

Update – Flurry of activity at Camp Hope this week including badging system, Good Neighbor agreement, needs assessments and more

WSDOT and its state, local and nonprofit partners continue working to make visible progress towards stabilizing Camp Hope while we work towards the longer-term shared community goal of closing the encampment as part of the state [Right of Way Safety Initiative](#). This joint effort – and update – includes work and information from WSDOT, the state Department of Commerce, the Washington State Patrol and on-the-ground resource provider Empire Health Foundation, Commerce's contractor providing on-the-ground resources at the encampment.

Identification badge system, census, Good Neighbor agreement and rules and needs assessment

A Camp Hope specific [identification badge system](#) arrived on Monday, Oct. 17, and service providers started the process of issuing badges to those living within the encampment.

Signing Good Neighbor Agreement/Rules

Prior to receiving a badge, individuals living onsite must agree to and sign the Good Neighbor Agreement/Rules. The [Good Neighbor Agreement/Rules](#) require those living onsite to adhere to rules such as:

1. Follow all laws when you are at or around the site; you understand that laws will be enforced onsite
2. No possession, use or consumption of drugs or alcohol on the site;
3. Agree to working with staff to come up with a housing/stability plan;

By signing the agreement, residents acknowledge that they will be held accountable to these rules for the good of the community both within and outside of Camp Hope. If the rules are not followed, it may lead to individuals being asked to leave the site.

As of end of day Tuesday, 148 people living at Camp Hope had signed the agreement and received an ID badge. This work continues throughout the week.

Completion of Needs Assessment

Individuals living onsite will also complete a [Needs Assessment](#) with the help of service providers as part of the process to receive a Camp Hope ID badge. The Needs Assessment collects necessary data on the demographics of the individuals living within Camp Hope and articulates what services each individual needs. Those services are broad and include things like bus passes, health insurance, mental health counseling, substance use treatment, first aid and other items and more detail about their specific individual history and story. The Needs Assessment is critical to developing the individual plans necessary to get residents on a path to success to help prevent a return to living homeless.

Issuance of Camp Hope specific identification

Once these steps have been taken, providers will create and distribute Camp Hope identification badges with the purpose of having a clear census of how many people are living at the encampment. This is an important measure so that service providers know exactly how many individuals are living homeless within the site requiring safe housing options and services. The unofficial ID badges also are a tool to aid in security measures to determine who should/shouldn't be at the encampment, identify who wants to take a positive next step toward stabilization, help create a sense of order and engagement and also will effectively close the site to "new" residents.

State-issued identification

On Wednesday, Oct. 19, state Departments of Licensing and Health employees will be at Camp Hope again to assist those living onsite with acquiring replacement or renewal state-issued identification cards (DOL) and birth certificates (DOH). Many living within Camp Hope previously had an ID or driver's license, most in Washington, but no longer have the card in their possession. Lack of official ID represents a major hurdle for those living homeless who want to take a positive step toward stabilization and long-term housing because IDs are critical to employment, medical care and housing. DOL employees will be onsite for the next two Wednesdays to continue this process with the overall goal of connecting those at the encampment to services and housing.

RV removal

Three vacant RVs that were parked on property adjacent to Camp Hope have been removed. As people living in RVs at the encampment transition into shelters or housing, those vacated RVs will be removed from the property.

Sign-up for future email updates

If you would like to receive regular communication about what's happening at Camp Hope, please sign up for our email listserv:

https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/WADOT/subscriber/new?topic_id=WADOT_706.

Early work and partnerships moving this work forward

It's important to highlight the shared cooperation between those living homeless within Camp Hope, our service providers and WSDOT, Commerce and WSP as it represents mutual collaboration to improve conditions for those within and outside of Camp Hope. We continue to work with the city and local partners to identify viable housing solutions for all of those living homeless within Camp Hope.

This work doesn't happen overnight, and it is because of discussions and funding that began this spring that we're at these new milestones. We look forward to more productive meetings with local leaders to continue these efforts.

Please refer to our [blog](#) for more details on the state's Right of Way Safety Initiative.

Camp Hope milestones

