

TINY HOUSES

Western South Dakota Community Action

Region 8 • Rapid City, SD
wsdca.org



Homeless • Housing

INITIATIVE OVERVIEW

The Western South Dakota Community Action (WSDCA) has partnered with the South Dakota School of Mines and Technology and B&T Manufacturing to design and build Tiny Houses in Rapid City, South Dakota. These Tiny Houses will be made available for homeless individuals to transition from homelessness to homeownership. The project includes intensive wraparound services to help facilitate success for these individuals. Current plans include five homes to be built on donated land, with the aim of creating a Tiny House neighborhood.

LOCAL NEED ADDRESSED

The local need for quality, stable housing for unhoused community members was identified via Community Needs Assessments, Point-in-Time (PIT) count results and consultation with the local CAA, law enforcement, and other service agencies. Homelessness continues to be a major issue in the community of Rapid City.

ROLE OF CSBG FUNDS

CSBG Funds are utilized in the administration and planning of this project.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

The team and partners assigned to this project include the city, School of Mines professors and students, and an engineering company, as well as local law enforcement, the city of Rapid City, and Community Action staff and board members. The



Tiny Houses project is designed to enable homeless or previously homeless individuals to own their own home. In the “Housing First” model of services, once an individual is out of crisis and no longer wondering where they are going to sleep, the rest of the areas of their life improve. Because empty lots are used for the project, Tiny Houses will improve the aesthetic of the neighborhood while providing security and safety for new residents.

EVIDENCE-BASED OUTCOMES

This project is still in the planning phase but will easily have data to establish impact once the project is underway. The intensive wraparound case management included as an integral part of this project will provide much of the necessary data.

EQUITY LENS

Demographic data will be collected. Demographic data has identified that the Native American community comprises much of the local homeless population. The project expects to focus on the highest-need ethnic groups for this project.

CUSTOMER VOICE

The project is guided by an advisory group consisting of South Dakota School of Mines students and professors, WSDCA staff, and staff at B&T Manufacturing. As the project progresses, additional partners will be brought to the table. The project also has a “Sweat Equity” element where unhoused individuals can help with construction as part of the cost of the home.

Contact

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