

**CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE  
SPOKANE COUNTY, WASHINGTON  
ORDINANCE NO. 1147**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE, WASHINGTON RELATING TO  
AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING HOUSING  
FOR INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN IMMINENT RISK  
OF BEING HOMELESS**

WHEREAS, the City of Medical Lake (“City”) is a fully-planning city under the Growth Management Act (“GMA”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.070, the City must have a Comprehensive Plan with a land use element that establishes population densities, building intensities, and general land use distributions; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.040, the City must have development regulations that implement the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.545, the City must allow increased density for affordable housing owned or controlled by a religious organization; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.21.915, the City must allow religious organizations to host homeless on property owned or controlled by a religious organization; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 35.21.683, the City must allow transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, indoor emergency shelters, and indoor emergency housing in certain zones; and

WHEREAS, the Medical Lake Municipal Code (“MLMC”) does not address housing for individuals or families who are homeless or in imminent risk of being homeless ; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the City and its citizens, a new chapter, Chapter 19.760 – Emergency Housing and Shelters, is being added to the MLMC; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the City and its citizens, a new chapter, Chapter 19.765 – Religious Organizations and Temporary Housing, is being added to the MLMC; and

WHEREAS, to better serve the City and its citizens, a new chapter, Chapter 19.770 – Religious Organizations and Affordable Housing, is being added to the MLMC; and

WHEREAS, a State Environmental Protection Act (SEPA) checklist and a determination of non-significance were distributed on March 25, 2026, no comments were received, and the DNS is retained; and

WHEREAS, the City of Medical Lake Planning Commission (“Planning Commission”) considered the proposed text amendments at a properly noticed public hearing on March 26, 2026 and April 16, 2026, so as to receive public testimony; and

WHEREAS, at its April 16, 2026, meeting, the Planning Commission voted to recommend approval of the amendments; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to RCW 36.70A.106, on April 20, 2026, the City provided the Washington State Department of Commerce with a sixty (60) day notice of its intent to adopt the amendment(s) to the MLMC; and

WHEREAS, on June 16, 2026, the City of Medical Lake City Council (“City Council”) discussed the proposed text amendments at a properly noticed open public hearing; and

WHEREAS, the City Council considered the entire public record, public comments, written and oral, and the Planning Commission’s recommendation; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is supported by the staff report and materials associated with this Ordinance, including documents on file with the City; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance is also supported by the professional judgment and experience of the City staff who have worked on this proposal; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that the proposed amendments are in accord with the Comprehensive Plan, will not adversely affect the public health, safety, or general welfare, and are in the best interest of the citizens and property owners of the City; and

WHEREAS, the City Council determined that the proposed amendments are consistent with the goals and requirements of the GMA.

NOW, THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Medical Lake, Washington does ordain as follows:

**Section 1.** Amendment. The following terms are hereby alphabetically added to MLMC Chapter 19.160 – Definitions.

*Transitional Housing.* Housing and supportive services to homeless persons as defined in RCW 84.36.043.

*Permanent Supportive Housing.* Housing and supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness or have imminent risk of homelessness as defined in RCW 36.70A.030.

*Emergency Shelter.* Facilities that provide a temporary shelter for individuals or families who are currently homeless as defined in RCW 36.70A.030.

*Emergency Housing.* Temporary accommodations for individuals or families who are homeless or at imminent risk of becoming homeless as defined in RCW 36.70A.030.

**Section 2.** Amendment. MLMC Section 19.520.040 – Use Categories, is amended as follows:

*Agriculture.* Agriculture includes activities that raise, produce or keep plants or animals.

*Basic Utilities.* Basic Utilities are infrastructure services which need to be located in or near the area where the service is provided. Basic Utility uses generally do not have regular employees at the site. Services may be public or privately provided. All public safety facilities are Basic Utilities. Accessory uses include offices and parking. Examples include water and sewer pump stations, sewage disposal and conveyance systems, electrical substations, water towers and reservoirs, energy production, data centers, water quality and flow control facilities, water conveyance systems, water harvesting and re-use conveyance systems and pump stations, stormwater facilities

and conveyance systems, telephone exchanges; mass transit stops or turn arounds, wireless communication facilities, and public safety facilities, including fire and police stations.

*Commercial Parking.* Commercial Parking facilities provide parking that is not accessory to a specific use.

*Community Services.* Community Services are uses of a public, nonprofit, or charitable nature generally providing a local service to people of the community. Generally, such uses provide the service on the site or have employees at the site on a regular basis. Accessory uses include offices, food preparation, dining, and parking. Examples include libraries, museums, senior centers, community centers, hospices, drug and alcohol centers, social service facilities, housing shelters, vocational training for persons with disabling conditions, and charitable meal service or food distribution centers.

