

Westside Coalition Operating Principles

The Westside Coalition asserts the importance of making clear statements that define the basic beliefs, values and parameters by which its leadership body will operate. An organization's operating principles describe what a community should be able to expect from one another. Such principles need to be established within the context of the organizational mission and objectives.

The Westside Coalition has defined 8 overarching operating principles as follows:

- 1) **Human Dignity:** We affirm the dignity and worth of all members of our community.
- 2) **Equal Access:** We believe all people have a right to equal access to resources that maintain a decent standard of living (e.g., housing, food, medical care, mental health treatment, etc.)
- 3) **Integrity:** We are committed to operating ethically, honestly, and transparently.
- 4) **Empowerment:** We believe in the empowerment of those we serve.
- 5) **Compassion:** We treat each other and those we serve with compassion.
- 6) **Shared Responsibility:** We recognize that homelessness and hunger are systemic issues and that it takes a community to combat their effects.
- 7) **Advocacy:** We are committed to helping people break the cycle of poverty by changing the systems that maintain their poverty.
- 8) **Common Ground:** We value diversity of perspective while uniting around a common purpose.