Homeless & ReEntry Helpers (HRH)
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HHOOT's Hubs/Huts

(Confidential Proposal – Please Do Not Distribute)

The only way to solve our homelessness problem
is through Public-Private Partnerships

(1Nov25 at 1500 Revised 10Nov25 at 1530)

These are my (Don Hawkins) Initial notes on a proposed Public-Private Partnership to rid Indianapolis of unsightly & unsafe tent cities. HRH-HHOOT is forming a new wholly owned company named "***HHOOT's Huts***" to house this project. HRH-HHOOT has been a 501(c)(3) since 2008.

If you are interested in what I/HRH/HHOOT has done the last 25+ years and the History of my companies, you can visit: https://www.veterans.ooo/history.

HHOOT stands for **H**elpers **H**elping **O**thers **O**utreach **T**eam. HHOOT was incorporated several years ago to bring together Outreach Ministries to better serve our homeless population. HHOOT ran a hot meals program (HHOOT's Diner) out of 916 E Michigan St for over 10 years, serving 75 to 125 homeless people every evening. We lost our lease in 2017 and moved our operation to 2457 E Washington St, which now serves over 160 organizations with non-perishable food items we receive from Midwest Foods, Second Helpings, and CVS, per month, as outlined at www.HHOOT.com.

If you are interested in what Veterans Support Council, Inc. (VSC) does, you can visit: www.Veterans.ooo

HHOOT's Hubs Primary Goal

Our goal is to build several HHOOT's Hubs around Indianapolis to help get our homeless population off the streets into safer environments, and get rid of the so-called unsightly and unsafe tent cities that are plaguing our neighborhoods.

Our Huts are not meant to replace Shelters or Permanent Supportive Housing, but to be a short-term, rapid fix to get them off the streets until we/they can find suitable, more permanent housing.

Obviously, our community's ultimate goal is to ensure that all our citizens have access to Permanent Supportive Housing. That's an honorable goal, but when will it finally happen, and how much will it cost to house the over 1,800 people living in homeless conditions (on the streets, in shelters, etc.) in Indy?

Ask yourself how long people should have to suffer before society comes up with solutions to solve this problem? **We need several solutions to our homeless problem, from public and private groups working together.**

Personal note: I'm a big believer that we, as a society, will never be able to get 100% of our homeless population off our streets into permanent housing because of all the complicated variables that cause someone to be homeless. Several cities have tried, even to the point of moving them into apartments, hotels, motels, etc., but there are always those who refuse to abide by the rules tenants were required to follow before moving in. Some will even allow additional people to move in with them and even charge them money to support their habits, such as drugs, alcohol, gambling, sex, cigarettes, etc. Some who have mental, anger, or PTSD problems are just not ready to be in a structured environment. Then there are criminal elements hiding from the law who use other names to avoid arrest.

The bottom line is that some people will get housed and stay housed forever, and some people will get housed and get evicted for a variety of reasons after a short period of time, making them homeless again. And then, of course, some will be new to homelessness for the first time. I could go on, but you get the idea. <u>It's a never-ending battle, but we, as a society, must try to meet the challenge.</u>

CHIP's 2025 Point-in-Time Count
CHIP found 1815 Indy residents experiencing homelessness 1325 in Emergency type shelters | 159 in Transitional type housing 331 unsheltered | That's an increase of 7% over last year's count.

CHIP has documented that homelessness is a complicated problem.
List of just some of the reasons for homelessness: Eviction + Foreclosure | Gentrification | Un/underemployment | Domestic Violence | Family Intolerance | Divorce | Death of a Family Member | Disability (Existing + New) | Extended Hospital Stay | Aging out of Foster Care | Release from Incarceration | Personal Hardship Disasters (e.g., fire) | Their Home Becomes Uninhabitable.

