



LOCATION:
BOSTON, MASS.

SIZE:
18 SHELTERS, 400 SQUARE
FOOT COMMUNITY ROOM,
BATHROOMS, LAUNDRY

POPULATION SERVED:
LOCAL UNHOUSED
NEIGHBORS STRUGGLING
WITH SUBSTANCE ABUSE
ISSUES

OPENING DATE:
DECEMBER 27, 2021

FUNDING:
STATE FUNDING

Shelter Built Fast for Severe Weather

Winter in Boston is a weather rollercoaster – packed with snowfall, followed by fiercely cold sunny days. Slippery sidewalks, buildings coated in icicles, and snowy city streets become the norm.

For people experiencing homelessness, finding warmth is crucial.

Unhoused neighbors located on Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard in Boston – known as “Mass and Cass” – felt the pain of the changing seasons.

Recognizing the emergency, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts chose Pallet to create a shelter village in Boston. The village is located in a parking lot next to Lemuel Shattuck Hospital.



The village was built in approximately two weeks. The state broke ground on Dec. 3, 2021. Pallet delivered and started assembling the panelized shelters just ten days later.

To keep the village running smoothly and residents actively engaged in moving toward permanent housing, all Pallet villages require an on-site service provider.

Commonwealth Care Alliance, in partnership with Eliot Human Services, oversees the site. On-site services include behavioral health care, long-term housing search support, medication-

assisted treatment, and security. Plus, the village has on-site clinical, substance use disorder, and nursing support.

For some living on Mass and Cass dealing with substance abuse issues, Pallet became a great option; congregate shelters are not always safe for recovery.

Now, safe in a warm shelter, residents are one step further on the path to permanent housing.

“City officials say a recent survey of roughly 140 people who were sleeping in the 77 tents near the intersection showed that more than 95 percent said they would be willing to leave their tents for [Pallet] housing, if it were available.”

-BOSTON GLOBE

Site Features

- 18 sleeping shelters total, with a mix of one- and two-bed units
- Two hygiene shelters with showers, toilets and sinks; one standard and one ADA accessible
- Laundry facilities
- 400 square-foot community room
- Security cabin
- Shared outdoor gathering space