*Daycare.* Daycare use includes day or evening care of two (2) or more children outside of the children's homes, for a fee. Daycare uses also include the daytime care of teenagers or adults who need assistance or supervision. Accessory uses include offices, food preparation, dining, recreation, and parking. Examples include child care centers, preschools, before and after school programs, and adult daycare programs.

*Emergency Housing and Shelters.* Emergency Housing and Shelters are facilities that provide temporary housing for individuals or families experiencing homelessness or housing instability. Accessory uses include supportive services. Emergency Housing and Shelters do not include outdoor encampments or vehicle resident safe parking as provided for in RCW 35.21.915.

*Essential Public Facility.* Facilities that are typically difficult to site. Siting of essential public facilities is regulated by RCW 36.70A.200. Examples include airports, state education facilities and state or regional transportation facilities, regional transit authority facilities, state and local correctional facilities, solid waste handling facilities, opioid treatment programs including both mobile and fixed-site medication units, recovery residences, harm reduction programs excluding safe injection sites, and inpatient facilities including substance use disorder treatment facilities, mental health facilities, group homes, and secure community transition facilities.

*Group Living.* Group Living is the residential occupancy of a congregate housing facility. Tenancy is typically arranged on a month-to-month basis or longer period. Group Living often includes a common eating area for residents. The residents may or may not receive any combination of care, training, or treatment. Accessory uses include parking, storage, food preparation, dining, laundry, and recreation facilities. Examples include dormitories, convalescent and nursing homes, and single-room occupancy housing, group homes for people with disabling conditions, permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, and residential programs for drug and alcohol treatment.

*Household Living.* Household Living is the residential occupancy of a Dwelling Unit. Tenancy is arranged on a month-to-month basis or longer period. Accessory uses include parking, storage, raising pets, recreational activities, hobbies, agriculture, certified childcare, and home occupations. Examples include houses, townhouses, plexes, and apartments. Adult Family Homes are considered Household Living.

*Manufacturing and Production.* Manufacturing And Production firms are involved in the manufacturing, processing, fabrication, packaging, or assembly of goods. Accessory uses include offices, warehouses, storage yards, and parking. Examples include processing food, coffee

roasting, breweries, woodworking and cabinet making, movie and video production, and sign making.

*Medical Centers.* Medical Centers include uses providing medical or surgical care to patients and offering overnight care. Accessory uses include offices, laboratories, food preparation, dining, and parking. Examples include hospitals.

*Offices.* Office uses are characterized by activities conducted in an office setting that focus on the provision of goods and services, usually by professionals. Accessory uses include parking and storage. Examples include lawyers, accountants, architects, engineers, medical and dental clinics, scientists, and real estate agents.

*Parks.* Parks are uses of land focusing on natural areas, large areas consisting mostly of vegetative landscaping or outdoor recreation, community gardens, or public squares. Accessory uses include concessions and parking.

*Retail Sales and Service.* Retail Sales and Service firms sell, lease or rent new or used products to the general public and/or provide personal services or entertainment, or provide product repair or services for consumer and business goods. Accessory uses include offices, storage, manufacturing, and parking. Examples include stores, banks, personal care services, laundromats, art/photo studios, dance/music classes, urgent medical care, veterinarians, restaurants, bars, entertainment, clubs, vocational schools, and repair services.

*Schools.* This category includes public and private schools at the primary, elementary, middle, junior high, or high school level that provide state mandated basic education. Accessory uses include offices, recreation, food preparation, dining, before and after school care, and parking.

*Self Service Storage.* Self-Service Storage uses provide separate storage areas for individual or business uses. The storage areas are designed to allow private access by the tenant for storing or removing personal property. Accessory uses include security and leasing offices.

*Religious Institutions.* Religious Institutions are intended to primarily provide meeting areas for religious activities. Accessory uses include offices, recreation, food preparation and distribution, dining, parking, and daycare. Examples include churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques.

*Temporary Lodging.* Temporary lodging is the residential occupancy of a room(s) or Dwelling Unit with a tenancy of less than thirty (30) days. Accessory uses include parking, recreational activities, food preparation, and dining. Examples include hotels, motels, and short-term rentals.

*Vehicle Service.* Vehicle Service firms service passenger vehicles, light and medium trucks and other consumer motor vehicles such as motorcycles, boats and recreational vehicles. Accessory uses include offices, sales of parts, vehicle storage, and parking. Examples include gas stations, repair shops, tire sales and mounting, oil change shop, and auto detailing.

*Warehouse.* Warehouse firms are involved in the storage, or movement of goods for themselves or other firms. Accessory uses include offices and fleet parking.

