



AFTAB PUREVAL
City of Cincinnati, Office of the Mayor

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: July 13th, 2026

City of Cincinnati Announces Center of Care Partnership

CINCINNATI — The City of Cincinnati today announced the Center of Care Partnership: a major advancement in the previously announced initiative to develop a day center to improve access to essential support services for individuals experiencing homelessness, housing instability, and challenges with substance abuse and behavioral health.

The Center of Care is an evolution of the vision for the day center and is strengthened by the partnership announced today with key service providers including St. Francis Seraph Ministries, Mary Magdalen House, Greater Cincinnati Behavioral Health, Talbert House, Ikron, NeighborHub Health, and Strategies to End Homelessness. The proposed Center of Care will be a new first-class facility where residents in need can receive comprehensive core services, including but not limited to: government benefits support, housing assistance, meal services, mental health care, personal hygiene and care, pet support, primary care, substance abuse support, transportation, warming and cooling shelters, and workforce development.

"The partnership announced today shows the strength of our community aligned around a commitment to do better for our residents that are most in need," said **Mayor Aftab Pureval**. "We recognize the important role these organizations play in serving vulnerable populations, and the City of Cincinnati and the Office of the Mayor are committed to working alongside them to identify long-term solutions that strengthen access to care and support."

Further, today the City announced proposed funding to assist in the acquisition of three properties in Over-the-Rhine, which are under the stewardship of the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe. These include the Franciscan Media Center, St. Anthony Center, and the St. Francis Seraph Catholic Church and Friary properties. The St. Anthony Center currently serves as a hub for six nonprofit organizations providing meals, foot care, showers and hygiene access, behavioral health services, housing support, respite care and other basic needs assistance. The forthcoming sale of these properties has been the subject of recent news and, without public intervention, creates an uncertain future for the site. In the short-term, this acquisition will allow for ensured continuity of the important services provided from that location while the Center of Care is developed. In the long-term, this acquisition will allow for continued strategic investment and growth at this important property in the heart of the City's urban core.

On behalf of the City of Cincinnati, the Cincinnati Center City Development Corporation (3CDC) will serve as a partner to manage the development of the Center of Care, providing financial, design, and construction oversight services. 3CDC has shown demonstrated success in financing and developing top-notch facilities to serve our residents in need, including The Shelterhouse's Barron and Hatton facilities, and the City Gospel Mission. Further, 3CDC will be the partner acquiring the St. Francis Seraph Ministries properties and will collaborate with the service providers to ensure continuity of services at that location while the Center of Care is developed.

Next steps include working to identify a location for the new Center of Care that is proximate to downtown, solidifying all partner organizations that will participate, and securing financing.

With this partnership, the Franciscan Friars see an opportunity for their mission to continue in new and meaningful ways. "In service to the people of Cincinnati, the Franciscan Friars of the Province of Our Lady of Guadalupe have always supported the continuation of Franciscan-hearted ministries like St. Francis Seraph Ministries and its partners. For the friars, this is not just about properties — it is about mission, people, and presence, true to the Franciscan charism," **said Dr. Kerting Baldwin, spokesperson for the Province.** "This partnership is a hopeful path forward and a positive outcome for all."

"We remain committed to our mission of serving individuals with dignity and compassion," **said Executive Director of St. Francis Seraph Ministries, Mary Pat Raupach.** "As these discussions move forward, our focus remains on ensuring uninterrupted services while embracing the opportunity to reimagine how care is delivered. Being part of a coordinated continuum of care has the potential to connect individuals more seamlessly to housing, healthcare, behavioral health services, employment resources, and other critical supports—creating a stronger, more effective system that helps people move from crisis to stability and hope."

"Every day, we see how something as simple as access to a shower, clean clothing, or personal care services can restore dignity and open the door to new opportunities," **said Jenny Perez, Executive Director, Mary Magdalen House.** "We are grateful to be part of a collaborative effort focused on meeting people where they are, ensuring continuity of services, and creating a stronger, more coordinated system of care for those who need it most."

"This initiative represents an opportunity to bring together community investment, nonprofit partnership, and essential support services in a more coordinated and impactful way," **said Paula Boggs Muething, Chief Operating Officer, 3CDC.** "We believe Cincinnati deserves solutions that expand access to compassionate, dignity-centered care for individuals in need."

The City is grateful to all the parties involved in ensuring the continuity of these critical services, particularly St. Francis Seraph Ministries, Mary Magdalen House, and other nonprofit partners, and for the partnership announced today focused on achieving an expanded and coordinated service delivery model for our vulnerable residents.

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