



FAQ: 66 West Apartments

66 West Apartments is affordable housing with services for young adults who have experienced homelessness. The overall goal is to support the tenants to be responsible for their futures and develop the skills to be financially independent – thereby ending the cycle of homelessness.

Where is 66 West?

Beacon is acquiring a site on 66th Street across from Southdale Mall. It's a great location because of access to hundreds of jobs in the surrounding area and to public transportation. We are planning for 39 studio apartments that include a bathroom and kitchenette.

Who will live there?

The target population is young adults between 18 and 22 years old from the southwest suburbs who have experienced homelessness. They will work and pay rent. Many will also go to school, such as post-secondary education or a GED completion program. Rent and services are structured to encourage tenants to move on when they are prepared to live financially independently – usually in a year or two.

What are the expectations of tenants?

Tenants must sign a lease, pay rent and follow property management rules. Applicants will be screened including conducting criminal background checks. 66 West will have the basic rules of all apartment buildings – not playing music too loud, putting garbage in the dumpster, keeping your unit clean, etc. The building will be no-smoking and drug- and alcohol-free. Tenants who don't meet the expectations and community guidelines may be asked to leave.

Is this a shelter?

No. 66 West is an apartment building designed for long-term tenants focused on their education and careers.

Why this location?

Though it's usually not obvious, there are youth experiencing homelessness in Edina and nearby communities, yet there are few affordable housing options for them in the southwest suburbs. The location near Southdale is ideal because it's close to year-round job opportunities at the mall, the hospital and other nearby businesses with access to good public transportation.

Contact Michael Ohama for more info at 651-789-6260 x214 or visit www.beaconinterfaith.org



Are tenants from Edina?

They are likely to be from Edina, Richfield, Bloomington, Hopkins, St. Louis Park or another suburb, as we expect most of the referrals from suburban service providers such as Avenues for Youth, Oasis for Youth or Teens Alone, or from Hennepin County social workers.

Where are these youth now?

Many “couch-hop,” meaning that they stay with friends for days, weeks or months until they are no longer welcome. Some are in temporary shelter; others may be staying in cars, camping outside or riding buses all night.

Why are they homeless?

When young adults and youth are homeless, it’s usually because leaving home seems safer than staying with their family. The reasons may include parental violence or drug or alcohol abuse (or that of parents’ friends or partners); parents’ intolerance of their child’s sexual orientation; significant financial problems causing family stress.

What are other examples of this kind of housing?

We have successfully created supportive housing for young adults at Nicollet Square in the Kingfield neighborhood of south Minneapolis using a similar model. Tenants are successfully achieving educational and career goals and most move into stable housing after a year or two there. The Kingfield Neighborhood Association is a strong supporter of Nicollet Square.

What services are offered?

The building will be staffed by specialists in serving the unique needs of these young adults. These professionals strive to create a sense of belonging and place for residents as well as healthy relationships between youth and caring adults. Supportive services are available to help tenants find and keep a job, learn budgeting and pursue their educational goals. The outcome is that that community creates an engaging, safe “home” environment with ample opportunities for youth to learn the skills needed for lifelong independence and success.

Will the building be professionally managed?

Yes. All Beacon housing is managed by a professional, on-site property manager. Staffing will include weekends and evenings. The building will be secure and accessible only to tenants and their guests, within building guidelines. The property manager is the contact person for any tenant or neighbor with a question or concern about the building’s maintenance or security.

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