

RCCI identifies site for proposed transformation campus

Nov. 2, 2017

Since the start of 2017, Rapid City Collective Impact has explored the feasibility of creating a campus that could serve homeless and often homeless individuals by providing transitional housing and wrap-around services in one place. RCCI is pleased to announce today that it has identified a 4-acre property near the heart of the city for the future site of this transformation campus.

The proposed campus will encompass the majority of the former National American University properties, spanning much of the 100 to 300 blocks along the south side of Kansas City Street. *(See map below.)* It will neighbor and complement Pennington County's Community Restoration Center, a facility that will house the Crisis Care Center, safe beds and other programs. The restoration center is slated to open in May 2018; the transformation campus could open as early as March 2019.

"Being centrally located, the residents of the proposed campus will have better access to services and resources that the campus itself cannot provide – namely jobs, a connection to the community by being close to downtown, and access to the transit system," RCCI project manager Charity Doyle said.

Background

The latest U.S. Census data says 15.2 percent of Rapid City's population lives in poverty – the equivalent of more than 11,000 people. While only a fraction of them actually live "on the street," a large number live in cars, in residential motels, doubled-up with others or in sub-standard rentals. Many of our neighbors are classified as "working poor." They are employed but unable to earn enough to climb above the poverty line. They often lose heart, and they eventually lose hope.

The mission of the proposed transformation campus is to elevate the human spirit and the spirit of the Rapid City community. It has been the intent of RCCI from its inception to not only improve quality of life for all who live here, but ultimately make Rapid City the most caring community of its size. More than two years of data collection and conversations led by the RCCI team have shown a need for a campus that can better serve the most vulnerable among us.

What's Next

No one group or agency alone can be as effective as we can be together. In the coming months, RCCI project manager Charity Doyle will continue working with service providers to determine which organizations will be housed on the proposed campus and how the overall design of the campus will best suit the needs of clients and agencies alike. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin next summer.



For more information on the proposed transformation campus, contact Charity Doyle at 791-3034 or charity@rccimpact.org. For information on other RCCI-related efforts, contact communications director Julie Oberlander at joberlander@rccimpact.org.

Future Site of Transformation Campus – Courtesy of RapidMap