



Lowering Barriers

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Agenda

- What are the ways shelters can be “low barrier”
- Low-barrier policies vs direct implementation
- Burlington Warming Shelter
- Elmwood Shelter Community



- Background Checks
- SUD and Harm Reduction
- Pets
- Gender ID and sleeping arrangements
- Paperwork and forms
- Guest responsibilities
- Cultural and Trauma-informed
- Hours of Operation
- Storage
- Services onsite



**What are the ways
shelters can be
low barrier?**

Low-barrier Policy Implementation

- Behavior Modification vs. Punitive
- Reduce Power Dynamics
- Emphasize Community Values over Disciplinary Action
- Trauma Response
- Staff Considerations



Elmwood Community Shelter

30-35 Guests/30 Units

Semi-congregate

Onsite Housing Navigation

Low Barrier Overnight Warming Shelter

Dec 15- Mar 18

5:00pm – 8:00am

30-40 congregate beds

Served 184 people



Winter Warming Shelter



Questions?
