



Frequently Asked Questions

Why do homeless individuals use EDAR units? Aren't shelter beds more comfortable?

Absolutely! But many who are homeless are not comfortable living in shelters and many shelters offer only temporary accommodation. Plus, in many larger cities, the shelters are at or above maximum capacity and do not have the funds to pay for more shelters. EDAR *for sure* is not as good as permanent shelter, but it is much better than a cardboard box under a freeway overpass.

Does EDAR work with other organizations to address related problems of homelessness?

EDAR partners with a network of philanthropic, governmental and homeless advocacy organizations to assist in the distribution of EDAR units. For individuals who are not affiliated with one of these organizations and would like an EDAR unit, EDAR will refer an individual to a distributing partner organization so that they may receive a unit through them.

What security does EDAR offer to an individual?

Living rough on our streets is inherently dangerous. In "day mode", EDAR secures personal belongings by the use of locks. In "night mode", there are translucent windows that help each person remain aware of their surroundings. We work with our shelter partners to provide land on their property that will provide additional safety and storage.

Please describe an EDAR community.

EDAR communities are made up of 10-15 EDAR units, creating a dormitory effect on land provided by a local authority or private entity. Restroom and shower facilities are integrated into the community and EDAR works with local homeless agencies to provide additional social services to the residents of the community.

Are EDARs hard for homeless individuals to operate?

We currently have EDAR users ranging from petite women to strong men and in a full spectrum of ages. When designing the EDAR units, we ensured that EDAR was stronger than the average supermarket cart already used by many homeless people. We developed wheels that are better than a supermarket cart's, being slightly larger and easier to steer in a consistent fashion. We have also included a brake and locking mechanism which ensures the unit will not move on its own.

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