Balance of yes and no examples

The situation
Formerly homeless persons may have experienced negative interactions with other people in the past. A large part of these encounters with others can be directives to stop doing something or being something the other person finds objectionable. Over time, these perceptions can lower someone’s self-esteem. In other cases, repeated negative reinforcement from others can prompt anger and rebellion.

Potential solution
There are options in how to present and explain necessary rules in facilities for new visitors or residents. It may be helpful to present rules in a positive way (‘yes’ actions), in addition to necessary ‘no’ guidance. Where possible, resident consensus to determine appropriate actions can support self-empowerment and enhance harmony.

Location: Bahkita Gardens, Seattle.
Managing organization: Catholic Housing Services.
Architect and interior designer: Environmental Works Community Design Center. [www.eworks.org](http://www.eworks.org)

Key words
Orderliness
Empowerment
Safety
Emergency shelters
Transitional shelters
Permanent supportive housing

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