

The City still intends to close the encampment on Thursday. For months, the [City has worked with community partners](#) and service providers to connect community members at the encampment with housing and shelter options. The City has postponed the closure date two times already in order to allow dedicated time to work with service providers and get people directly connected to housing and shelter options.

To date, 104 people from the encampment have been connected to housing or shelter. With help from Hennepin County and the State of Minnesota, Salvation Army and Rescue Now has plans to add 90 beds to the shelter system this week. Hennepin Shelter Hotline, in partnership with the Adult Shelter Connect, will help people access these additional beds as well as beds that become available in existing shelters. The City's Homeless Response Team has engaged with nearly 100 unsheltered individuals to provide information on services and resources, including 15 housing referrals to outreach providers.

All of our encampment members deserve safe and dignified housing. An encampment – especially in winter – does not provide that. Additionally, the City must address the ongoing public health and safety issues, like a recent homicide at the encampment and the death of an infant.

After the encampment is closed, pre-development activity for a new, Indigenous community center will start. The Indigenous Peoples Task Force (IPTF) has a redevelopment agreement with the City for the site to construct the Mikwanedun Audisookon Art and Wellness Center and is planning to complete the purchase in February.