*Waste Related.* Waste-Related uses are characterized by uses that receive solid or liquid wastes from others for disposal on the site or for transfer to another location, uses that collect sanitary wastes, or uses that manufacture or produce goods from the biological decomposition of organic

material. Accessory uses include offices, parking, and storage. Examples include composting and sewer treatment plants.

*Wholesale.* Wholesale sales firms are involved in the sale, lease, or rent of products primarily intended for industrial, institutional, or commercial businesses. Accessory uses include offices, warehouses, and parking.

**Table 19.520-1 Use Categories.**

<b>Use Categories</b>	<b>Low-Density Residential</b>	<b>Medium-Density Residential</b>	<b>Central Business District</b>	<b>Mixed Use</b>	<b>Public Facilities</b>
Agriculture	A	A	N	A	A
Commercial Parking	N	N	CU	Y	A
Community Service	CU	CU	Y	Y	Y
Daycare	CU <sup>6</sup> /A <sup>2</sup>	CU <sup>6</sup> /A <sup>2</sup>	Y	Y	Y
<u>Emergency Housing and Shelters</u>	<u>CU</u>	<u>CU</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u>
Essential Public Facility	CU	CU	CU	CU	CU
Group Living	CU <sup>5,8</sup>	CU <sup>5,8</sup>	Y	Y	Y
Household Living	Y	Y	Y <sup>4,7</sup>	Y <sup>4,7</sup>	N
Manufacturing and Production	A <sup>1</sup>	A <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	A
Medical Centers	N	N	N	Y	Y
Office	A <sup>1</sup>	A <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	Y
Parks	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Religious Institutions	CU	CU	Y	Y	A
Retail Sales and Service	A <sup>1</sup>	A <sup>1</sup>	Y	Y	A
Schools	N	N	Y	Y	Y
Self-Service Storage	N	N	N	Y	N
Temporary Lodging	N/CU <sup>9</sup>	CU	Y	Y	A
Utilities <sup>3</sup>	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Vehicle Service	N	N	N	Y	A
Warehouse	N	N	N	Y	A

Waste-Related	N	N	N	N	Y
Wholesale	N	N	N	Y	N

<sup>1</sup> Use is limited and allowed only through a home occupation permit per MLMC Chapter 17.45 – Home Occupation Permit.

<sup>2</sup> Family Daycare Providers are considered Home Occupations and are allowed without a Conditional Use Review.

<sup>3</sup> Wireless Communications may require a Conditional Use Review as stipulated in MLMC Chapter 17.52 – Wireless Communications Facilities.

<sup>4</sup> Household Living is not allowed on the ground floor within 100 feet of the public right-of-way of SR 902, Lake Street, and Lefevre Street.

<sup>5</sup> Adult Family Homes are considered Home Occupations and are allowed without a Conditional Use Review.

<sup>6</sup> Child Care Centers are allowed without a Conditional Use Review.

<sup>7</sup> New housing in existing buildings may not be subject to all development standards per RCW 35A.21.440 and 36.70.810.

<sup>8</sup> Group Living that meets the definition of “Co-Living” in RCW 36.70A.535 is exempt from a Conditional Use Review.

<sup>9</sup> Short-term rentals are allowed if approved through a Conditional Use Review pursuant to MLMC 19.790 – Conditional Use Review.

Y = Yes, allowed

N = No, not allowed, prohibited

CU = Allowed only if approved by a Conditional Use Review pursuant to MLMC 19.790 – Conditional Use Review

A = Accessory, allowed only as an accessory to the primary use

**Section 3.** Amendment. Chapter 19.760 – Emergency Housing and Shelters, is hereby added to the MLMC:

**19.760.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to comply with the requirements of RCW 35.21.683, pertaining to permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

**19.760.020 Applicability.** This chapter applies to permanent supportive housing, transitional housing, indoor emergency housing, or indoor emergency shelters.

**19.760.030 Requirements.** Any proposed indoor emergency housing or indoor emergency shelter, shall require a written certification with all of the information described in RCW 35.21.683(5)(a) from the sponsor or managing agency prior to a certificate of occupancy.

**Section 4.** Amendment. Chapter 19.765 – Religious Organizations and Temporary Housing, is hereby added to the MLMC:

**19.765.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to comply with the requirements of RCW 35.21.915, pertaining to religious organizations hosting the homeless.

**19.765.020 Applicability.** This chapter applies to outdoor encampments, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelters, or vehicle resident safe parking hosted by a religious organization, as provided for in RCW 35.21.915.

**19.765.030 Duration.** A religious organization may host outdoor encampments, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelters, or vehicle resident safe parking for no more than four (4) consecutive months. There shall be a minimum of three (3) consecutive months between hosting periods.

