



## **WeShine Service Delivery Model**

**WeShine** will build and operate small-scale transitional shelter sites with basic hygiene, sanitation, social service connections, and other support on private donated or leased land. to provide to adults while they await access to permanent affordable housing. We will prioritize serving vulnerable underserved subsets of the unhoused populations such as BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, persons fleeing interpersonal violence, those with chronic health conditions or disabilities, and transition-age youth or students. Our longer-term vision is to develop and operate a coordinated network of temporary neighborhood-based micro-villages distributed across the Portland area.

Within our temporary villages, we will provide the support necessary to help individuals prepare to re-enter the larger housed community as well as basic hygiene, sanitation and kitchen facilities. The **WeShine** micro-village network will support an ethos that promotes dignity, respect, and community inclusion as we strive for neighborhood betterment and a supportive larger community for all.

### **Description of Micro-village Sites**

**WeShine** minimum site criteria include:

- under-utilized parking lot or unimproved land
- commercial, multi-family residential, or employment zoning or property owned by a religious facility
- minimum of 5,000 sq. ft.
- easy access to public transit as well as to a commercial area with a variety of stores, services, and food sources
- owner willing to consider a 2 year lease.

**WeShine** is open to working in any Portland or metro-area neighborhood with an appropriate site and the ability to recruit and support at least ten dedicated, long term volunteers. Benefits to the property owner include a modest monthly lease

payment, liability insurance, and guest assistance in protecting the property from vandalism and graffiti.

## Micro-Village Description

All **WeShine** micro-villages will include:

- Paid WeShine staff, including a live-in Village Life Coordinators, Service & Resource Coordinator, Maintenance & Support, and Peer Support Specialists working onsite at each village each week ;
- Lockable sleeping pods for each individual or couples. There are two sizes of sleeping pods: 8 x 8 for single adults, and 8 x 10 for two persons or a wheelchair user.

An accessible shower

At least one accessible toilet  
garbage and recycling station

An accessible community service pod for our service partners and private one-to-one meetings

An accessible community building with shared cooking facilities and space for dining and meeting

plantings and artwork to promote sense of community  
a perimeter fence and gate for security and privacy

## **WeShine** Goals

(1) the ***provision of safe, welcoming, empowering shelter*** and amenities.

(2) the ***development of a supportive and positive community*** within each village as well as between the villagers and adjacent/surrounding neighborhoods and faith-based communities.

(3) the creation of a ***person-driven model of self-governance and day to day operations*** that promotes equity and inclusion, as well as mutual respect and support.

(4) the ***provision of the wrap-around support*** for guests of the village to facilitate a successful transition to permanent housing.

(5) the development of a **network** of neighborhood-based transitional micro-villages that reflect the culture and the neighborhood as well as the specific needs of the population served in each village.

(6) to organize its activities, recruit Board members and advisors, hire and support staff, and operate our micro-villages in a manner that reflects our **commitment to inclusion, respect, and fair representation** for all Portlanders.

**WeShine does not offer permanent housing.** Our pods are not tiny houses. They are safe sleeping places. Camping will not be allowed on the property outside or adjacent to our leased area. Villagers, volunteers, and staff will work together to keep the community grounds and parking lots adjacent to the village safe and clean for all.

### **Objectives for Each Micro-village**

Each micro-village will endeavor to:

- a) Enhance mutual engagement between community members, volunteers and guests
- b) Increase mutual understanding and positive regard among and between neighbors, community members, guests, and the property owner
- c) Develop a positive sense of community belonging, support, and acceptance on the part of guests
- d) Support at least 30% of the guests to transition from the micro-village to permanent affordable housing in each 12-month period
- e) Link guests to needed social, behavioral, and health services
- f) Improve guests' health outcomes in terms of decreased emergency room usage, improved adherence to medication regimens, more frequent and regular visits with primary care provider and specialty providers as needed, and linkage to dental and optical services and
- g) Increase guest income due to receipt of public benefits and/or employment.

Staffing for **WeShine** Micro-villages

**WeShine** micro-villages will hire for each village:

- a live-in Village Life Coordinator with lived experience.

- regular on-site presence of service/resource coordination and peer support staff,
- back-up and maintenance staff person

All 4 part-time staff will work on-site an average of 15 hours a week, providing 50-60 hours a week of on-site coverage. The Program Manager will also be on-site at least 10 hours a week.

