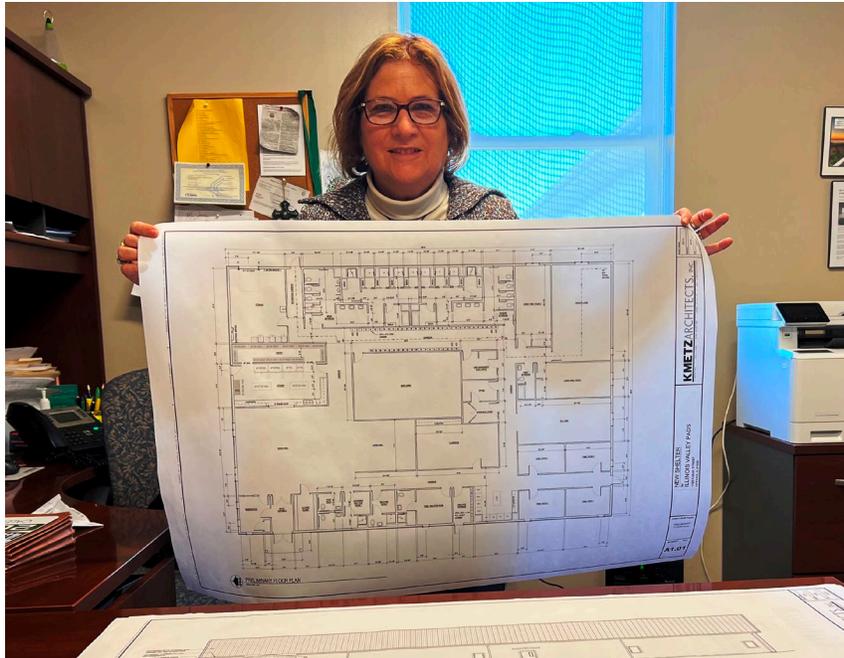




## PRESS RELEASE

### 1120 Canal Street Ottawa floor plans builds excitement at Illinois Valley PADS



**Ottawa, Illinois, February 1, 2023** – Executive Director of Illinois Valley PADS, Carol Alcorn, was excited to be able to view the first draft of the floor plans for the new Ottawa shelter. This is a facility that will be built at 1120 Canal Street in Ottawa.

*“This is a long-awaited goal to be able to serve the needs of the growing number of homeless in our communities. We know that this new build is essential, as we continually reach near-capacity at our current inadequate Ottawa Shelter”* stated the Director.

The initial plans developed will be for a 11,238 sq. ft. building on the existing property which requires the current building to be removed. The approximate cost of this new build project will be \$3,500,000. There are no plans to begin until the funds are secured.

The current Ottawa shelter is housed in a 165-year-old building with problems that include inadequate space and extensive temperature control issues. The space of the facility tightly houses 55 individuals. These 55 individuals are provided only three bathrooms (two of which are single use) and two washers and dryers. Most importantly, a portion of the existing building is failing structurally.

The need continues to grow as during August 15<sup>th</sup> through December 31<sup>st</sup> of 2022, the Ottawa shelter served 150 individuals with 24 being children. There have been 15,315 meals served from its small kitchen. Despite these obstacles, the Ottawa staff has been able to successfully secured 67 jobs with 23 permanent housing placements. In addition to providing safe and warm shelter and services, there have been 15,315 meals served from their tiny kitchen.

The objectives for the new shelter facility are to include a larger approved kitchen, larger dorm rooms for men and women, six family rooms, more office and storage space, a playroom for children, larger bathrooms with showers, a large multi-purpose classroom, and isolation rooms with bathrooms when needed to keep all staff and guests safe.

IV PADS program exists to provide not only a safe, warm shelter, shower, food, and comprehensive services. Equally important, IV PADS provides services with dignity and compassion as they address the unique stressors and stigmas experienced when living on the streets of our communities.

The help of our communities is desperately needed to meet the IV PADS mission of providing safe shelter, food, and services to people in need. **In order to contribute, volunteer, or provide in-kind construction services or equipment, please call 815-224-3047 or access their website at <https://ivpads.com>.**

**For additional questions, please contact:**

Carol Alcorn  
Executive Director  
Illinois Valley PADS  
info@ivpads.com  
815-224-3047

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