Types of Housing
1) Affordable housing (no further community support), (buying or renting your own home)
2) Permanent Supportive Housing (Rapid Rehousing or Housing First programs)
3) Transitional housing (longer-term shelters), Rooms for rent, or hotels
4) Wet Shelters – Engagement Center at the new Justice Center
5) Emergency Domestic Violence, or Women's Shelters, Youth/Teen
6) Emergency (faith-based) shelters – Wheeler Mission, Salvation Army, Good News Mission Shelters, Family Shelters
7) Emergency (secular) shelters for the homeless & people suffering from mental Health issues – None in Indy at this date
8) **Proposed HHOOT's Hubs/Huts – to help eliminate items 10, 11 & 12**
9) Living/sleeping on a friend's or relative's couch (Couch Surfing)
10) Living/sleeping in their car/truck/van/camper/empty homes or buildings
11) Living/sleeping on the streets of Indy, in individual tents or tent cities

Our citizens living on our streets are constantly in danger for many reasons, such as from others living on the streets, street gangs, diseases, unhealthy sanitation conditions, neighborhood associations, harassment from local businesses and local officials, and, of course, the weather.

Yes, we currently offer several temporary housing options, including our faith-based shelters for men, women, families, and teens. We also have a Winter Contingency Plan to get those off the streets for the Winter months, but it is still not enough for those living on our streets today.

Indianapolis has been relying on Wheeler Mission, a faith-based shelter, for over 125 years. Indianapolis does not have a city-owned secular shelter like several other cities. I have made several attempts to get the city to build a secular shelter, but it never got any traction.

The city has come a long way and has finally made great strides in the last few years with CHIP, Horizon House, and now the merger with Goodwill. The city is definitely and finally heading in the right direction, but we are still years and millions of dollars away from providing housing for all those who are homeless.

I'm a big believer in the Public-Private Partnership idea that helped us build our Engagement Center at its original location. We knew the city wouldn't have pursued the Engagement Center idea on its own because it didn't want to spend the money. They needed encouragement—a push, if you will—to open their eyes to the advantages of such a center. In the end, the Private sector provided the initial funding for the project, and the city then took over its management and upkeep.

Let's use the same Public-Private Partnership method we used to develop the Engagement Center to help solve our short-term, unsafe, and unhealthy housing dilemma, to eliminate the unsightly tent cities in our neighborhoods.

We need a less expensive, short-term option that can fill the gap between living on the streets and not being able to get into a shelter or transitional housing. We can build these units for less money and in less time than everything currently being proposed, meaning getting our homeless population off the streets, years before enough permanent supportive housing is made available for all.

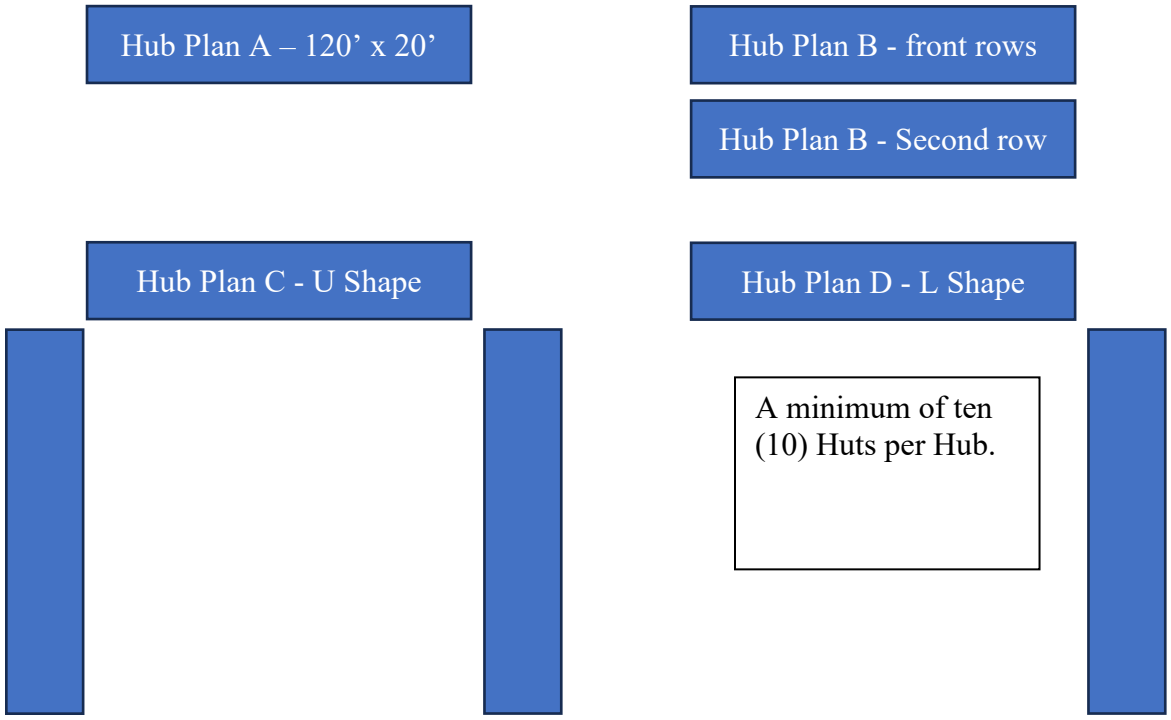
Our proposed units would be called "HHOOT's Hub", which would consist of a minimum of ten (10) HHOOT's Huts per Hub.

