



# BUILD A BUS HOME

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November 4, 2019

To City Council Members:

Regarding: Funding Request for Mobile Hygiene Infrastructure Program (MHIP)

Thurston County declared Homelessness a “Public Health Crisis” in June 2018, subsequently followed by the same declaration by the City of Olympia in July of 2018. Additionally, the Point in Time (PIT) count revealed in June 2019 that the number of unsheltered homeless residents had grown yet an additional 23% over the previous year.

MHIP has been created by Build a Bus Home (BABH) to provide a way for the City to meet part of the basic hygiene needs and reduce the health and environmental impacts of some of the most at risk residents in Olympia.

Looking out for the basic health and safety needs of residents is a challenge when many homeless residents go without basic hygiene services, such as showers and laundry. Failure to address these basic human needs has environmental and public health consequences that not only effect the underserved individuals, but the greater community. These include pollution and disease risk.

BABH is proposing a partnership with the City of Olympia to address our mutual concerns relating to our “Public Health Crisis”. MHIP provides a straightforward way to meet the needs and reduce risks without incurring ongoing construction, maintenance, staffing and utility costs for the city. MHIP can visit homeless sites, provide services for a few hours and then move on. This program is also versatile in that it can be scheduled to provide services for new priority locations as they are identified. In addition, BABH provides staffing through volunteers and operates with lower equipment and material costs through donations and in-kind contributions from local government and businesses.

Therefore, we are requesting startup funding from the City of Olympia in the amount of \$20,000 within the next 30-60 days to deploy a “Proof of Concept” use of our equipment before the end of 2019. We are also requesting basic funding for 2020 in the amount of \$50,000, to fully launch active services. A summary of our Operating Plan and Budget is attached, along with pictures of our equipment and volunteer crew. This attachment also details the categories of costs to which the funding would be applied.

Thank you for your attention to this request

Sincerely Yours,

Lisa Gillotti, Founder & Executive Director

BABH Acting Board: Peter Cook; Larry Pederson; Aaron Sauerhoff; Christina Davis; James Osier