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## East Portland Community Office response to houseless

EPCO supports community groups responding to the housing crisis and the more visible presence of the houseless community in our area. It is a complex and long-term problem and, as such, will need many different approaches and efforts. Within our capacity, we will support efforts that incorporate these core principles of our program:

- **Collaboration:** Working together creates solutions to community issues that are more effective, lasting, and truly inclusive - grounded in mutual compassion for each other;
- **Community leadership:** Those most directly affected by the issues should be an active part of determining solutions to the issues, and our work should include those voices; in this case, the voices of the houseless communities;
- **Diversity:** Our communities are diverse and that diversity should be reflected in our work. Houseless people are our neighbors, are part of our communities, and have a stake in the neighborhood too.
- **Equity:** Those that have been given the least access to decision making and involvement should be actively engaged in the work, in this case all people experiencing visible or less visible houselessness.

EPCO will work with community partners on responses to the housing crisis and houselessness that include these core principles. We believe these efforts will build community while creating sustainable solutions. We welcome all partners interested in working on solutions that benefit all East Portland residents.