



HOUSING AND HEALTH
TO END HOMELESSNESS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DESC breaks ground on unique permanent supportive housing project

DESC has taken the first step to raising a new Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) project in a new and unique way.

The agency has broken ground for a 124-unit apartment building at 8610 Aurora Avenue North, Seattle. It will be the first PSH building in the world constructed using a new patented panelized construction process, with rooftop solar, waste heat recovery, ultra-efficient AC and integrated technology similar to "smart home" design.

[Sustainable Living Innovations \(SLI\)](#) invented and produces the unique, patented building system.

When complete, this new affordable housing will feature 24/7 supportive services and indoor/outdoor community spaces for the tenants, all single adults who are disabled and who have been experiencing long-term homelessness. DESC will continue to own and operate the building after completion. Eligible tenants must earn less than 30% of the Area Median Income (AMI), and DESC tenants typically earn about 15% of AMI. They pay 30% of their income in rent.

"This innovative building from SLI will become DESC's 17th supportive housing project providing comprehensive wrap-around services to help our tenants stabilize and begin to live fuller lives," says DESC Executive Director Daniel Malone. "DESC is proud to have continued working throughout the chaos of the pandemic to build more supportive housing and help calm the chaos in the lives of those who are experiencing homelessness."

"DESC is excited to continually be on the forefront of innovation and energy efficiency with a new type of building system that we believe will provide exceptional housing for a very vulnerable population with special needs," says DESC Director of Facilities and Asset Management Sondra Nielsen. "We continue to pioneer Housing First and what that means, especially from a building technologies standpoint."

"We are honored to partner with DESC on this important project that will serve the most vulnerable members of our community," says Arlan Collins, CEO of SLI. "Daniel Malone, Sondra Nielsen and the rest of the team at DESC are true professionals who are making our city a better place every day."

You can [watch the Feb. 22 groundbreaking here](#). Watch a [segment on the green features](#) of the project or on [supportive housing here](#).

ABOUT THE DOWNTOWN EMERGENCY SERVICE CENTER (DESC): Established in 1979, DESC is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and a recognized national leader in implementing innovative, cost-effective strategies that end homelessness. DESC helps people with the complex needs of homelessness, substance use disorders and serious mental illness achieve their highest potential for health and well-being through comprehensive services, treatment and housing. DESC operates 15 supportive housing projects in Seattle, with another four in development and a unique new primary and behavioral health care clinic integrated with a supportive housing project. desc.org

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