



Downtown Emergency Service Center

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1811 Eastlake: First-Year Preliminary Findings

The Downtown Emergency Service Center's (DESC) 1811 Eastlake project is a Housing First program with onsite supportive services for **75 homeless men and women with chronic alcohol addiction**. Nearly half of residents have a co-occurring mental illness, and almost all have other chronic and disabling health conditions.

Chemical dependency treatment and mental healthcare are provided onsite. Residents are encouraged, but not required, to participate in treatment, nor is sobriety required as a condition of tenancy.

1811 Eastlake is the first program of its kind in Washington State, and one of only a handful of programs nationally and internationally, to address the needs of **homeless chronic alcoholics who are the highest utilizers of publicly funded crisis services**.

Independent Third-Party Evaluation: DESC has partnered with the Addictive Behaviors Research Center at the University of Washington to rigorously evaluate the effectiveness of 1811 Eastlake. The three-year study is funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The following summary contains reports on 12 month pre/post data for the initial cohort of residents.

Are residents of 1811 Eastlake using crisis and emergency healthcare services less?

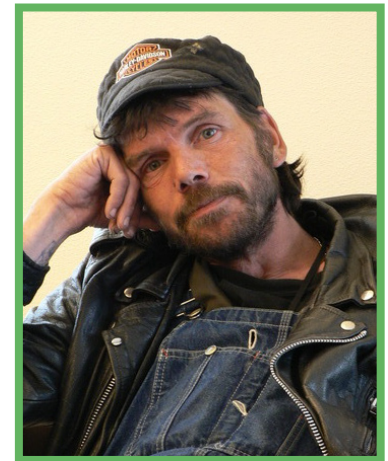
Yes... after 12 months of operation, about \$2.5 million less.

- Medical expenses down 41%
- County jail bookings down 45%
- Sobering center usage down 87%
- Shelter usage down 92%

Are residents of 1811 Eastlake drinking less?

Yes... by about half.

- Number of days residents consume alcohol to intoxication reduced by nearly 50%
- Six of 75 residents (8%) became sober, nearly twice the expected rate for this population.



Are residents at 1811 Eastlake having a less negative impact on the community?

Yes... a measurable difference.

- Alcohol-related incidents reported by Downtown Seattle Association down 48%
- Number of calls for King County Sobering Unit van down by 21%

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Reduced Use of Services

Client Use of Services	n	One-year utilization prior to move-in	Per resident avg utilization prior to move-in	One-year utilization post move-in*	Per resident avg utilization post move-in*	Costs prior to move-in	Costs post move-in*	% change
Medical expenses**	77					\$3,507,717	\$2,071,709	-41%
EMS paramedic interventions	63	634	10	526	8	\$762,085	\$621,086	-19%
County jail bookings	74	190	3	105	1	\$37,474	\$20,709	-45%
County jail days	74	2,312	31	1,343	18	\$238,529	\$138,557	-42%
Sobering Center admissions	70	6,432	92	837	12	\$916,560	\$119,273	-87%
Detox visits	50	82	2	93	2	\$13,733	\$15,576	13%
DESC shelter night stays	59	1,870	32	156	3	\$44,338	\$3,699	-92%
						Aggregate reduction in cost of services used:	\$2,529,827	

* includes utilization and costs of those people who moved out.

** based on charges submitted to Medicaid. Visits to Harborview Medical Center alone decreased 32%, from 1,152 to 787 (an average drop of 5 visits [16 to 11] per resident).

What is Housing First?

Housing First is a proven strategy to **a)** engage chronically homeless people with multiple barriers to housing, and **b)** promote housing longevity for people with long histories of homelessness and illness.

Seattle has been one of the national leaders in this approach. DESC's Kerner-Scott House opened in 1997 as our community's first Housing First implementation, and was featured in the first national research study looking at three Housing First projects (www.huduser.org/publications/homeless/hsgfirst.html).

Who are the residents of 1811 Eastlake?

Residents were **93% men** (far higher than the 71% served in other DESC permanent supportive housing) and the average age was 48.1 years (on-par with other DESC housing).

The average resident reported **being homeless 31 of the 36 months** prior to moving in. In total, residents of 1811 Eastlake spent a total of 9,043 bednights in DESC shelters, an average of 103 nights each.

The group was overwhelmingly disabled with **chronic health conditions**, many resulting from a lifetime of alcohol addiction. 44% had co-occurring severe mental illnesses, 61% had hepatitis or other liver disease, 42% had seizure disorders, 23% had heart disease.

The **average income of residents was \$4,160** (or \$346 a month).

1811 Eastlake has a **one-year retention rate of 66%**. Seven people died in the first year, including one who died after moving out. Of those who moved out, 16 returned to homelessness, two moved to long-term treatment, one to a nursing home, one to other supportive housing.

Who is eligible to live at 1811 Eastlake?

DESC partnered with county officials to deliberately seek out the most expensive consumers of taxpayer-funded crisis services, including Harborview Medical Center, the Dutch Schisler Sobering Center, the County's detox facility and jails. Through DESC staff outreach at the Sobering Center, in shelters and other places, eligible individuals were contacted and offered tenancy in the project. Only four of the initial 79 people contacted turned down the offer of housing at 1811 Eastlake, disproving widely held beliefs that 'some homeless people don't want housing.'