The four direct-services staff will rotate after-hours coverage, carrying their company cell phone at all times when they are on call. After hours back up to the direct service team will be provided by the Executive Director and the Program Manager.

In addition to WeShine staff, each village will host a variety of volunteers to augment and enrich community life. Examples of the kinds of services volunteers will provide include:

- communal meals
- recreational and social activities
- supporting villagers to engage in arts-related activities, as well as crafts
- helping villagers navigate applying for benefits and services
- accompanying villagers to appointments

A variety of community partnerships will provide specialty or culturally specific services. Examples of the kinds of community partnerships that WeShine and its partner the Parkrose Community United Church of Christ have developed include:

- health-related assessment, treatment and care coordination in partnership with Outside In, nursing education programs, and more
- financial literacy training and coaching
- access to Rent Well classes
- opportunity to participate in a matched savings program
- Community-building activities through gardening and art
- community shower program
- community meal program

**WeShine** will supervise and support the on-site staff and will prioritize hiring individuals who are representative of the population we are serving and who have lived experience of poverty, oppression, behavioral health issues, and /or homelessness.

**WeShine** will provide diverse training resources to our staff, volunteers, and guests to support them to understand and uphold WeShine values and to enhance their readiness to succeed as tenants when they leave the village.

### **Micro-village Intake Process and Expectations**

Each **WeShine** micro-village will be low barrier for entry and will feature supported self-governance.

**WeShine** guests will be required to sign a Good Guest Agreement that stipulates no criminal activity or weapons, no violence, no open use of drugs or alcohol and that they must treat all persons with respect and courtesy. Additional rules may be imposed by the City or by the Village council.

Each micro-village will have a Village Council and guests will be supported to address issues and concerns as they arise and to make decisions regarding the day-to-day operations of their village.

All village guests will contribute to running the Village and keeping it clean, safe, and peaceful for all.

Here are some of the specific expectations of each guest:

- 8 hours of assigned tasks--sweat equity-- within the Village each week
- Cooperate with monthly inspection of your pod
- Attend weekly Village Council meetings
- Participate in weekly check-ins with **WeShine** staff.

Guests will be held accountable for their behavior, as well as that of visitors, and may lose their place in the village or may be suspended temporarily from the property for violations of the Good Guest Agreement or other community rules.

**Population to be served at the Parkrose Community Village: Sexual and Gender minorities (LGBTQIA+) with a priority to serve those who are, in addition to LGBTQIA+-identified, Black, Indigenous, and People of Color, or unsheltered**

**neighbors staying within a one mile radius of our location at 12505 NE Halsey Ave.**

**Steps to Become a WeShine Guest:**

1) **Complete the application.** Answer every question fully. If an application appears incomplete, it will not be processed. We are happy to help folks fill out the application. Call 503-970-2984 or email [Jan@weshinepdx.org](mailto:Jan@weshinepdx.org)

2) **Review the Good Guest Agreement**

3) Provide information about any pet that will live in the village. Any pets accepted in the village must be screened for aggression and other behaviors.

4) If you wish to park a car at the site, provide information about registration, title, insurance, and current driver's license. No parked car may be used as a storage unit. Only guests who use their car to commute to a job, school, or similar commitments will be allowed to apply to park their car at the site.

5) **Complete Interview with Village Intake Committee and Sign the Good Guest Agreement.** At the end of the interview, you will be placed on the waiting list.

6) When you are offered a pod to stay in, you will be accepted on a 60 day trial basis.

7) A Host will be assigned to help you move in and to teach/show you about Village expectations.

8) At the end of the 60 trial period, you will complete a 2<sup>nd</sup> interview. If you are not approved to stay beyond the initial trial period, they will be required to move out within 7 days of the 2<sup>nd</sup> interview.

The current need for shelter units is greater than the supply of village pods. This means that even if the applicant meets our eligibility requirements they may not be accepted at the time they first apply.

However, if applicants complete an interview, their pet has passed our screening, and they agree to sign our Good Guest Agreement, we will keep them on our waiting list for a future opening. We will also try to direct them to other villages or alternative shelter programs. We will make every effort to keep our waiting list short so that applicants will have real hope of being offered an opening within 6 to 12 months.