

# Freedom Grounds

## Freedom Grounds: A National Pilot for Human Dignity and Autonomy

### Executive Summary

America faces a growing homelessness crisis. Current approaches—sweeps, shelters, and policing—are costly and ineffective. *Freedom Grounds* is a **federal–state partnership pilot**: a 640-acre “Wild Human Reserve” that balances **personal freedom** with **basic infrastructure**, modeled after the early KOA campgrounds. It provides a place to simply *be*, while offering **voluntary pathways** out of poverty for those who want them.

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### The Core Idea

- **Location:** 640 acres of underutilized federal/state land.
  - **Design:**
    - 160 edge plots of 1 acre each (“homesteads”).
    - 320 quarter-acre plots for micro-villages.
    - Central hub with 500 temporary camping sites (3,000 sq ft each).
  - **Facilities:**
    - Potable water and sanitation (compost toilets, solar showers).
    - Medical clinic with urgent care + addiction/mental health services.
    - Maker & mechanic shop for skill-building and repairs.
    - Education center (literacy, trades, digital access).
    - Community kitchen & meeting house.
    - Storefront/market for essentials.
  - **Infrastructure:**
    - Solar/wind microgrids at hubs.
    - Internet + cell coverage via mesh network.
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### Guiding Principles

- **Freedom & Identity:** Residents choose how to live; minimal interference.
- **Consent-Only Services:** Medical, educational, and housing pathways are voluntary.

- **Safety with Autonomy:** No violent crime tolerated; otherwise, self-policing community supported by light county presence.
  - **Economic Opportunity:** Maker spaces, art, digital work, and micro-businesses foster dignity and independence.
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## 1. Infrastructure & Design

- **Robust Public Transportation:** A dedicated bus route to town centers, industrial zones, and commercial districts is a *non-negotiable lifeline*. This solves the last-mile problem, ensuring residents can reach jobs, education, healthcare, and civic life.
  - **Permeable and Welcoming Design:** Publicly accessible features—community garden, farmers' market, maker space—encourage interaction with outsiders and reduce stigma.
  - **Mixed-Use Zoning:** Small-scale commerce (cafés, repair shops, galleries) at the property edge blurs boundaries between the community and its neighbors.
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## 2. Economic Integration

- **Guaranteed Jobs Program (Civilian & Green Corps):** Voluntary, paid work modeled after Job Corps/CCC.
    - *Green Jobs:* ecological restoration, solar maintenance, market gardening.
    - *Civic Jobs:* kitchen, childcare, maintenance, administration.
  - **Employer-in-Residence Programs:** Local businesses use the Maker & Mechanic Shop for training and recruitment (welding certs, coding bootcamps, apprenticeships).
  - **Microenterprise with a Gateway:** Internal market incubates small businesses with direct pipelines to local farmers' markets and online sales platforms.
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## 3. Social and Civic Connection

- **Shared Civic Roles:** Residents encouraged to volunteer in nearby towns (fire dept, schools, libraries), creating mutual responsibility and integration.
  - **Public Events:** Community kitchen and meeting house double as venues for fairs, concerts, and celebrations, drawing visitors and dismantling stereotypes.
  - **Skill-Sharing Platform:** Education center facilitates two-way exchange—residents teach coding or carpentry; neighbors offer cooking or trade workshops.
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## Why It Works

- **Cheaper than the status quo:** Avoids cycles of eviction, ER visits, and policing.
  - **Health & safety preserved:** Basic water, sanitation, and shade prevent deaths and disease.
  - **Economic bridges built:** Guaranteed jobs, microenterprise, and employer partnerships connect residents directly to the regional economy.
  - **Social integration achieved:** Permeable design and shared activities erase barriers between “housed” and “unhoused.”
  - **Scalable & flexible:** Can be replicated nationwide on surplus land.
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## The Ask

Authorize a **federal pilot program** under the Property Clause:

- Dedicate 640 acres per state as **Freedom Grounds**.
  - Fund initial infrastructure: water, sanitation, solar, internet, transit, and core facilities.
  - Partner with states and nonprofits for minimal but humane oversight.
  - Track outcomes: health, safety, cost savings, economic participation, housing exits.
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## The Vision

A modern sanctuary where Americans who have fallen through the cracks can **breathe, rebuild, and belong**—without coercion, without criminalization, and with dignity intact.