The situation
Prospective residents sometimes arrive to transitional or emergency shelters with basic needs due to their placelessness, such as drinking water. It can be difficult to access a water tap that makes it possible to fill a water bottle for use while in transit.

Potential solution
A water bottle filling addition to a water fountain in a shelter waiting/intake room can be helpful in meeting residents’ immediate needs, and subtly tells residents that the organization understands, respects and has anticipated their needs in this moment of crisis.

Location: Austin Resource Center for the Homeless, Austin, TX
Managing organization: Front Steps
Architect: LZT Architects. Herman Thun, architect (now Principal of PLACE designers, Inc.; www.PLACEdesigners.com

Key words
Transitional shelters
Emergency shelters
Stress management
Security
Dignity and Self-Esteem