

DOWNTOWN EMERGENCY SERVICE CENTER

Seattle, Washington

SEVENTEENTH

**Maxwell Awards
of
Excellence**

2007

1811 Eastlake Apartments

Downtown Emergency Service Center's (DESC) 1811 Eastlake project is a housing first program for 75 homeless men and women with chronic alcohol addiction. The project is the first of its kind in Washington State to address the needs of alcoholics who are the highest utilizers of crisis services.



The entire project was designed to help residents keep their housing and improve their lives. The architecture, staffing patterns, program values, and resident interaction all combine to create a program that helps residents succeed.

Both the Seattle City attorney and the Downtown Business Association have noted reductions in criminal offenses and alcohol related incidents. The city attorney Tom Carr stated "housing first is an anti-crime program."

The project has 49 furnished studio apartments with innovative features such as stoves that operate on timers to reduce the fire risk, and walls and floors with extra sound dampening to reduce noise complaints. The building has two decks and was built using universal design standards and ADA features to accommodate disabled residents.

26 semi-private cubicles house the most medically compromised residents. The cubicles allow staff to monitor the residents 24 hours a day.

When this project was first proposed it raised a lot of controversy. Local business owners and neighbors sued both DESC and the city to stop the project. The case went all the way to the state Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of DESC. However, the delay that the lawsuit caused put the project two years behind schedule.

There was also ample media attention paid to the project because it would not require abstinence from drinking for the residents. Many local politicians were pressured to pull funding from the project. However, thanks to an evaluation funded by Robert Wood Johnson, DESC can point to a minimum of \$1.6 million in cost avoidance by reducing utilization of publicly funded crisis services, including hospital, jail, detox/sobering services and shelter.

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SPONSORING ORGANIZATION

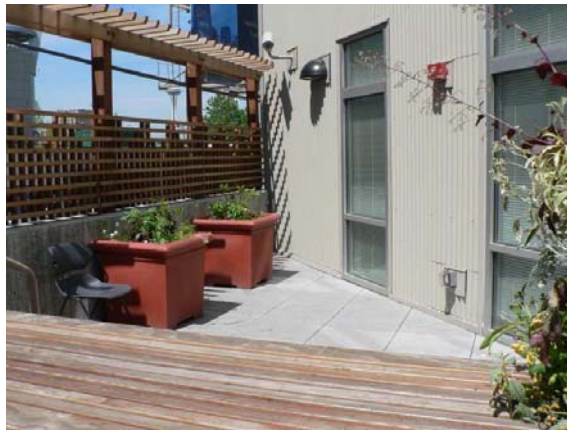
Downtown Emergency Service Center (DESC) is one of the largest multi-service agencies working with homeless adults in the Pacific Northwest. The organization employs more than 275 people and has an annual budget of \$17 million. DESC works to end homelessness of vulnerable people, particularly those with serious mental and addictive illnesses.

FUNDING FOR 1811 EASTLAKE APARTMENTS

- HUD Supportive Housing Program
- PBRA Section 8
- WA Substance Abuse Treatment Program
- Seattle Housing Levy
- Low Income Housing Tax Credits

CREATIVE APPROACHES TO SERVICE DELIVERY

- Tenants are recruited from a list of homeless alcoholics, “rank-ordered by cost of service utilization”
- Integrated mental health, chemical dependency and property management services to enhance each resident’s ability to maintain housing and participate in support service relationships
- Relationship with Harborview Medical Center to provide primary care on-site – there is an RN on-site full time, and medical students and an attending MD see residents regularly



BOARD LEADERSHIP

Board Chairman: Clark Kimerer, Deputy Chief, Seattle Police Department

Vice Chairman: Ron Wright, Principle, Ron Wright and Associates/Architects, P.S.

Secretary: Lauren Inveen, Judge, King County Superior Court

STAFF LEADERSHIP

Executive Director: William Hobson

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IN 1988, TO COMMEMORATE FANNIE MAE'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY, the Fannie Mae Foundation announced the Awards of Excellence Program, which seeks to encourage and recognize non-profit organizations working to develop and maintain housing for low-income Americans. The program also is intended to encourage more corporations and foundations to be involved as funding and investment partners. The Awards were renamed in honor of David O. Maxwell, who retired in 1991 after 10 years of service as chairman and chief executive officer of Fannie Mae and chairman, Fannie Mae Foundation.

FOR THE 17TH MAXWELL AWARDS PROGRAM, the Foundation, in collaboration with the Partnership to End Long Term Homelessness, is awarding up to \$75,000 to each selected nonprofit organization.

THE FANNIE MAE FOUNDATION creates affordable homeownership and housing opportunities through innovative partnerships and initiatives that build healthy, vibrant communities across the United States.

THE PARTNERSHIP TO END LONG TERM HOMELESSNESS was created to galvanize the philanthropic leadership and dollars needed to end long-term homelessness in America. Serving as an open knowledge network for funders, the Partnership shares strategic thinking, wide-ranging experience, and expertise to prevent and address