



- **What is the Somerville Homeless Coalition (SHC)?**
 - SHC has proudly provided emergency shelter, resources, support, wraparound services, food for the hungry, eviction prevention and housing solutions to unhoused individuals in Somerville since 1985. You can visit our website at www.shcinc.org
- **Where is SHC's adult shelter located now, and where is it moving to?**
 - SHC is relocating its adult shelter from 64 College Avenue to First Church of Somerville, located one block away at 89 College Avenue.
- **What is the timeline for this project?**
 - SHC began renovations in June and expects renovations to be completed in late September.
- **When will SHC's guests move to the new location at 89 College Avenue?**
 - SHC expects that guests will move into the new shelter approximately on October 1st.
- **What is a low barrier/low threshold emergency shelter?**
 - SHC's shelter is a low barrier/low threshold facility, which means SHC has minimal restrictions for admission. SHC aims to remove as many barriers as possible for individuals experiencing homelessness to be able to access a safe place to sleep, take a shower, eat meals and receive essential services and support that leads to stability.
- **Why is SHC moving its adult shelter?**
 - SHC's current shelter facility, which is located in part of a basement, has been falling into disrepair, with minimal ability to make expansive improvements or updates over nearly 40 years - placing its sustainability at-risk. Additionally, the space is not handicapped accessible and cannot accommodate an expansion. To continue providing a safe and healthy environment for the city's most vulnerable individuals, and to help meet Somerville's growing need for shelter beds, SHC is in urgent need of a larger, ADA-accessible facility.
- **How many guests will the new adult shelter be able to support?**
 - As part of this relocation, SHC will be expanding the number of beds from 16 to 26 (20 males/6 females) to increase the number of unhoused individuals SHC can support at any given time in our shelter. At the same time, SHC is increasing staffing capacity to effectively support the expansion.
- **What will be the primary benefits of moving the shelter?**
 - SHC has never been able to accommodate individuals with disabilities associated with ambulation, and our new shelter will be the first ADA-accessible adult shelter in



Somerville. This will help fill an urgent need to support vulnerable members of our population who have struggled to access SHC's existing shelter. It will also allow SHC to meet the anticipated increase in accessibility needs as elder homelessness rises dramatically in our area.

- **Why was First Church Somerville (FCS) selected as the location of the new shelter?**
 - Moving to FCS is a natural step, given the longstanding partnership and aligned missions between SHC and FCS, and it meets the city's needs for more beds for the unhoused. FCS and SHC have been partners for over 25 years and FCS has available space that is accessible.

- **What has been the timeline of the project to date?**
 - There is an urgent need for relocating the shelter given the state of disrepair of the current shelter facility and the immediate demand for additional accessible shelter beds. Through a time-dependent grant earmarked for increased shelter capacity, SHC was provided an opportunity to deliver a solution in a shorter timeframe than SHC had previously envisioned. A building permit was issued on June 13th enabling SHC to begin renovations while meeting the terms of the grant. On June 14th FCS/SHC notified abutters with a letter with a way in which for them to ask questions and provide feedback about the project regarding operations of the shelter in advance of the shelter's scheduled relocation on/around October 1st.

- **What steps will be taken to ensure the shelter is safe for neighbors and the community?**
 - SHC is committed to the safety of all our shelter guests and neighbors. SHC will maintain that commitment as SHC relocates its shelter to FCS. SHC has strong guest-related policies and protocols that are already in place and which have been successful for many years. SHC will continuously assess these measures and make necessary adjustments for the new location.

- **What is SHC doing about trash removal and pest control at the new shelter?**
 - SHC contracts with a trash removal company and pest management service at the current shelter location to proactively address any issues that could arise. SHC will continue this practice at FCS. Given increased capacity, SHC will also continuously assess the need for more barrels and/or increased frequency of barrel pick-up and more comprehensive pest control, if needed.

- **How can neighbors and community members share their feedback and further questions?**
 - Neighbors and community members can send questions or feedback at any time to SHC at info@shcinc.org and FCS at office@firstchurchsomerville.org