



Downtown
Congregations
to End
Homelessness

Franklin/Hiawatha Encampment Update

What is the Franklin Hiawatha encampment?

This is a gathering of homeless Minneapolis residents, primarily of Native American descent. Some have jobs while some are unemployed. All lack access to shelter or affordable housing due to lack of shelter beds, lack of affordable housing, lack of a job, and other reasons.

Why is this happening now and where did everyone come from?

On any given night in Hennepin County there are at least 400 people unsheltered, sleeping outside, on transit lines, in cars, or other places not designed for overnight stays. Most of the residents at the encampment moved from other places outside, either because they were forced to relocate due to construction, or they sought the community and safety of the encampment.

Is it safe at the camp?

Living without shelter can be dangerous in and of itself, and homeless people are a vulnerable population. However the residents of the camp came together because they feel safer - the adage that there is safety in numbers is very true here. Natives Against Heroin volunteers are always on-site helping to organize, serve food and assist with questions and basic needs. The Minneapolis Police patrol regularly and lights have been placed on site to provide some illumination during night-time hours.

What happens when winter comes? Will the camp be there forever?

The City and other agencies plan to transition the residents at the encampment to temporary transitional housing, shelter, or more permanent housing by moving the encampment to a new Navigation Center directly across Hiawatha from the current encampment on land owned by the Red Lake Band of Chippewa. The Navigation Center should be cleaned and have temporary shelters by the end of the year.

How can I help?

- Pressure elected officials to prioritize and fund more affordable housing.
- Making a cash donation is the most helpful. Visit the website set up by the encampment to get more details on what organizations to support who are working directly in partnership. **Donate at: franklinhiawathacamp.org**
- Some goods are also being accepted, especially winter clothing, non-perishable food items, water, and other items as need. Check the website before collecting any items as the lists of needs changes regularly.

DO NO DROP ANY ITEMS OFF AT THE ENCAMPMENT. Check the website to see what the preferred location of the specific items are.