



April 2, 2020

TO: Mayor Wheeler, Chair Kafoury, and Marc Jolin
CC: Seraphie Allen, Lucas Hillier
FROM: Central Eastside Together/Central Eastside Industrial Council
RE: Immediate needs for houseless community support in the CEID

Working collaboratively with our partners, the Central Eastside Together Safety for All team is connecting every day with our houseless neighbors in the District in order to understand and address their most urgent needs during this time of unprecedented crisis. The team is part of the effort of the Joint Office of Houseless Services to provide information about the Oregon Health Authority's COVID-19 policies as well as supplies such as hand sanitizer and blankets. The team is also sharing updates about food services, open bottle drop locations, and emergency hygiene centers.

Listening to the most vulnerable people in our community, we have identified the following issues that need to be addressed to keep all of our community members safe:

- **Increase in the number of hygiene centers.** While some emergency stations have been created for people to wash hands and use the bathroom, they are not adequate considering that many dining halls, shelters, and day centers are no longer open. More portable restrooms and places for handwashing are required in increasingly populated areas for people to be able to adhere to guidelines related to COVID-19.
- **Creation of emergency bottle drop centers.** The closure of so many bottle drop locations is impacting people who rely on this source of income for their daily survival. In addition, they are unable to transport their bottles via public transportation, creating an additional barrier. Additional emergency bottle drop centers throughout the city will help to lower these barriers.
- **Funding for a COVID-19 hotline with Portland Street Medicine.** With increased burdens on the healthcare system locally, it is imperative that people of all socio-economic situations have access to care. Portland Street Medicine's COVID-19 hotline will serve as a bridge to people that are not historically in the system and provide them with critical, responsive guidance and services. We willing to devote staff time to this effort through our Central Eastside Together programs.
- **Availability of charging stations.** With the loss of access to libraries, day centers and other facilities, people are unable to charge their devices. Most are unable to charge on private property because of trespassing issues. This reduces ability of those

experiencing houselessness to stay connected, such as phone appointments with their health care and mental health providers and staying up to date with important news. Providing charging stations will help to address this issue.

We want to support our houseless neighbors and are open to exploring innovative partnerships. While the extent of the impact of COVID-19 is yet to be known, together, we can proactively address immediate needs to mitigate the harm on the most vulnerable people in our community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deane Funk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Deane" and the last name "Funk" clearly distinguishable.

Deane Funk
CEIC Board President