

LIHI will operate and oversee the 24/7 day-to-day management of the site. Staff includes a Special Projects Manager and Village Organizers who provide security and community organizing.

Who will the village serve?

The village will serve up to 35 people experiencing homelessness including individuals, couples, veterans, seniors, students, and people with pets. All residents will be adults age 18 and over.

What will the village include?

The village will have 22 micro-shelters. Common area facilities include honey buckets, a hand washing station, counseling office, communal kitchen, and trash and recycling. The micro-shelters are each 8' x 12' with electricity, heat, a lockable door.

What are the rules of living in the village?

Residents will be required to agree to and sign a Code of Conduct. Residents will be expected to follow behavioral expectations, work with case management, and there is zero tolerance towards violence. Individuals who cannot abide by this Code of Conduct will not be admitted into the program, or may be asked to leave the community for a better suited shelter.

Who do I call if I have a question or concern?

Once the village opens, LIHI will have a staff person on-site 24/7 with phone and email contact. The contact information to the village will be available soon on LIHI's website (www.lihi.org). In the meantime, you can reach out to John Brown with LIHI at john.brown@lihi.org or (206) 945-2201.

What happens if there is a problem?

We are committed to being good neighbors. LIHI staff will be available 24/7 and can respond to inquiries from both villagers and community members. The staff will also perform perimeter checks, organize trash cleanups, and respond to the community's inquiries and requests.

How can I help?

Community generosity and volunteerism plays a significant role in the success of villages, both in the set up of a village and the support of residents through donations of meals and services. There will be multiple volunteer work parties to set up the site which will include painting, construction, and beautification. If you are interested in volunteering or donating please email tinyhouses@lihi.org.

How do I give input?

LIHI will establish a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that will address concerns and monitor the success of the site. Members of the CAC will include nearby neighborhood stakeholders, including community leaders, businesses, immediate neighbors, service providers and others. The CAC will meet monthly and meeting minutes will be publicly posted. Please contact John Brown at john.brown@lihi.org if you are interested.

For questions, please email John Brown at john.brown@lihi.org or call 206-945-2201.

