

City of Portland | Health & Human Services Department
Kristen Dow, *Director*



To: Mayor Snyder and Members of the Portland City Council
CC: Danielle P. West, City Manager
From: Aaron Geyer, Social Services Director
Date: November 8, 2023
Re: 166 Riverside Industrial Parkway Shelter Update

The 166 Riverside Industrial Parkway shelter continues to move forward on schedule, with an anticipated opening date of November 29, 2023. In the current schedule the builder aims to secure a Certificate of Occupancy on Nov. 15, 2023. A final floor polish is scheduled for November 17th and 18th, with final punch list items completed the 20th-22nd. Furnishing(s) including beds, linens, cafeteria tables, washers, dryers and office furniture are all scheduled to arrive and be assembled November 27th-29th.

Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) has scheduled a day of volunteering on November 27th, with 37 volunteers from seven municipalities signed up to help assemble beds, clean the interior, and complete yard work.

Transportation for guests of the shelter will be provided via shuttle van. A new van will be purchased, and a route and a schedule is being developed. Maine Immigrants Rights Coalition (MIRC) is contracted to provide food for the shelter, and city staff are working with them as they develop what that will look like.

The City of Portland plans to hire an additional 43 staff to run the shelter for the first 18 months of its operations. These positions include Human Services Counselors, Shelter Attendants, Custodians, and Program staff. To date, 38 of those positions have been posted, and we are in the process of conducting interviews and making offers of employment.

City staff will coordinate guests' transition from the HSC to 166 Industrial Parkway. As a result of this relocation, an estimated 100-120 beds will become available at the HSC. After guests are transitioned from the HSC, staff intend to begin filling remaining beds at 166 Industrial Parkway with referrals from the Prevention and Diversion team. (166 Industrial Parkway has a total capacity of 179 beds.)

We will be sure to keep you up to date as this project continues to move forward.