

Mt. Airy Center for Homeless Men

It's estimated that nearly 20,000 Hamilton County residents will be homeless sometime this year. Shelters and services to help this growing population are limited. Mt. Airy Center is one of them.

Mt. Airy Center has been serving the homeless since 1937. Today, Mt. Airy works exclusively with homeless men to provide emergency shelter, short term transitional housing, and social services that help clients solve many of the problems that have left them with no place to call home. These services are provided at no cost to our residents. Mt. Airy maintains 65 beds and is occupied at rates greater than 97 per cent. The Center can not accept sexual offenders, arsonists, or men with open felony or misdemeanor warrants.

Mt. Airy Center accepts donations of men's clothing, shoes, coats, toiletries, bedding materials, and non-perishable food. Call the Mt. Airy Center for details at (513) 661-4620.

Who are the residents of Mt. Airy?

The men who come to Mt. Airy Center represent many cultures, races and ages:

- The average age is 46 years old.
- The minimum age is 18.
- More than 75 percent have a 12th grade education.
- Forty percent are veterans.
- Sixty-five percent have substance abuse issues.
- Twenty percent have mental health issues.
- More than 50 percent have legal issues or criminal history.

How long do residents stay at Mt. Airy?

The average length of stay is about 40 days in the emergency shelter. Residents leave for a variety of reasons, from giving no explanation at all to finding new housing. About 50 percent leave Mt. Airy for a more stable living arrangement, including transitional housing.

How do residents receive services?

Within two business days of arriving, a social worker interviews the men to assess and identify specific needs. This in-depth session helps to prioritize needs and to develop a service plan.

What services are available?

Along with planning & assessment, services include:

- Clothing & laundry
- Limited bus tokens
- Medical van services (via Cincinnati Health Dept.)
- Foot clinic services (during academic year)
- AA and NA meetings
- Substance Abuse Management Systems (S.A.M.S.) – a chemical dependency program sponsored by the Alcoholism Council.

Organizations providing off-site services:

- Comprehensive Center for Addictions Treatment
- Mental Health Access Point
- Oral Health Council
- Super Jobs / Operation Bootstrap
- Goodwill Industries
- Health Resource Center
- Veterans Administration
- Tender Mercies
- Crossroads
- Freestore Foodbank programs

How do men become residents?

Men must apply in person at the Mt. Airy Intake Booth, located at Hamilton County Department of Job & Family Services, 222 E. Central Parkway, 2nd Floor, in downtown Cincinnati. The booth is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. After 4 p.m., referrals are made to the Drop Inn Center.

Mt. Airy Transitional Housing

Seventeen of our 65 beds are designated transitional housing. Men in this program focus on employment and obtaining permanent housing.

About the Mt. Airy Staff

Eight social service aides work rotating shifts to provide 24-hour coverage and assistance with daily living needs and case management services such as signing in residents, assigning beds, and transporting residents. A cook plans, prepares and serves three meals per day and prepares lunches for residents who are away at meal time. Residents also volunteer to cook.

