

Emergency Housing Shelter provides “Next Step Up” for those with housing challenges

What:

The Medina Metropolitan Housing Authority (MMHA) is pleased to announce that construction has started on the county’s first emergency housing shelter. The shelter, known as Next Step Up, is located on Walter Road in the building that formerly housed MMHA’s administrative offices. The shelter will provide a minimum of 27 beds for men, women and children in need. The facility will be pet-friendly and supportive services will be provided through a network of local agencies.

Why:

The shelter reflects the community’s collective concern for individuals and families with housing challenges. MMHA receives an average of 58 calls each month from those experiencing a housing crisis. Elected officials, social service agencies, local businesses and other organizations came together to make this long-awaited and much-needed housing resource a reality. The 2023 class of Leadership Medina, convinced of the need for the shelter, lent its support by created and implementing a marketing plan to increase community support and awareness.

Who:

A new nonprofit corporation, **Next Step Up, Inc.**, has been established to provide operational oversight and administrative guidance to the Authority. As a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, Next Step Up will also accept contributions and raise funds for the operation of the shelter. MMHA will retain ownership of the building and provide staffing and maintenance.



Floor plan of the Emergency Housing Shelter. Drawing provided by TC Architects of Akron, Ohio.

How:

Financial support for the project has been received from the Medina County Commissioners and the State of Ohio. MMHA is grateful to State Representative Sharon Ray (R-66), and State Senator Mark Romanchuk (R-22) for their support and assistance with securing funding for the emergency shelter, and to the City of Medina for assistance with zoning. The projected budget for constructing the shelter is \$2.05 million.

When:

Construction on the shelter began in March 2024 and is expected to be done in December. Plans are for the shelter to open its doors in January 2025.

How you can help:

Next Step Up, Inc. will soon be accepting financial contributions that will be used to assist in shelter operations. At this time, we are not accepting in-kind donations, but expect to publish a “wish list” closer to the opening of the shelter. **Interested in learning more?** Please send an email to NextStepUp@mmha.org. Your name will be added to a routine email updating you to everything happening on Medina County’s first Emergency Housing Shelter!