



COLORADO  
VILLAGE  
COLLABORATIVE

# SAFE OUTDOOR SPACES

1530 W. 13th Avenue  
September 6th, 2023





# LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

CVC honors and acknowledges that the land on which we reside is the traditional territory of the Ute, Cheyenne, and Arapaho Peoples. We also recognize the 48 contemporary tribal nations that are historically tied to the lands that make up the state of Colorado. We honor Elders past, present, and future, and those who have stewarded this land throughout generations. We also recognize that government, academic and cultural institutions were founded upon and continue to enact exclusions and erasures of Indigenous Peoples.

May this acknowledgement demonstrate a commitment to working to dismantle ongoing legacies of oppression and inequities and recognize the current and future contributions of Indigenous communities in Denver.



For more information please visit our website: [www.coloradovillagecollaborative.org/](http://www.coloradovillagecollaborative.org/)



# **Homelessness in Metro Denver**

- Nearly 7,000 homeless - living in shelters or outdoors (PIT)
- Over 2,000 sleeping outdoors
- Over 10,000 unsheltered adults serviced by HMIS

## ***Regionally Most Common Causes***

1. Lost job / inability to find work
2. High housing costs / Lack of affordable housing
3. Relationship / Family break up

## ***Public Perception***

substance use, chronic health conditions, or severe mental health disorders

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# What is a Safe Outdoor Space?

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- A Temporary Public Health and Economic Recovery Response to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 among unhoused neighbors
- Outdoor, Individualized Sheltering Model for unsheltered homelessness
- Resources and service rich environment (health care and case management)
- Relocate people camping in public space into a safe, managed, service-oriented location
- Staffed/managed 24-hour secure sites



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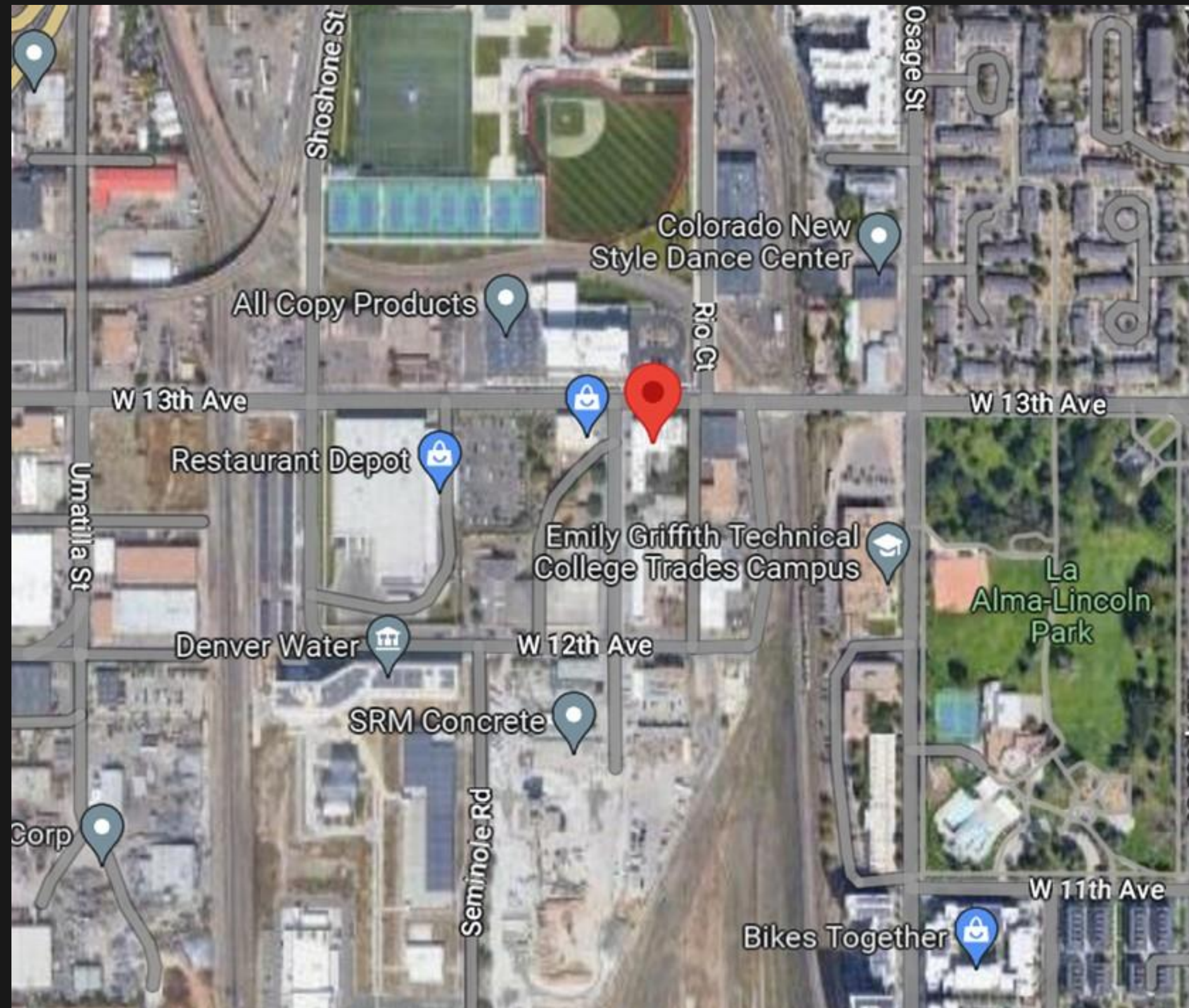
# VISUALS



