

Press Release

East Missouri Action Agency, Inc. a dedicated non-profit organization committed to assisting economically disadvantaged individuals and families including those experiencing homelessness, sadly announces the closure of the Uplift Overnight Homeless shelter, effective June 12, 2023. The decision to close the shelter comes as a result of an insurmountable funding shortfall, making it financially unsustainable to continue operations.

For over two years the Uplift Homeless Shelter has been a beacon of hope, offering a safe haven, basic necessities, and critical services to those in our community who have found themselves without a stable place to call home. The shelter has served as a lifeline, providing temporary respite and a stepping stone for individuals on their journey toward stable housing and improved circumstances. Since the opening of the large shelter we have provided shelter to over 331 individuals and families and successfully housed 84.

Despite tireless efforts to secure sufficient funding and maintain operations, EMAA has faced significant challenges. The limited government support has led to a substantial decrease in homeless support services funding, making it impossible to continue the shelter's operations without compromising the quality and safety of services provided.

The closure of the homeless shelter is a deeply regrettable outcome, as it will leave a void in the support network available to those experiencing homelessness in our community. EMAA recognizes the profound impact this decision will have on the individuals who have relied on the shelter for sanctuary and support.

Moving forward, EMAA remains committed to exploring alternative avenues and seeking partnerships that may allow for the re-establishment of shelter services in the future. Additionally, the organization will redouble its efforts to advocate for increased public awareness, community engagement, and governmental support to address the root causes of homelessness.

EMAA would like to express its heartfelt gratitude to the dedicated staff, volunteers, donors, and community partners who have tirelessly supported the shelter's mission. Their unwavering commitment to serving those in need has made a significant difference in the lives of countless individuals.

East Missouri Action Agency, Inc. is a non-profit organization dedicated to addressing a variety of issues that affect the most vulnerable citizens of our community including those who are unhoused. Since its establishment in 1965, East Missouri Action Agency has been providing support services, housing and advocacy to our community. We are committed to continuing our efforts and advocating for those we serve.

For more information on the closure of the homeless shelter or to support East Missouri Action Agency's ongoing efforts to combat homelessness, please visit www.eastmoaa.org or contact Nicolle Hahn at 573-431-5191 Ext. 1105 or Keri McCrorey at 573-431-5191 ext 1125.