



August 18, 2023

SLVCEH statement on Sanctioned Encampment plans

The Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) understands that plans are moving forward to create structured sanctioned encampments within Salt Lake City. We recognize the need to provide for the health and safety of those experiencing unsheltered homelessness while maintaining our commitment to supporting long-term solutions which will prevent and end homelessness, in accordance with the State strategic plan. There is a great and immediate need for deeply affordable housing and supportive services and that will remain our primary focus.

As we have worked with local municipalities to plan our Winter Response we are looking at our current emergency shelter programs and the options to increase capacity during extreme temperatures. We are also working to permanently increase low-barrier, non-congregate interim housing options for medically vulnerable persons and families which were proven as an effective crisis intervention during the COVID-19 pandemic, and would provide ongoing relief of system capacity constraints.

While we have concerns regarding sanctioned encampments, we intend to be at the table when our partners are discussing low barrier solutions to unsheltered homelessness. The SLVCEH is supportive of creative solutions as an interim measure while deeply affordable housing is being developed and is committed to providing input on any plans to develop a sanctioned encampment or other low barrier options. We will advocate for the planning to include budgeting for exits to permanent housing with adequate services for camp residents so that the goal of long-term stability is prioritized.

As Salt Lake City and the Utah State Office of Homeless Services are leading out on the planning and funding process for structured sanctioned encampments and non-congregant shelter alternatives, the conversation is being hosted by those government entities who are leading this effort. Therefore, the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness will not be forming a task group around sanctioned encampments. Instead, we encourage coalition members, advocates, and community members to support and engage with the process set forth by Salt Lake City and the Office of Homeless Services.

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Jennifer Campbell (Aug 23, 2023 10:50 MDT)

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