

Azusa Resource Center (ARC) - Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is ARC?

ARC is a 25-unit interim shelter housing site for individuals experiencing homelessness with a local preference for Azusa residents.

2. What is bridge housing? Why are interim shelter units used as bridge housing?

Bridge housing is a type of temporary housing that provides immediate assistance to individuals experiencing homelessness. Bridge housing offers 24/7 security and on-site services like case management and housing placement to help residents stabilize their lives and move on to permanent housing. Interim shelters are used as bridge housing to provide participants with safety and privacy that may be lacking in congregate shelter settings. Participants at interim housing sites in other cities have highlighted the importance of having a door that locks.

3. Who is operating the site?

City Net has been selected as the service provider for the site through an open competitive RFP process. City Net will operate the site and provide case management, 24/7 security staffing, 3 meals per day, and connections to additional offsite services and providers.

4. What is the average length of stay in interim shelter?

Participants may reside in the interim housing units until they are connected to another form of housing such as affordable or permanent supportive housing or other alternatives such as family reunification. The goal length of stay will be 90 days or less.

5. Who can live at the site and what is the process for being selected?

Individuals (18 years or older) experiencing homelessness who meet the site eligibility and prioritization criteria may reside in the interim housing units. Eligibility criteria and prioritization criteria include the ability to manage activities of daily living and a nexus to Azusa. Clients are referred to the site by experienced service providers and referral agencies.

6. How does this project help individuals experiencing homelessness?

The homeless count in Azusa has increased from 23 in 2015 to 220 in 2022, according to LAHSA point in time counts. The provision of shelter has immediate health and mental health benefits for participants. Participants will be connected to supportive services and the interim shelter units will be the first step towards ending their experience with homelessness.

7. What are the safety measures for the community and participants?

This site operator, City Net, will provide 24/7 security and secured access to the site. The site will be operated in accordance with harm reduction best practices and no illegal or illicit materials will be allowed onsite.

8. Will the site attract additional individuals experiencing homelessness?

No. Each participant is assigned a unit for the duration of their stay. This eliminates the need for lines outside of the site that are associated with traditional first come first serve models in emergency shelter.

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9. How does the project enhance existing efforts to address homelessness in Azusa?

The City has initiated and expanded several programs in the City to address the impacts of homelessness and prevent the progression of the crisis. The Community Resources Department partners with local organizations to provide Social Service programming and resources to individuals and families at risk due to moderate to severe medical and mental health care, substance use, family violence and trauma, loss of income or other hardship. This project will fit into that system and create a site for persons experiencing homelessness to get additional assistance while being connected to permanent housing.

10. How is the interim housing site funded?

The City Council allocated approximately \$1.9 million from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) Coronavirus State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) program. The City is also pursuing additional grants to fund the construction and administration of the local resource center.

11. ARC was approved for a 12-month pilot period. What happens to the interim housing units after the 12-month pilot period?

The City may decide to extend the program for an additional year based on the success of the pilot period and community input. If the City does not continue the program, the interim shelter units can be moved to another site or disassembled and stored for use at a later date.

12. How can I get involved as a community member?

Community support and volunteering are an integral part of the success of ARC. Ongoing volunteer opportunities include assistance with meals and recreational activities. Additional information and sign up is available at: www.sgvrht.org/arc

13. Are there other interim housing sites in the San Gabriel Valley?

SGVRHT and SGVCOG have helped to develop three other sites in the San Gabriel Valley: Esperanza Villa and Serenity Homes in Baldwin Park, and Operation Stay Safe in Montebello. These sites combined provide 105 beds of interim housing for individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Use your phone to scan
this QR code to visit the
site website:

www.sgvrht.org/arc

