

# **LOW-BARRIER SHELTER QUESTIONNAIRE**

## **Montana Rescue Mission Responses 7/20**

- 1. Can you provide low-barrier shelter from October 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023?**

Montana Rescue Mission has been and will continue to provide our Emergency Shelter (AKA) low-barrier shelter. We will certainly offer it during this specified timeframe.

- 2. What is your monthly budget for doing so?**

Approximately \$300,000 per year or \$25,000 per month with current hours of operation and services.

- 3. Where will low-barrier shelter services be located this winter?**

Our Emergency Shelter will be located on our campus at 2822 Minnesota Ave.

- 4. What is the capacity that can be served nightly?**

We have enough space to accommodate as many people as needed. We can expand if necessary.

- 5. Is the location compliant with building and fire codes OR are you willing to make modifications requested by the Fire Marshal and Building Inspector in order to bring the facility into compliance prior to October 1, 2022?**

Yes.

- 6. What hours of day/night will low-barrier shelter be open?**

We can be open whenever we perceive the homeless community needs us. Currently we are open from 10PM to 6AM for Emergency Shelter. We can expand if there is a verified need.

- 7. Do you have operational procedures developed and/or in place?**

Yes.

- 8. How will you prevent liability and/or insure a low-barrier shelter?**

We have insurance and have safety training and safety procedures in place.

**9. Do you offer a warm handoff between service providers?**

Yes.

**10. Do you plan to provide transportation to/from other service providers?**

Yes.

**11. Do you plan to provide congregate or non-congregate shelter?**

Depends on the individual guest's need. Both are available.

**12. How will you screen guests to ensure safety and security? If this service is provided by an outside entity or community partner, do you have an MOU or contract in place?**

We screen guests in house. We have 75 years of experience screening guests.

**13. Do you have processes in place for diverting guests to other service providers, when appropriate, as space is available?**

Yes.

**14. Are you a participant in the Homeless Management Information System? If not, how will data and success metrics be tracked and shared?**

Yes. Both HMIS and other databases. Our state HMIS is not user friendly, provides inconsistent data reports, has HIPAA violation issues, and is not customizable to meet the need of an organization that does more than assessments. As a result, Montana Rescue Mission is still enrolled in HMIS, but adopted an additional database to meet the data needs that HMIS does not supply.

**15. Are you a participant in the Coordinated Entry System? If not, are you willing to provide a Uniform Assessment to all shelter guests and participate in biweekly case conferencing?**

We find the Uniform Assessment to be a barrier to entry to our emergency shelter guests and MRM does not feel comfortable forcing guests to complete assessments in order to spend a night in a warm and safe place. If a guest would like to participate, they are welcome to. After basic needs are met, guests are more willing to share their basic information.

- 16. Will you serve minors?**  
Yes, in their own space.
- 17. Will you serve felons, sexual and/or violent offenders?**  
Yes.
- 18. Will you serve people who do not meet sobriety requirements?**  
Yes.
- 19. Will you serve people who use assistive devices (wheelchair, walker, cane, etc.)?**  
Yes.
- 20. Will you serve people who are accompanied by a trained Service Animal?**  
Yes.
- 21. Will you serve people who are otherwise disabled, whether physically or mentally?**  
Yes.
- 22. Will you serve people who do not meet employment requirements?**  
Yes.
- 23. Do you have a Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion policy of any kind? If not, will you commit to serving people regardless of race or ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation, or cultural background?**  
Yes.
- 24. Will you serve people of different faiths or religious beliefs?**  
Yes.
- 25. Are there certain types of individuals or groups that you will not serve?**  
No. However, individuals who are a threat to themselves or others will be served after evaluation, mitigation and release from a qualified entity.

**26. Do you maintain a no-services list? If so, what are the criteria for being put on the list or getting taken off the list?**

Yes. Our no services list works the same way as the Crisis Center. If a person was placed on a no-services list, they can meet with staff to request admission.

**27. How do you define “low barrier shelter?”**

Our Emergency Shelter/low barrier program has trauma informed and harm reduction service approach. People utilizing this service don't have sobriety, work or other “barrier” requirements, but rather behavioral expectations.