



Fast Facts about the temporary 24-hour Respite Site at 1155 King Street West.

The City of Toronto has introduced a temporary 24-hour Respite Site at 1155 King Street West.

Who will stay in the new 24-hour Respite Site?

Open to individuals of any gender aged 16 and older including pets.

What services will the 24-hour Respite Site provide?

They provide essential supports (including meals, service referrals and places to rest) in an environment that prioritizes ease of admission to safe facilities.

When will the 24-hour Respite Site open?

The 24-hour Respite Site at 1155 King Street West (parking lot of Lamport Stadium) is scheduled to be open by mid December 2018. Once operational, respite services will continue for an indefinite period of time until more permanent locations are opened across the city.

How many parking spots will be lost due to construction?

During the construction period, about 150 parking spaces will become unavailable. After the temporary 24-hour Respite Site is open, about 75 spaces will be lost.

Are there plans for replacement street parking?

The City has looked into finding replacement street parking along Fraser Avenue and Jefferson Avenue at Lamport Stadium. Consultation with local establishments, the City Councillor, as well as approval from City Council is required. If approved, expected time line for replacement street parking availability is February to March 2019.

How many people can stay at the 24-hour Respite Site?

The temporary structure will have space for up to 100 people.

Will there be security?

There will be security staff on-site to support this facility 24/7.

Who will be operating the 24-hour Respite Site?

St. Felix, an experienced non-profit shelter provider, will be managing daily operations.

How will the community be involved?

Community members can directly volunteer through St. Felix. Donations for winter and pet clothing are also accepted. Please contact Varshanie Thakur at volunteer@stfelixcentre.com for more information. Questions and concerns about facility operations can be directed to Victoria Bowman at connect@stfelixcentre.com.

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What is the difference between “respite” and “shelter”?

24-Hour Respite Sites

Mandate is to provide a safe place for rest, food, and support.

Typically open November–April, but Council has extended the service to relieve current occupancy pressures.

24/7 access with limited restrictions on when people may come in or leave.

Staff offer referrals to community-based services. Support workers (e.g. case managers, housing workers, health workers, etc.) may visit the site to meet with clients.

Most 24-hour Respite Sites provide cots, but some clients prefer mats or chairs.

All are pet friendly.

Permanent Shelters

Mandate is to welcome people experiencing homelessness, assist them to access housing, and connect them with the supports to maintain housing stability.

Open year-round.

More structured program model with curfews and regular bed checks.

In addition to offering referrals, permanent shelters also offer on-site case management, housing, and health services.

Clients sleep in beds. They also have lockers to store their belongings.

Although all new shelters will be pet-friendly, only a few are at this time.