

October 30, 2025

The proposed East County Homeless Resource Center (Cook Plaza) in the Rockwood neighborhood of Gresham will not move forward as planned. In a vote today on the Homeless Services Department budget during Multnomah County's fall budget rebalance process, the Board chose to repurpose the funds to fill critical gaps left by State revenue shortages.

In consultation with District 4 Commissioner Vince Jones-Dixon, Chair Jessica Vega Pederson authorized a 90-day pause on the project in June so that the Commissioner could respond to community questions and concerns. He led a series of meetings to engage the community and understand their needs.

Commissioner Jones-Dixon noted, "While funding certainly played a role in this decision, the participation and engagement by community members in District 4 was a critical element. The conversations we had highlighted the necessity of regular communication, close partnership, and a clear understanding of current community needs as new services are designed and implemented. I'm pleased that this decision is reflective of the consistent and reasonable feedback we heard, as well as sensitive to current budget conditions, and I thank the Chair and the Homeless Services Department for their work."

"I appreciate the partnership with Commissioner Jones-Dixon as we worked together to be responsive to community feedback and the unique needs of Gresham and East Portland," said Multnomah County Chair Jessica Vega Pederson. "I look forward to our continued collaboration that will ensure we provide the services best suited to address homelessness and poverty in District 4."

Despite the move away from the proposed Homeless Resource Center, the County's Homeless Services Department (HSD) is committed to providing the services East County community members want and need, in alignment with the feedback and in coordination with East County jurisdictional partners.

Sincerely,



Vince Jones-Dixon,
Commissioner, District 4



Jessica Vega Pederson,
Multnomah County Chair