

PORTLAND MOBILE LAUNDRY

Homelessness and Urban Camping Impact Reduction Program, OMF, BIBS and the office Mayor Ted Wheeler



Proposal

The purpose of this proposal is to request a six-month pilot program that would include purchasing mobile laundry trailers to provide crucial sanitation services to houseless individuals in the city of Portland. Currently, laundry is ranked as the highest need for homeless individuals – with laundry ranked by 82% of houseless citizens of Portland as their highest need.¹ Further, adequate laundry facilities are important in reducing transmission of ectoparasites and bacterial infections² within the houseless community, and reducing exposure by the public to dirty laundry left in parks, city streets, and natural areas. Laundry services would significantly reduce the amount of money spent by City Bureau's on the cleanup of discarded, dirty laundry. Finally, access to laundry would increase human dignity for unhoused citizens of the City of Portland; reducing barriers to employment and housing access.

The mobility of a laundry trailer would allow the City to provide laundry services across multiple populations of houseless individuals; providing sanitation and outreach services for those living on the streets, as well as those accessing other sanitation services such as day services, as well as providing laundry washing services to houseless children at Portland Public schools.

This proposal purchases one laundry trailer and contracts with Central City of Concern (CCC) to provide clothes washing services.

Problem Statement

The City of Portland's Bureau's spent approximately \$866,957 in the fiscal year of 2017 on cleaning up property and trash left by homeless individuals in illegal campsites in the City of Portland. It is estimated that approximately 70% of these cleanup costs are associated with dirty and used laundry.

Objectives

- Address public health hazards including public exposure to MRSA, ectoparasites, Hepatitis A, B, and C
- Eliminate barriers to employment and housing services related to lack of access to clean clothing
- Reduce the cost associated with used clothing clean up

Intended Benefits

- Reduction of biohazard exposure
- Access to crucial sanitation services for homeless individuals
- Increasing livability for Portland communities
- Mitigation of future environmental impact
- Limit cleanup costs associated with dirty clothing disposal

The laundry trailers and CCC would provide:

- Daily laundry services from 8am to 4pm, Monday through Friday
- Bags for trash collection and disposal
- Sharps containers for discarded needles

Staffing costs include having a social services attendant on site always to connect individuals to resources, and to ensure appropriate use of the facilities.

DESCRIPTION	COST
34' 10 station laundry trailer with 900 gallon waste tank	\$61,354
Central City Concern – Personnel/Operation Cost	\$48,325
NRC Grey Water Disposal	\$14,160
City Water	\$300
(1)3000-Watt Industrial Generator	\$1439
Generator Operating Cost (2)	\$600
10% Contingency	\$12,618
TOTAL	\$138,796
<i>One Time Investment</i>	<i>\$62,793</i>
<i>6-Month Operating Cost</i>	<i>\$76,003</i>

¹ Hawash, L., Goes Behind, L., Kimball, E., *Portland Hygiene Project*

² Leibler, J., Nguyen, D., Leon, C., Gaeta, J., Perez, D, *Personal Hygiene Practices among Urban Homeless in Boston, MA, 2017*