



March 5, 2024

SB 542, Troy Anderson, City of Wichita, Before the Senate Ways and Means Committee

Homelessness is a pervasive and pressing issue that affects individuals and families across Kansas, creating a cycle of despair that is difficult to break. The COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated this crisis, leaving many vulnerable citizens without a safe and secure place to call home. As we strive for economic recovery, it is crucial that we prioritize the well-being of those who are most in need.

Our existing homeless shelters play a pivotal role in providing essential services such as emergency shelter, meals, medical care, and support services. However, the demand for these services far exceeds the current capacity of our shelters. Insufficient funding has led to overcrowded facilities and limited resources, making it challenging for these shelters to meet the growing needs of our homeless population.

By investing in our homeless shelters that focus on housing solutions with appropriate levels of supportive services, we can make significant strides towards breaking the cycle of homelessness and empowering individuals to rebuild their lives. Capital funding would allow shelters to expand their capacity, improve living conditions, and provide comprehensive support services such as mental health counseling, job training, and assistance with finding permanent housing.

Moreover, allocating additional resources to homeless shelters aligns with our shared values as a compassionate and caring community. It sends a powerful message that we are committed to addressing the root causes of homelessness and creating a society where every individual has the opportunity to lead a dignified life.

The City of Wichita is working to build the Multi-Agency Center (the MAC), a one-stop shop to provide a comprehensive approach to addressing homelessness, including short term congregate and non-congregate shelter, permanent housing units, and a cooperative space for social service agencies to provide wrap-around services. Conventional resources have been identified for the permanent housing units and federal HOME-ARP funds are a unique opportunity for the construction of non-congregate shelter units. However, funds are needed to build congregate shelter and the cooperative space for social services. The impact and success of this project is greatly hindered without these components.

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Persona 2: Episodic Homelessness



Jack is a 48-year-old who used to be a full time construction worker. After being injured on the job, he became addicted to illicit substances to deal with the pain. He still works odd jobs when he can, but his substance abuse issues and his chronic pain make this difficult. He pays month-to-month when he does get an apartment, but sometimes other expenses, such as medical bills, mean he loses his housing and periodically finds himself homeless.



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Persona 3: Chronic Homelessness



Jared was diagnosed with schizophrenia in his mid-20s. Because of a lack of understanding among his family, and few resources available to him at the time, he turned to drugs to help him cope. His mental illness and his drug habits mean he is no longer welcome with them, and he has been living on the street for years. It is difficult for Jared to adhere to rules imposed by most shelters. He has been connected to public resources by social workers, but he finds it difficult to show up to appointments, consistently take medication or otherwise care for himself.



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Persona 4: Hidden Homelessness



Josh is an 18-year-old who has had to leave home due to family circumstances. He is working a minimum wage job but can't afford higher education or trade programs to give him upward mobility. He stays on his friends' couches and sometimes in his car. He is saving up as much as he can from his job, but he has no credit built up and no past rental references, so a rental deposit will be more expensive when he finds an apartment complex willing to rent to him.



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Lack of Infrastructure



Congregate Shelter Target:

50-100 beds

Non-Congregate Target:

50-100 single bed units

Low-Income Housing:

260 housing units



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Project Influences




Haven for Hope
San Antonio, TX

Julia Orlando Consulting
Bergen County, NJ



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The Project

Additional Housing



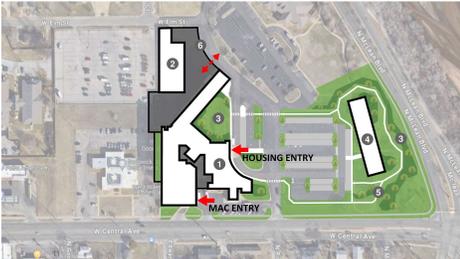
Multi-Agency Campus (MAC)





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The Project



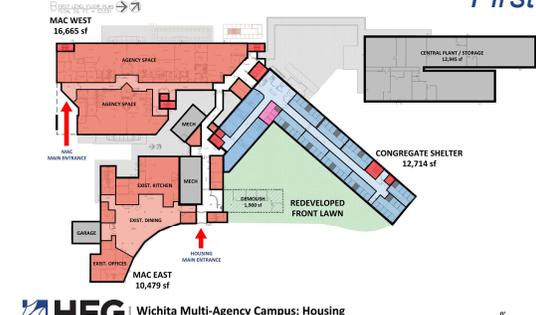
Key Notes:

- 1) Multi-Agency Center
Includes: MAC, Congregate Shelter, Non-Congregate Shelter, and Supportive Low-Income Housing
- 2) Existing Central Plant
- 3) Redeveloped Landscaping
- 4) New Low-Income Housing
- 5) Walking Path
- 6) Secure Perimeter



