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[pbcgov.com/communityservices](http://pbcgov.com/communityservices)



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## General Information

# Non-Congregate Sheltering Strategy for the Western Communities

**Non-Congregate Sheltering (NCS)** means locations where each individual or household has living space that offers some level of privacy which is interpreted as its own room and sanitary facilities. Given that the coronavirus most easily spreads from person-to-person, non-congregate sheltering has been the preferred option to care for those in need of isolation. The lack of an easy-to-implement non-congregate sheltering strategy for the Western Communities precludes the local residents from isolating as a result of having tested positive or having been exposed to the coronavirus. **Identification of a viable, local alternative for non-congregate sheltering option for the Western Communities was deemed as an urgent need in dealing with the public health emergency created by the coronavirus.**

The NCS Strategy proposes the renovation and use of two County-owned facilities to provide for a multisite non-congregate sheltering operation serving those in need of isolation due to the coronavirus emergency. The facility located in Belle Glade (formerly occupied by Jerome Golden Center, Inc.) will serve as the Intake and Assessment Center.

A second facility located in Pahokee will provide 42 one bedroom/one bath units for families, seniors, couples and singles. The units will be used for emergency housing up to 90 days and supportive housing up to 24 months; all the while receiving individually determined wrap around services.

**In the short term**, this project will address the non-congregate sheltering needs of the residents of the Western Communities who need of isolation as a result of the coronavirus emergency. **In the long-term**, this facility will align with the Leading the Way Home, A Plan to End Homelessness in Palm Beach County.

(visit link to view plan: PBC: <https://pbcportal.pbcgov.org/communityservices/CSD%20Documents/Reports/Leading%20the%20Way%20Home%20Brochure.pdf#search=leading%20the%20way%20home>)

**Immediate benefits include;** but are not limited to: renovation of the two currently vacant facilities, which ensures their upkeep and sanitary conditions; and provision of construction work for the local workforce. **Continuing benefits include;** local job opportunities in the management of the sheltering operation, additional access to the wide variety of programs and services offered by the Community Services Department including those tailored toward veterans, seniors and migrant farmworkers, and families, and overall the nurturing that leads to more resilient communities as the program proposed for the multisite operation heavily relies on local ties and engagement for its success.

#### COVID 19 Testing in the Western Communities

In the Western Communities, a walk-up testing site is located at the Lakeside Medical Center in Belle Glade. Appointments can be scheduled by calling (561) 642-1000.

Regardless of symptoms and resident status, all ages are being tested. Anyone testing positive or determined by the Health Department to be at risk for COVID are eligible for non-congregate sheltering.

**SEE OTHER SIDE**

# How do I obtain additional information about the NCS for the Western Communities?

## Community Services Department / Division of Human and Veteran Services

[www.pbcgov.com/communityservices](http://www.pbcgov.com/communityservices)



**Wendy Tippett**, Director Human and Veteran Services

(561) 355-4772

WTippett@pbcgov.org

Ask questions about:

- the NCS in the Western Communities;
- the services to the homeless which includes housing stability (rental and utility assistance, food vouchers, bus passes and a variety of additional services as needed to temporarily assist an individual or family to become self-sufficient), rapid re-housing, and homeless prevention;
- programs for veterans;
- migrant farmworkers;
- indigent cremation program; and
- employment opportunities for social workers, case workers, housing techs, security officers, etc.

## Facilities Development & Operations Department

[www.pbcgov.com/fdo](http://www.pbcgov.com/fdo)



**Audrey Wolf**, Director Facilities Development & Operations

(561) 233-0215

AWolf@pbcgov.org

Ask questions about:

- the NCS Strategy, the funding or schedule for implementation; and
- how you can represent your community on the Neighborhood Oversight Panel.



**Amanda Ray**, Procurement and Business Development Manager

(561) 223-2014

ALRay@pbcgov.org

Ask questions about:

- participating in the project as a construction contractor; and
- how to contact a vendor providing services if you are interested in joining their team.

**This document is also available in Spanish and Creole**