



City Lights Village

Frequently Asked Questions



Who is City Lights?

The City Lights Foundation of Oklahoma is a nonprofit organization that has been serving the Tulsa community and people experiencing homelessness since 2013. Our mission is to love individuals, give hope, and touch souls through relational service and dignified housing. Every piece of our programming is guided by our vision of moving people into a lifestyle of service and community.

What is City Lights Village?

City Lights Village is a planned, permanent, supportive housing community that will consist of 25 triplex homes. All neighbors will be required to pay rent. There will be a Community Center, gardens, reflection areas, community meeting space, and other wraparound supportive services. City Lights Village will also have opportunities for volunteers to engage and participate in community events. City Lights Village is a place where people can come to be fully seen, known and loved. It is a place where people can come to find much needed respite and relief as they settle into their homes and journey back to a place of true flourishing.

Where is it located?

City Lights Village will be located off of 46th St. North just west of Peoria. The triplexes will be located on the back 10 acres in a gated, secure community. The front property will consist of orchards, gardens, chickens, and bees. Access to homes will be through the Community Center (located on the back property) or through specific gates accessible by residents.

What services will be offered?

Residents will have housing stability coordinators on site to help ensure their housing is maintained. Residents will also have access to financial planning classes, mental health resources, food security assistance, etc. The services offered will be wraparound services, ensuring all needs are met to maintain housing stability. We will also have "home teams", a group of volunteers dedicated to wrapping intentional support around each resident.



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What is City Lights' expertise?

Our team has been studying, planning and working with similar villages across the country in order to bring this to Tulsa for the past 5 years. We have worked most diligently with Community! First Village in Austin, TX. We are confident, prepared, and equipped to bring this proven model of permanent, supportive housing to serve vulnerable neighbors in Tulsa. Our expertise is also informed by 10 years of working in the Tulsa community serving people experiencing homelessness and listening to their needs. Additionally, we are partners with A Way Home for Tulsa which is our city's continuum of care.

Who will live here?

To be eligible for City Lights Village, individuals must be coming out of chronic homelessness. They must have lived in Tulsa County for at least a year, complete a background check, an application, and go through an interview process with City Lights staff. At the same time, residents also have a choice in deciding if they would like to live in CLV, because we believe strongly in the dignity of choice and being able to choose where you live. We do anticipate a waiting list due to the high demand for housing of this kind for people experiencing homelessness. But, as a kind reminder, once people are housed they are no longer "homeless".

Why this location?

When choosing a location, there are many considerations that have to be made. Our primary reason in choosing this land is that the land is zoned correctly for this type of development and was available for an offer. There were many considerations we looked for in this property and many properties were looked at. Other considerations were factors such as proximity to transportation and social services our residents already access. We believe Tulsans need affordable, permanent, supportive housing across our entire city. We are excited to be a part of this community and look forward to building relationships with our neighbors while investing in this community and providing people a dignified, safe, place to call home.

"We believe in seeking innovative ways to bring about restoration in our community."



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How will people pay rent?

All residents are required to pay rent and their ability to do so will be assessed within their application. For those that cannot afford rent with their current income, we will work with them to connect them to training and employment opportunities. Our case managers on site will also be utilized as a resource to navigate employment opportunities.

How will this be different?

First and foremost, City Lights Village will be a home. The homes will be privately owned by The City Lights Foundation of Oklahoma, and rules for neighbors within the village will apply. Residents will be held accountable for following rules and keeping their outdoor areas kept up to the required standards. But even more than a home, CLV will foster deep community and connectedness to each other, both within the village and outside of it.

"We believe that each person we meet has value and should be treated with dignity."

For more info, email village@citylightsok.org

What will we do about future maintenance and repairs to ensure upkeep?

We will hire maintenance and grounds people as needed. We will ensure financial preparations are made and in place for the purpose of long term sustainability of City Lights Village. City Lights is deeply committed to providing a dignified place to call home. We believe this is integral in the restoration of lives and are committed to making this a reality for not only now, but generations to come.

How is City Lights Village different?

City Lights has been studying similar villages for the past 5 years across the country. We are taking best practices from each village and implementing them in Tulsa specifically designed for Tulsans. Additionally, City Lights has been operating in Tulsa for the past 10 years serving people experiencing homelessness through all facets of our programming including Night Light, City Lights Hotel and Housing Stability services. We also believe strongly in stewarding our donors' dollars well and keeping them in Tulsa where they were intended. This in turn ensures CLV is able to adhere to our core values and beliefs as an organization.