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First Level:



MAC WEST 16,665 sf
MAC EAST 10,479 sf
CONGREGATE SHELTER 12,714 sf
CENTRAL PLANT / STORAGE 12,892 sf

AGENCY SPACE, MECH, DRINKING WATER, RESTROOMS, WAITING, DINING, DAY ROOM, CLASSROOM / CONFERENCE, SUPPORT, INTAKE, SUPPORT, CONGREGATE SHELTER, CONGREGATE SHELTER

REDEVELOPED FRONT LAWN

HFG architecture | Wichita Multi-Agency Campus: Housing
West River Plaza Sketch
03/02/2024

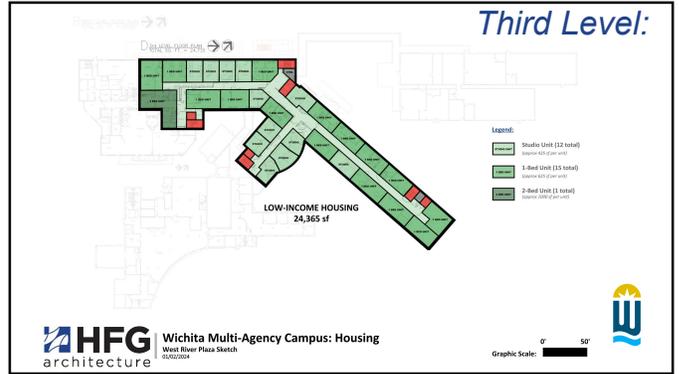
Graphic Scale: 0' 50'



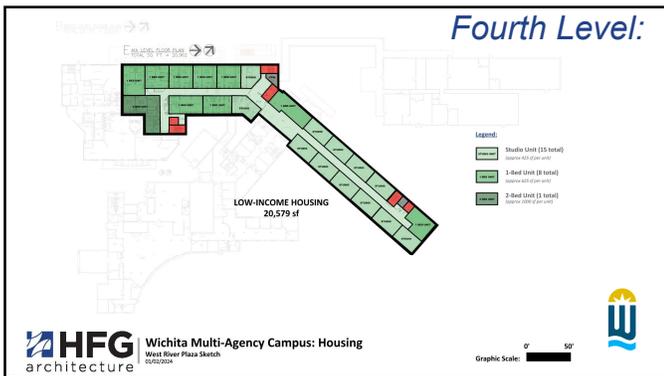
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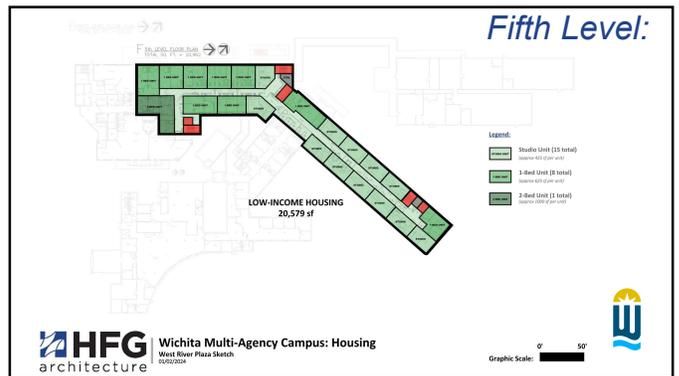
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Operations and Maintenance

- Organizational Structure
- Revenues and Expenses
 - Deliberately designed to re-invest all proceeds directly back into supporting MAC operations.
 - This in conjunction with other budget commitments from the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County



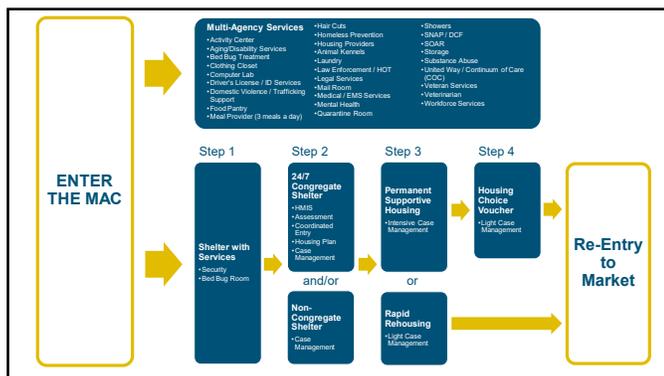
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Enforcement

- 9th Circuit Court
- City Codes and Ordinances
 - Camping
 - Loitering
 - Trespassing



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Conclusion

Q&A



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