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# 13th Ave Site Location







## SOS FILLS A SERVICE GAP

We serve people who are experiencing unsheltered homelessness and who for various reasons needs are not met in a traditional sheltering system.

- Partners
- Pets
- Workers (non-traditional workhours)

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# SOS

## Outcomes

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2021

- 242 people served in SOS
  - 47 (20%) people transitioned to more stable housing
  - 15 people direct to apartments

2022

- 295 people served in SOS
  - 109 (25%) people transitioned to more stable housing
  - 82 people direct to apartments



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# Previous SOS Locations

## **Capitol Hill**

First Baptist Church

12/9/20- 5/31/21

1373 N. Grant St., Denver, CO 80203

## **Denver Community Church**

12/17/20 - 5/31/21

1595 N. Pearl St., Denver, CO 80203

## **Park Hill**

United Methodist Church/Temple Micah

6/1/21 - 12/31/21

2045 N. Glencoe St, Denver, CO 80207

## **Regis University**

Campus

6/1/21 - 7/31/22

5085 N. Federal Blvd, Denver, CO 80221

## **La Alma Lincoln Park**

Denver Health Campus

12/1/21 - 9/30/22

780 N. Elati Street, Denver, CO 80221



# Current SOS Locations

## **Denver Human Services East**

December 14, 2021 - Current  
3815 Steele St, Denver, CO 80205

## **13th Ave SOS**

June-July 2023  
1350 W 13th Ave, Denver, CO 80204

## **Native American-Inclusive SOS**

January 1, 2023 - Current  
4635 Peoria Street, Denver, CO 80239





## **CONSIDERATIONS WHEN SELECTING A SITE**

- 1) Owner willing to offer an affordable lease
- 2) Access to services for community members
- 3) Close to public transportation
- 4) The infrastructure to support our site needs (paved, access to electricity, etc.)



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# **WHO APPROVES THESE PROJECTS AND HOW ARE THEY PERMITTED?**

- Mechanism for approval = Temporary Unlisted Use Permit
  - No rezoning required
  - No change of use required

Denver City Council not required to approve permits



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# **HOW ARE RESIDENTS SELECTED?**

Safe Outdoor Spaces do not operate on a walk-up, first come first serve basis. Residents are identified by professional outreach teams and referred to the SOS before being accepted and provided relocation assistance.

This multi step process is outlined in the next slide.

