

Tiny Homes FAQ



What are Tiny Homes?

Tiny Homes are an innovative, affordable, and scalable solution to homelessness. Compared to traditional shelters or affordable housing projects, Tiny Homes often take a fraction of the time and cost to design, manufacture, and install. Tiny Homes are non-congregate shelters, where every participant is provided their own private space.

Why is the City implementing the Tiny Homes model?

Long Beach is facing a homelessness crisis, with more than 2,000 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness. Tiny Homes provide an opportunity to expand our shelter bed capacity and offer a different type of temporary housing. Some service models do not meet the individualized needs of people experiencing homelessness. To ensure we are meeting these needs, it is critical that we offer a range of options for temporary housing and shelter.

What will the City Of Long Beach Tiny Home Program entail?

The Long Beach Tiny Home Shelter Program (Program) will provide 33 modular non-congregate shelter units for unhoused adults, prioritizing those experiencing chronic homelessness, or those who have experienced homelessness for a year or longer and have a disabling condition. Six units will be accessible to those with mobility, hearing or seeing disabilities.

Every unit will have:

- A private restroom with shower
- A bed and storage space
- An HVAC system
- Water, power, and sewage
- Fire suppression systems, including sprinklers and fire-resistant materials.

Common space amenities will include lighting, fencing, controlled entry with security station, office space for case management and services, warming kitchen and communal gathering space for meals, parking lot and bicycle storage, pet relief and landscaped open space.

Where will the Long Beach Tiny Homes Shelter be located?

The Program site will be located in the vacant lot on the southeast corner of East Spring Street and California Avenue.

Why was this location selected as the site for Tiny Homes?

The vacant lot on the corner of East Spring Street and California Avenue is City-owned, paved and leveled, reducing time and resources needed. It is larger than the Multi-Service Center (MSC), allowing for additional amenities and is near existing utilities infrastructure. Additionally, the lot is in an area with relatively fewer homeless services facilities, increasing geographic equity and continuing the City's commitment to developing services across the city.

What services will be offered at the Tiny Home Shelter Community?

The Tiny Home shelter community will offer 33 modular non-congregate shelter units and provide all program participants with:

- 24/7 security and residential supervision
- Private space within a secure community of peers
- Three meals per day
- Personalized case management with a housing plan
- Connections to permanent housing
- Communal gathering space
- Transportation
- Linkages to supportive services such as behavioral and physical health services, substance use treatment, employment training, benefits enrollment, basic needs, etc.

Who will operate the Program site?

The City will contract with an experienced shelter service provider to operate the Program. Once the City receives State approval for the new location in the coming months, the City will post a Request for Proposals (RFP), which can be accessed via the Long Beach Buys Platform at <https://longbeachbuys.buyspeed.com/bsa>.

What are other successful examples of Tiny Home shelter communities?

Tiny Homes are a growing trend across the nation, most notably here in California where building costs are high. Tiny Home communities can be found all throughout Southern California, including projects in Riverside, Torrance and the City of Los Angeles, which operates six communities.

How can people access the Program?

The Tiny Home shelter community will serve adults experiencing homelessness, prioritizing those experiencing chronic homelessness. Participants will need a referral from the MSC, Outreach Teams, or the Mobile Access Center (MAC). No walk-ups at the site will be allowed.

How is the Program being funded?

The primary funding source for this Tiny Home shelter community is the State's Homekey Program Round 2. In June 2022, the City was awarded \$5,616,752 in grant funds towards the project. Supplemental funds may be needed as construction costs are further clarified. Ongoing operations will be funded through the State's Homeless Housing, Assistance, and Prevention (HHAP) Program.

Who will operate the Tiny Home shelter community?

The City will contract with an experienced shelter service provider to operate the Program, including providing all supportive services and property management. In the coming months, the City will post a Request for Proposals (RFP), which can be accessed via the Long Beach Buys Platform (<https://longbeachbuys.buyspeed.com/bsa>).

How long will the Tiny Home shelter community site operate?

The Tiny Home shelter community site at the corner of East Spring Street and California Avenue will operate for a minimum of 15 years, as required by the Homekey Program. Once the need for Tiny Home shelters has completed, and the 15-year commitment has been satisfied, City staff intend to permanently transition the site to park space, incorporating it into Willow Springs Park. The Tiny Home shelters, which are rated for at least 50 years of use, would then be transitioned to a new location.

What are the next steps in realizing this Program?

Full implementation of the project will be dependent on approval by the California Department of Housing and Community Development, the primary funder of this program. The City will continue engaging and informing community stakeholders about the project. Staff will assess and move forward with necessary re-design, permit submittals and contracting to implement the site improvements and installation. If approved, City Staff estimate that the project will be completed in early 2025.