

Central Park Place

Description

Central Park Place was built after the model of Single Room Occupancy (SRO) hotels that were once a part of every city. The building contains 88 SRO apartments, 35 studio apartments, and a two-bedroom unit for an apartment manager. It also offers a community kitchen, library, recreation areas, and outdoor garden spaces. Central Park Place opened in 1999.

Located on the Veterans Affairs campus, Central Park Place provides an example of coordination between the Vancouver Housing Authority and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) to solve a common problem: a critical shortage of housing for low-income single adults in Clark County, many of whom were homeless and many of whom were veterans. Rents range from \$295 for an SRO unit and \$365 for a studio apartment.

Residents

Half of the residents of Central Park Place are veterans referred by the VA. The other half are disabled and/or recently homeless individuals referred by Columbia River Mental Health, Share, Mental Health Northwest, the YWCA, and Clark County Health Department. The referring agency provides case management for each resident.

Central Park Place is a drug and alcohol free building located on a drug and alcohol free campus, so residents with addictions are better able to make steady progress toward their goals. The residents have also formed their own community of support, sharing holiday meals, projects, and friendship.



Funding

Many community partners came together to create Central Park Place. Columbia River Advocates for Veterans originated the idea. The Council for the Homeless linked it to their planning and grant writing efforts, and neighborhood leaders were partners in the planning. The Department of Veterans Affairs provided the land, and the VHA developed the \$5.6 million building using Tax-Exempt Mortgage Revenue bonds, Low-Income Housing Tax Credits, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development McKinney funds, HUD HOME funds allocated through Clark County, grants from the Clark County Veterans' Assistance Fund and grants from the Federal Home Loan Bank of Seattle. The Washington State Housing Trust Fund completed the funding package with a \$500,000 loan.