**19.765.040 Requirements.** A religious organization that wishes to host an outdoor encampment, temporary small houses on-site, indoor overnight shelter, or vehicle resident safe parking shall complete the following:

- A. A memorandum of understanding with the City that contains, at a minimum, those criteria or items set forth in RCW 35.21.915.
- B. Host a community meeting pursuant to RCW 35.21.915.
- C. Complete sex offender checks of all the adult residents and guests.

**19.765.050 Temporary Small Houses.** Temporary Small Houses hosted by a religious organization shall meet the following requirements:

- A. The memorandum of understanding shall be renewed annually.
- B. Each small house shall be no larger than one hundred twenty (120) square feet.
- C. There shall be at least six (6) feet between small houses.
- D. Electricity shall be inspected by the Washington State Labor and Industries.
- E. Heating systems shall be inspected by the City of Medical Lake Building Official.
- F. Space heaters shall be inspected by the Fire Official.
- G. Doors and windows shall be lockable.
- H. Each small house shall have a fire extinguisher.
- I. Adequate restrooms shall be provided, including handwashing.
- J. Potable running water shall be provided.

**19.765.060 Safe Parking.** Safe Parking hosted by a religious organization shall meet the following requirements:

- A. The minimum parking spaces required for the primary use shall be retained for the primary use.
- B. Restroom access shall be provided.
- C. If recreational vehicles are hosted, proper disposal of waste shall be provided.

**19.765.070 Indoor Overnight Shelter.** The memorandum of understanding for an Indoor Overnight Shelter hosted by a religious organization shall contain provisions for fire safety pursuant to RCW 35.21.915.

**Section 5.** Amendment. Chapter 19.770 – Religious Organizations and Affordable Housing, is hereby added to the MLMC:

**19.770.010 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to comply with the requirements of RCW 36.70A.545, pertaining to bonus densities for affordable housing on properties owned or controlled by religious organizations.

**19.770.020 Applicability.** Any Affordable Housing Development, as defined by RCW 36.70A.545, that is proposed on real property owned or controlled by a religious organization shall receive a twenty (20) percent density bonus provided that:

- A. At least fifty (50) percent of the Affordable Housing Development is set aside for or occupied exclusively by low-income households, as defined by RCW 36.70A.545; or
- B. At least twenty (20) percent of the Affordable Housing Development is set aside for or occupied exclusively by very low-income households, as defined by RCW 36.70A.545.

**19.770.030 Requirements.** The Affordable Housing Development shall:

- A. Execute a lease or other binding obligation that requires the affordability requirements and other conditions contained in RCW 36.70A.545 to be maintained for at least fifty (50) years, even if the religious organization no longer owns the property.
- B. Meet all development standards of the zone.

**Section 6. Severability.** If any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

**Section 7. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect five (5) days after publication of this Ordinance or a summary thereof in the official newspaper of the City as provided by law.

PASSED by the City Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of July 2026.

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Mayor, Terri Cooper

ATTEST:

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Finance Director/City Clerk Koss Ronholt

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

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City Attorney, Sean P. Boutz

Date of Publication:

Effective Date:

City Medical Lake  
124 S. Lefevre Street  
Medical Lake, WA 99022  
509-565-5000

**NOTICE OF ORDINANCE PASSED BY MEDICAL LAKE CITY COUNCIL**

The following is the title and summary of Ordinance No. 1147 passed by the City of Medical Lake City Council on the \_\_\_\_\_ day of July, 2026.

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF MEDICAL LAKE, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO AMENDMENTS TO TITLE 19 OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE REGARDING HOUSING FOR INDIVIDUALS OR FAMILIES WHO ARE HOMELESS OR IN IMMINENT RISK OF BEING HOMELESS**

**Section 1.** Identifies the amendments to Title 19, Chapter 19.160 of the City of Medical Lake Municipal Code (MLMC).

**Section 2.** Identifies the amendments to Title 19, Section 19.520.040 of the MLMC.

**Section 3.** Identifies the amendments to Title 19, Chapter 19.760 of the MLMC.

**Section 4.** Identifies the amendments to Title 19, Chapter 19.765 of the MLMC.

**Section 5.** Identifies the amendments to Title 19, Chapter 19.770 of the MLMC.

**Section 6.** Establishes a severability clause in the event some portion of the Ordinance is held invalid.

**Section 7.** Establishes an effective date for Ordinance No. 1147 for five (5) days after publication of the Ordinance, or a summary thereof, in the official newspaper of the City, as provided by law.

The full text of the Ordinance is available at the City of Medical Lake offices as identified above. A copy will be mailed to any citizen without cost upon request from the City's Clerk's office.

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Koss Ronholt, Finance Director/City Clerk

Published: \_\_\_\_\_