

Gateway Project

Legislative Council Services (LCS) ID #1150

ICIP# 38470



Background

More than 5,600 households experience homelessness in Albuquerque every year. For some, the situation is temporary and caused by a difficult financial or family situation. For others, behavioral health, physical health, and substance abuse issues add complexity. But regardless of the reasons people are on the streets, they all share one common need: safe places with emergency shelter beds and resources for health and permanent housing.

As the largest city in New Mexico, people from across the state travel to Albuquerque to access resources. Despite our partnerships with several nonprofit emergency shelters and our operation of the Westside Emergency Housing Center (WEHC) that can accommodate up to 450 people, there are not enough emergency beds to meet demand. The number of people experiencing homelessness has risen 19% since 2017.

In addition to overnight beds, Gateway will fill essential service gaps in our community through a Medical Respite, Medical Sobering Center, and First Responder Drop-Off. See below chart for a description of these services, their outcomes, and the yearly impact they will have.

Projects Highlights

**Total Requested
Amount**

\$20M

Total Project Cost

\$30M

Current Project Status

Phase II: Overnight beds (with limited 24/7 intake beds by First Responder referral), Engagement Center, Medical Sobering Center, and Medical Respite

Project Timeline

Anticipated Construction begins Nov. 2023

City Department

Family and Community Services

Category

Citywide

Project Contact

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Breakdown of Services

SERVICES	DESCRIPTION	OUTCOME	YEARLY IMPACT
First Responder Drop-Off	Low-acuity, 24/7 location for first-responders to drop-off individuals who need connection to shelter, housing, other services	Divert individuals from emergency departments	1,500 connections and/or transports to needed services
Medical Sobering	Low-acuity, medical monitoring to gain sobriety; collaborating with the County to complement CARES Campus (which is a social model)	Divert individuals from emergency departments and jail	14,000-16,000 overnight stays
Medical Respite	Patient-centered medical care and necessary social services; Collaborating with Albuquerque Healthcare for the Homeless	Reduce avoidable emergency department usage and potential readmissions; connect individuals to permanent supportive housing	320 individuals accessing needed health care
Gateway Overnight Beds	Low barrier, trauma informed beds close to the City with housing services in the Engagement Center, on-site	House individuals in need and increase safety	200+ beds (serving 800 people a year)

Current Project Status

We are in the process of construction for Phase I and expect the facility will begin opening its doors to people experiencing homelessness by Spring of 2023. To help address the need for emergency overnight beds this winter, 50 temporary beds will be available in January 2023.