



Our Statement on Additional Tiny Home Villages in Seattle and King County

April 14, 2026

We represent the Board and staff of Sound Foundations NW (SFNW), the Seattle-based, grassroots, nonprofit builder of tiny homes for the homeless. Our organization, and our hundreds of weekly volunteers, are committed to helping end the epidemic of unsheltered homelessness by building dignified, long-lasting, transitional tiny homes that move our homeless neighbors out of tents, encampments, and vehicles while they await permanent housing. Tiny homes and villages are a warm, safe, and dry alternative to unsafe and unsanitary encampments when placed in a village with 24/7 security and professional, supportive services.

Since 2018, we have been building our tiny homes with all-volunteer labor and the support of our private, corporate, and foundation donors who have funded nearly 100% of the building and materials costs. Since that time, tiny home villages have matured and improved and there are now 22 villages around the Puget Sound region. Next month, we will build our 750th tiny home since we began, representing over 130,000 volunteer hours, and more than \$3M in materials' costs. All this is to say, we know tiny homes and villages, we know they are successful at sheltering our neighbors, and we know the safety and support they provide help break the cycle of homelessness at encouraging rates.

In the past month, we have been excited when first Mayor Katie Wilson, and now County Executive Girmay Zahilay, announced plans to rapidly increase efforts to shelter the nearly 10,000 people in King Co. who are homeless and unsheltered. And, we couldn't agree more that these efforts should include as many more tiny homes and villages as possible. In fact, in a show of support for tiny homes, Mayor Wilson chose our warehouse building facility, the Hope Factory, for the site of her policy announcement on March 5, launching her shelter expansion plan.

The news on Wednesday, April 8 that a new 75-tiny-home village was opening in Seattle's Interbay neighborhood was a welcome sign for us of actual progress being made. While we were surprised that the operator of the village, Immanuel Community Services, decided to use

tiny homes built by the Everett-based, Public Benefit Corporation called Pallet Shelter, we're nevertheless of the belief that any new tiny home village that includes supportive services is good. We hope they get up and running quickly and move folks off the street.

The truth is, the combined plans of the Mayor and County Executive are ambitious and will require more than one kind of shelter, produced and operated by more than one organization, to meet the tremendous need. It's taken many years of underfunding our housing safety net while rents rose to get us into this situation, so we won't move fully out of it in just a few months even with many organizations pitching in.

Also, the origin of SFNW has historically meant that our tiny homes are placed in villages developed and operated by the Low Income Housing Institute (LIHI). When homes leave our factory space, they become the property and responsibility of LIHI. More recently, we have begun building for other service providers, but only on a limited basis and for a specific number of homes to fill a specific village location. But in all cases, SFNW does not develop or operate villages, we only build tiny homes. This arrangement unfortunately means that deploying homes we build into actual villages is done at the willingness, determination, and budgets of service provider organizations, like LIHI or Immanuel Community Services, who can put them into place and operate the villages. This sometimes results in backlogs of tiny homes in storage when village development lags behind, but we keep building because we always want to be sure to have enough homes available for immediate placement when a village is ready. We never want to be the reason a village opening is delayed.

Sound Foundations NW, our volunteers, and our donors, provide a dignified, durable, and very affordable alternative to living on the street and we stand willing to provide our tiny homes at cost, or even steeply discounted, to any homelessness services organization with a plan to deploy them in a village model that includes supportive services. We're sorry we were never contacted about providing tiny homes for this location and so couldn't recommend some of our already-built homes that could likely have been on site in a matter of days. We hope we'll have another chance to do so in the near future.

Regardless, we remain so grateful to our hundreds of volunteers and donors, and 100% committed to the tiny home solution and to our grassroots model for providing warm, safe, and dry spaces for every homeless neighbor who wants one.

Respectfully,

David Means, Board President

Steve Roberts, Director of Operations