



## WASHINGTON GORGE ACTION PROGRAMS

The Community Action Agency for Skamania and Klickitat Counties

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To the members of Stevenson City Council,

Washington Gorge Action Programs is requesting \$15,000 to fund our 2022-2023 winter warming shelter project.

This will be our third year operating a warming shelter in Skamania County.

In the first year, we partnered with Skamania County to use the empty building located at 702 Rock Creek Drive. In the second year, due to Covid-19, we changed our model and instead of using a static location we changed to utilizing hotels as shelter to avoid potential exposure. While this model did work and kept clients and staff safe, it was unwieldy to manage and was very costly.

This year we would like to return to our original model but in order to do so we need to be able to cover personnel expenses of those who will staff the shelter onsite. For safety reasons, we must have at least two persons working together at all times. In the past, we have relied heavily on volunteers but with Covid-19 still being a threat, people are less likely to volunteer which means we need to pay two staff members.

As we know, winters in the Gorge can be extreme and they are very unkind to those who are out in the elements. We want to bring our houseless neighbors in from the cold, provide them with a safe place to rest and warm food and beverages.

WAGAP has strong partnerships with other community serving organizations throughout the Gorge and we have modeled our shelter after the Hood River Warming Shelter model which has 10+ years of experience. They have been very kind to share their policies and procedures with us which helped tremendously when we were first starting. We are also able to refer clients back and forth as necessary and depending on client need.

Based on previous years we expect that we will serve 5-15 clients per night.

We appreciate you considering our request and look forward to partnering with you to ensure all of our neighbors are safe and warm.

Respectfully,

Leslie Naramore  
Executive Director  
Washington Gorge Action Programs