

The BIRCH program was established to address the critical need for stability and support among unsheltered individuals in Central Oregon. Recognizing the profound impact that a stable living environment can have on an individual's journey towards recovery and self-sufficiency, BIRCH focuses on fostering well-being, sobriety, and sustained recovery. By offering a secure, community housing setting coupled with comprehensive case management support, the program assists residents to effectively link to necessary community resources. BIRCH maintains a drug-free environment, thereby creating a safe and conducive space for transformation. There is an emphasis on recovery from substance abuse dependence and other vulnerabilities.

Launched in early 2024, BIRCH is designed to help participants develop self-sufficiency and integrate into the broader community. The program is structured around key dimensions that promote a holistic approach to recovery: Wellness & Health, Stability, Purpose, and Community. BIRCH encourages residents to engage in meaningful daily activities such as work, education, and volunteering. **Crucially, participants are required to work actively with case managers throughout their stay to develop and implement action plans aimed at securing stable housing.** By cultivating a network of supportive relationships and social accountability, BIRCH empowers individuals to achieve and sustain their recovery, underscoring the program's vital role in addressing homelessness and promoting long-term stability in Central Oregon.

Unlike emergency shelters, which provide short-term relief and immediate shelter for individuals in crisis, BIRCH offers continuing supportive community housing that focuses on long-term recovery and stability. While emergency shelters address urgent needs and offer temporary respite, BIRCH is designed to be a more comprehensive solution, providing a stable environment where residents can work on their personal growth and recovery. The program emphasizes a structured approach to wellness, financial stability, purposeful activities, and community integration. Residents in BIRCH are not only temporarily housed but are also given access to the tools and support needed to build a sustainable future. This includes participation in case management with an aim to secure stable housing. This holistic approach ensures that individuals are actively engaged in a process that fosters lasting transformation and self-sufficiency.