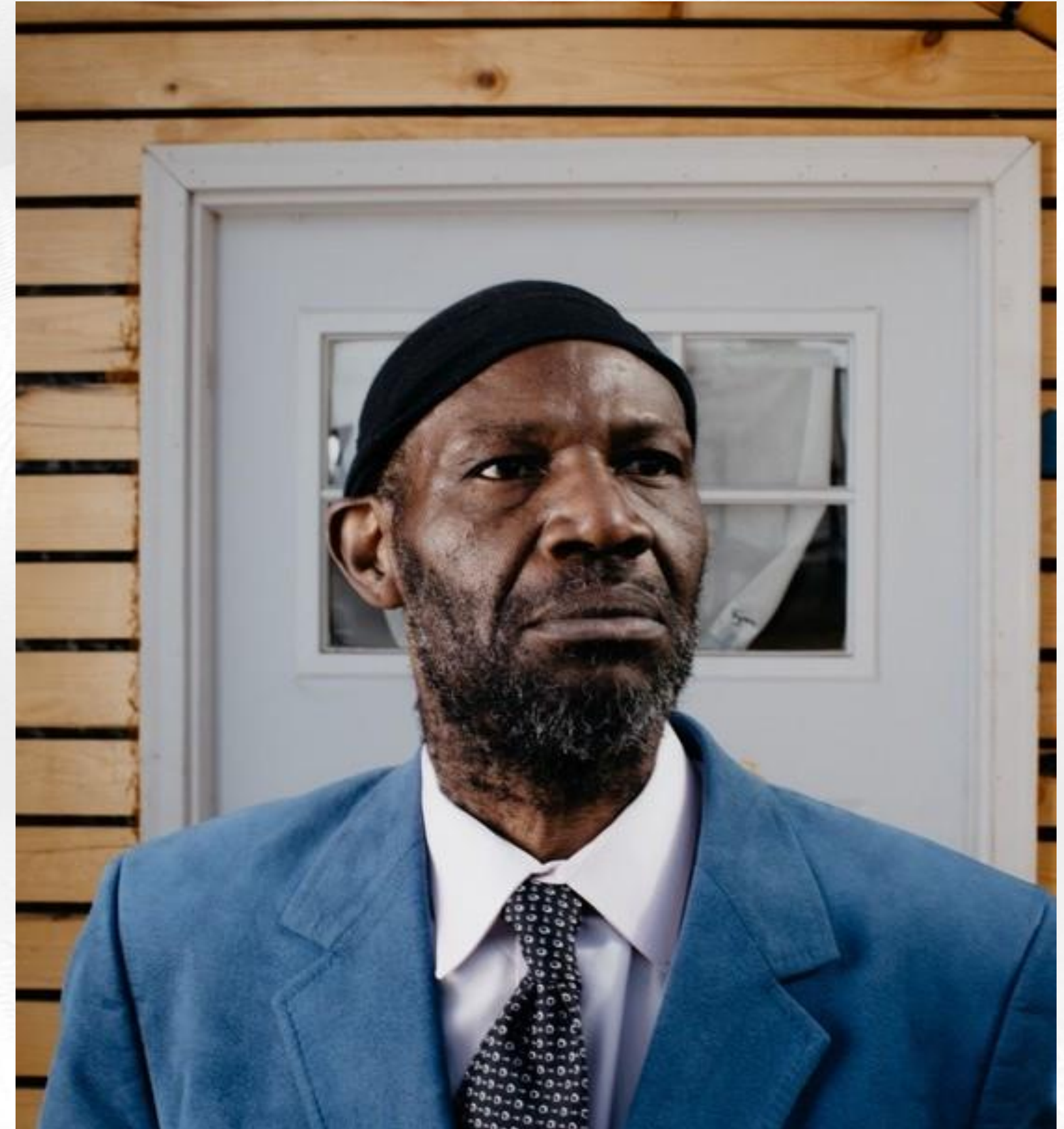
**Step 1:** Encampment Outreach

**Step 2:** Potential Resident Screening

**Step 3:** Referrals from Outreach Teams

**Step 4:** Relocation Assistance

**Step 5:** Intake and Use Agreement



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# What guidelines are residents expected to uphold?

- Complete Intake form with Site Manager upon moving into SOS.

