

The Gathering Inn

Independent Audit Validates Strong Outcomes

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Executive Summary | July 2026



Meeting people where they are, inspiring hope, and walking alongside them on their journey to sustainable housing

www.thegatheringinn.com

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An independent evaluation by the Sacramento City Auditor found that The Gathering Inn's North 5th Emergency Shelter delivers strong guest outcomes while responsibly stewarding public resources.

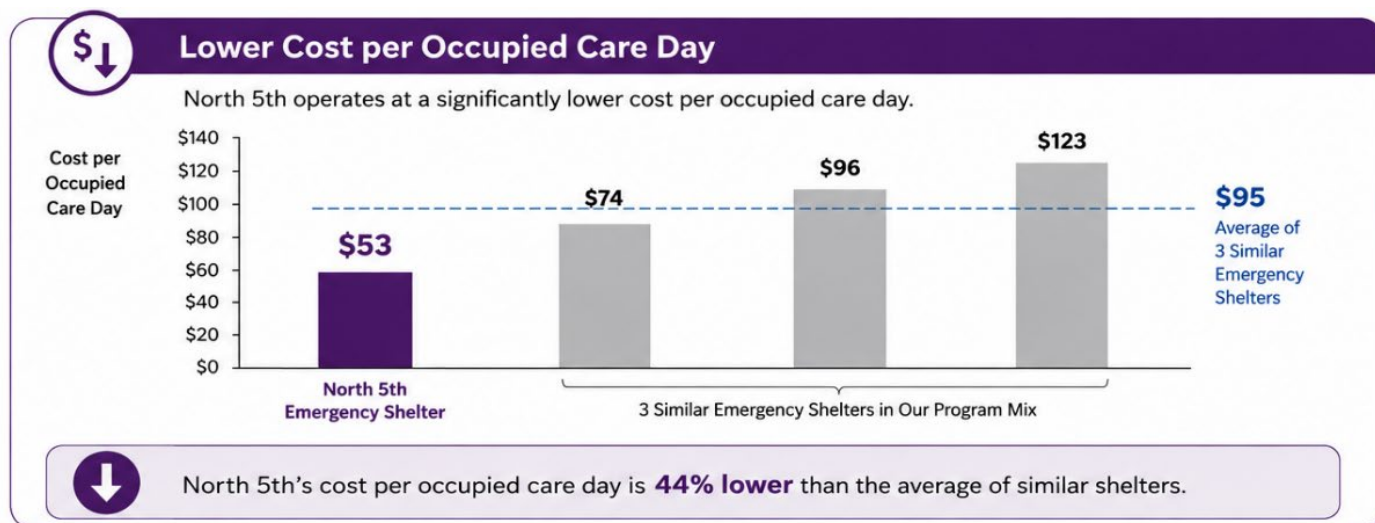
Communities seek homelessness services that are compassionate, effective, and fiscally responsible. A newly released independent audit by the Sacramento City Auditor demonstrates that these goals can work together.

The City Auditor's Evaluation of Costs and Outcomes of Sheltering Programs evaluated fourteen emergency shelter programs throughout Sacramento, examining operating costs, guest outcomes, utilization, and overall effectiveness. Rather than identifying a single "best" provider, the audit compared similar shelter models to determine which approaches deliver the greatest value for individuals experiencing homelessness and the broader community.

Among the programs evaluated was The Gathering Inn's North 5th Emergency Shelter.

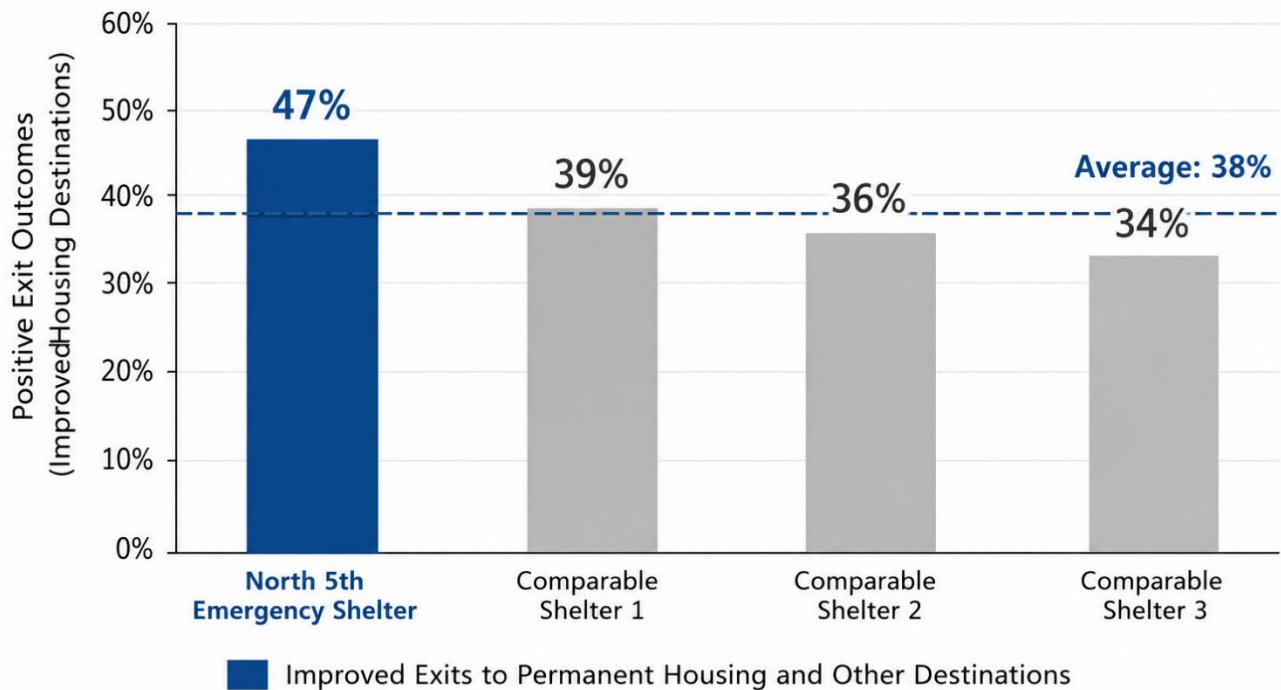
To ensure meaningful comparisons, the City Auditor evaluated North 5th alongside emergency shelters with similar operational priorities. The findings demonstrate that North 5th delivers strong guest outcomes while responsibly stewarding public resources.

