



## Permanent Supportive Housing FAQ 1.

**1. What is permanent supportive housing?** Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is the term used to describe housing provided to persons or households that include persons who are disabled and low-income and are now or have previously been homeless. Participants pay rent according to their income ability and may live in the housing indefinitely if they follow policies and the terms of their lease. In addition to housing, PSH participants receive supportive services to help them maintain stability and meet goals.

**2. Define “supportive.”** Services are tailored toward helping participants gain the skills necessary to be able to participate in their lives and the life of their community in productive, positive, and meaningful ways. Staff, often called case managers, work as connectors to services and spend time assisting participants as they goal set and stabilize. Supportive Services may include:

- recovery support
- financial literacy training
- connections to health care services
- parenting education
- connections to mental health services
- assistance obtaining employment.

**3. What does stability look like?** Participants work on developing and achieving life goals with the assistance of a case manager. Depending on their unique circumstances: these goals might be related to financial stability, health stability, housing stability, family stability, education, employment, and other areas of life skills.

**4. Who is eligible for Permanent Supportive Housing?** Participants in Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) are individuals or families who must meet two important criteria. One, they have experienced long term homelessness. Two, the individual or someone in the household is living with a disability that affects one or more major life functions. The individual or family must also meet income criteria to qualify for a unit. Permanent Supportive Housing has been proven nationwide as the best response for helping these families or individuals to obtain and maintain safe housing, thereby allowing them to stay stable, safe, and healthy. This has been proven particularly true for individuals or families with multiple episodes of homelessness.

**5. Why is The Commons being built in this area?** Homeward Pikes Peak as been an active participant working to reduce homelessness in our community and to provide solutions to those who do experience homelessness since 2002. HPP purchased the land and began the planning process for this site due to its proximity to public transportation, schools, health care and grocery stores. Our long history of working with homeless and low-income adults and families and Veterans , makes us uniquely positioned to develop housing designed to meet the needs of these individuals and families. Colorado Springs currently has two other Permanent Supportive Housing programs, and this type of program is working

to keep individuals housed and safe. However, there is still a gap between the amount of affordable housing available in the Colorado Springs and the need for it.

**6. How do you make sure you are not enabling abuse of a system?** Residents will pay 30% of their income in rent; their rent will increase with their income. Some participants will use PSH as a steppingstone, moving on to other housing options in the community. For others PSH will be the best long term housing option, with the community and social service supports helping them and their children stay stable, meet goals and live healthy lives. Permanent Supportive Housing is a strengths-based approach that focuses on and encourages participants to use and develop their strengths to set and achieve goals and learn appropriate life skills. These skills include successfully living in community, which means learning accountability to themselves, neighbors, and program staff. PSH participants must comply with landlord/tenant laws and program policies and can be asked to leave if they violate said rules or laws, especially if they present a danger to the health and safety of other participants.

**7. Will people pay rent?** Yes, participants will pay one third of their income in rent. This will encourage participants to be invested in their homes and help fund the needs of the project, including staff costs.

**8. How big will The Commons be?** Phase One of The Commons will be 50 apartments including 25 one-bedrooms, 13 two-bedrooms, and 12 three-bedrooms apartments. There will be office space, community space parking lot, gardens, and a playground for residents to use. Phase Two of The Commons will be 69 apartments. It will include 37 one-bedrooms, 16 two bedrooms, and 16 three-bedroom apartments. Residents of the Phase two will use the community space planned for and constructed in phase one.

**9. Will there be 24 -hour staff?** YES, Staff schedules will be established to provide overnight staffing and support for residents as well as providing three fulltime case managers. There will also be fulltime property management on site.

**10. Does the project have any community partners?** Yes, The Commons has agreements from several other organizations who will be partnering with Homeward Pokes Peak and Rocky Mountain Communities to ensure this project is successful. These partners include Peak Vista Community Health Centers, Diversus Health (formerly AspenPointe), Catholic Charities, Brothers Redevelopment, The Pikes Peak Continuum of Care, and the City of Colorado Springs.