- Positive interactions w/ residents, staff, & volunteers
- Discuss housing plans & resources w/ staff

Uphold Basic Guidelines:

- No violence
- No weapons
- No substances
- No trading or selling substances
- No theft
- No fires
- No guests due to COVID-19
- No disruptive behavior - **Quiet hours: 10 pm - 8 am**
- No discriminatory/oppressive behavior
- Promote peace and wellbeing for all guests

- Practice Social Distancing, hand washing, wear a mask in common areas, and maintain 6 ft of distance between self and others
- Abide by Safer at Home orders and only leave premises for Essential Activities
- Agree to leave SOS and receive medical treatment is displaying symptoms
- Keep space clean - All belongings must fit inside tent and / or storage bin
- Keep permitted pets on a leash & clean up after pets
- Address conflict nonviolently, staff is available to assist with conflict resolution
- Report violations of agreements to staff
- Agree to leave SOS once SOS closes at the conclusion of the Public Health Emergency

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# HOW ARE THE SOS SITES MANAGED?

## Staff & Services

- On Site Program Staffing 24 hrs/day 7 days/wk
- Case Management
- On site Physical/Behavioral Health Services

## Site Upkeep

- Weekly trash removal, daily toilet pumping, etc
- Sanitation every two hours and after use
- Twice daily resident cleanup crews

## Guidelines

- Quiet Hours 10pm-8am
- Signed Use agreement pledging adherence to non-negotiable community agreements, guest policy, pet policy, substance policy, quiet hours, etc.

## Accountability

- Conflict Resolution/ De-escalation
- Restorative accountability processes led by SOS Managers
- Follow through and enforcement of community agreements and SOS policies



# WHAT SERVICES ARE PROVIDED ON SITE?

Safe Outdoor Spaces are “all inclusive” sites that provide the following on site services to residents on a daily basis:

- Food/Meals
- Daily Wellness Screenings
- COVID Testing
- COVID Vaccination (when available)
- Physical/Behavioral Health/ Dental Services
- Technology Support through Denver Public Library
- Conflict Resolution
- Case Management
- Housing Navigation
- Benefit Navigation
- Employment Services



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# **WHAT INFRASTRUCTURE WOULD BE INSTALLED ON SITE?**

CVC would be responsible for installing, funding, and maintaining the following:

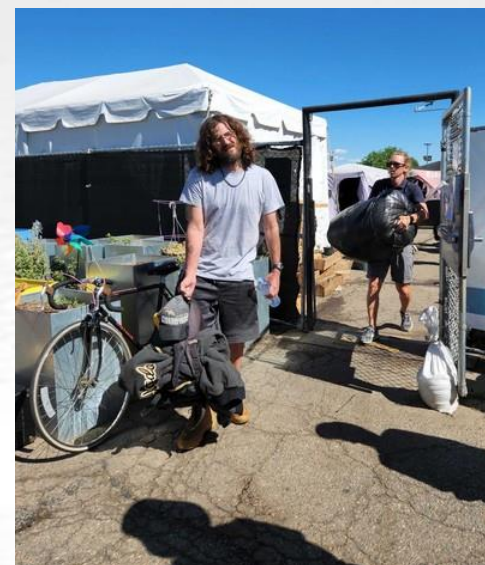
- Temporary electric access independent of DHS East electricity
- Drinking water through a tap installed by Denver Water
- Portable toilets and hand-washing stations
- Individualized Shelters
- Service and Management Tents
- Perimeter Fencing
- Single point of entry/exit
- Staffing, safety, operations, and service delivery within the site
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# OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT

## Here are 3 Ways to Help

- You can check out our upcoming volunteer events on our website [HERE and sign up.](#) This is the easiest way to sign up for our volunteer events. We have a few more upcoming events that have not been finalized yet, however, as soon as we get those events finalized, they will be added to our website.
- [We are also seeking volunteers to provide both lunches or dinners at our Native American site, here is the meal sign up link with the schedules. I hope this helps.](#)
- We do accept money donations and you can do that [online HERE.](#) Additionally , there are other ways such as donations you can help support our organization are also on our website and you can read through more [information HERE.](#)



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# CONNECT WITH US!

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