Independent City Auditor Findings



Higher Positive Exit Outcomes

(Improved Exits to Permanent Housing and Other Destinations)



* Positive Exit Outcomes include exits to permanent housing and improved (non-permanent) destinations as defined by the City Auditor.

Source: City of Sacramento Office of the City Auditor. Evaluation of Costs and Outcomes of Sheltering Programs and City's Homeless Sheltering Programs Fact Book (June 2026). North 5th metrics are derived from the City Auditor's published data. Peer averages were calculated using the City Auditor's operational grouping of comparable emergency shelters.

These findings demonstrate that compassionate care and responsible stewardship are not competing priorities. They work hand in hand. The independent audit found that North 5th achieved a higher rate of positive exit outcomes while operating at a substantially lower cost than the average of comparable emergency shelters. The findings affirm that communities can achieve meaningful results while wisely stewarding public and private resources.

"We are grateful for an independent evaluation that recognizes both the quality of care provided to our guests and our commitment to responsible stewardship," said Keith Diederich, President and CEO of The Gathering Inn. "Every public dollar and every private donation entrusted to us deserves to produce the greatest possible impact. This report affirms that communities do not have to choose between compassion and accountability."

Additional Independent Findings

Beyond costs and outcomes, the City Auditor also recognized operational practices that reflect The Gathering Inn's broader commitment to the communities it serves.

Community Partnership

The audit recognized North 5th's proactive Good Neighbor Policy, including direct communication with neighboring businesses and residents and clear leadership contact information to promptly address community concerns.

Weather Respite

The audit also identified North 5th as one of only two City-designated Weather Respite locations, providing refuge during periods of extreme weather. Beyond our contractual responsibilities, The Gathering Inn provides Weather Respite without additional cost to the City, reflecting our commitment to serving both vulnerable individuals and the broader community.

Measuring What Matters

While the audit focused primarily on costs and housing outcomes, one recommendation particularly resonated with The Gathering Inn.

The City Auditor concluded that communities should develop standardized measures of well-being alongside housing outcomes because housing alone does not fully capture an individual's progress.

That recommendation closely aligns with The Gathering Inn's long-held philosophy that homelessness is not simply a housing issue: it is a well-being issue.

Stable housing is an essential milestone, but lasting stability also depends on restoring identity, connection, freedom, safety, meaning, growth, and joy. These Seven Domains of Well-Being guide how The Gathering Inn walks alongside every guest because sustainable housing is not simply about obtaining an address. It is about rebuilding a life.

"Housing is a critical milestone, but it is not the finish line," said Nick Golling, Executive Vice President of The Gathering Inn. "Our goal is to help people build lasting stability by supporting the whole person. It is encouraging to see the audit recognize the importance of measuring well-being alongside housing outcomes because that reflects how we have always viewed this work."

Continuing Our Commitment

The City Auditor also concluded that higher spending does not necessarily produce better outcomes, reinforcing that thoughtful program design, meaningful relationships, and thoughtful stewardship, not simply greater spending, drive success.

The Gathering Inn views this report not as recognition of one organization over another, but as encouraging affirmation that communities can provide compassionate, person-centered care while wisely stewarding public and private resources.

These independent findings affirm our commitment to continue serving individuals with compassion while remaining accountable to our community, our public partners, and the generous donors who make this work possible.

Responsible stewardship extends beyond financial accountability. It also means investing in people, strengthening community partnerships, and creating opportunities for individuals to move toward sustainable housing with dignity, purpose, and hope.

We remain committed to meeting people where they are, inspiring hope, and walking alongside them on their journey to sustainable housing.

Sources:

[City of Sacramento Office of the City Auditor. Evaluation of Costs and Outcomes of Sheltering Programs. June 2026.](#)

[City of Sacramento Office of the City Auditor. City's Homeless Sheltering Programs Fact Book. June 2026.](#)