My goal is to get the Indiana Department of Corrections (DOC) to participate in this program because they have experience in building these types of units (jails & prisons) from the inside out. I believe the Indiana Correctional Industry (ICI) could also help develop and build the Huts themselves.

Each Hub would have a minimum of:	
10 Huts (each would house 1 to 2 people) A 10’ x 15’ Service area (ministries serving area) A 10’ x 10’ Office area (case managers’ visits) A 10’ x 15’ Utility & Trash area (Electric panel, water heater w/emergency shutoffs) & dumpster) Outside lighting | Outside cameras Parking area A street address w/mailboxes Tall fence around three sides Built on a concrete slab – Pilot Hub 120’ x 20’	**HHOOT’s Huts will not have:** Showers Laundry machines Mail service Medical services (They can visit Horizon House for those services and other benefits)

Hub Notes:

1) There could be several variations of each Hub. One to three rows front to back, Two units in an “L” shape | Three units in a “U” shape
2) Consider using Solar Panels to cut electricity costs
3) No bicycle racks outside—Tenants should keep them inside the Hut.
4) No unsightly tents or other types of housing construction will be allowed on the property.



Each 10' x 10' Hut would have:	
Concrete floors (no drains) Metal-insulated walls Metal-insulated roof w/gutters 36" Emergency window (on back wall)	5' porch w/overhead light 5' extra walkway 32" door with their own key
Light (overhead) Toilet Sink Mirrow Shelf Table with bench Double Bed Clothes Rack All metal just as in the jails and prisons (attached to walls). It must be as destruction proof as possible.	Electricity w/light switch & outlet Running Water in the sink & toilet Sewer Internet Heat & Air Conditioning Unit Smoke detector 3-4 Picnic tables (optional) Small Refrigerator (optional) Small Microwave (optional)
Notes:	
1) Organizations that offer (invest in) permanent supportive housing and transitional housing usually want their tenants to be clean of drugs, alcohol, warrants, and anger management problems; in other words, they don't want a tenant who will destroy their property. <u>HHOOT's Hubs will not require those same standards.</u> 2) <u>HHOOT's Huts should be as maintenance-free as possible</u> because the type of people living in them are probably not ready for permanent supportive housing due to drug or alcohol use. They may also have mental problems that will not allow them to be in an emergency shelter, but they still need to be off the street. 3) If the tenant works, they may have to pay some type of rent. 4) Tenants are responsible for maintaining the property.	

The Public Sector(City & State) **Would Pay or be Responsible for:**	**The Private Sector** (through Investors, Donations, and/or Grants) **Would Pay:**
All utilities Trash pick-up	<u>For the Lots:</u> Hopefully, the city will donate the lots needed for the project. All construction

Additional Things to Think About:
1) What type of liability insurance will we need? 2) What kinds of Permits will the city require? 3) Which areas or neighborhoods will accept the Hubs? 4) May build a truck with portable showers and laundry service that would go from Hub to Hub. 5) Transportation, bus service 6) Babies, Children, Disabled, Handicapped ???? 7) Consider how many residents you can have or want to have at each Hub. 8)