

**St. Joseph County – Region 2a
Homeless Regional Planning Council
Weather Amnesty Service Plan
2024 – 2025 Winter Season**

- 1) **Project's Purpose:** On behalf of Region 2a, the Center for the Homeless provides additional overflow beds for unsheltered men, women, and families in our Weather Amnesty Program.

- 2) **Project's Service Plan:** In response to the community need for additional emergency shelter space during freezing winter weather conditions, the Center for the Homeless agrees to provide the following overflow beds:
 - 74 beds for men
 - 19 beds for women
 - 2 rooms for mothers and their minor children

- a) Weather Amnesty goes into effect beginning **November 1, 2024**, and continuing until **April 30, 2025, regardless of temperature**. Check in begins at 8pm, unless otherwise announced. All persons seeking shelter are expected to arrive promptly at 8pm, as they cannot be guaranteed shelter if they arrive after 8pm. **All agencies are encouraged to call ahead to determine capacity before sending a referral.**

- b) Weather Amnesty is for **overnight shelter only** and concludes at 8:00 AM each morning, unless otherwise announced. The Center for the Homeless reserves the right to extend Weather Amnesty operational hours in the instance of extreme weather.

- c) **Weather Amnesty is a “damp” living program.** CFH understands that addiction is a medical and/or behavioral issue, and substance use outside of WA hours should not be considered a reason to exclude someone from overnight shelter. However, in order to have a safe and harmonious community we must insist that everyone makes every effort to behave safely appropriately during program hours. **We will not tolerate the use of alcohol or drugs in our building or anywhere on our property.**

- d) For the safety of the community, potential guests must be able to **verify their identity**. WA guests are also subject to background checks, and those with **sex offense and/or arson/firesetting charges are ineligible** for the program. Additionally, individuals who have been **permanently barred from CFH are also ineligible** for WA.

- e) WA guests are subject to rules and community expectations throughout their stay, and refusal or inability to observe these rules may result in being asked to leave, minimally for one night and at worst for the entire season. Extreme rule

violations that threaten the safety of the community will result in a permanent bar from WA and all other CFH services.

3) Warming Centers:

- a) **St. Joseph Public Library**
304 S. Main Street (corner of Wayne & Main)
M-Th 9am-8pm, F-Sa 9am-5pm, Su 1-5pm
Information, Resources, meeting rooms
Cultivate meals on 2nd floor Commons, delivered M,W,F.

- b) **Century Center**
120 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd
Seating and restrooms open to the public. Limited hours

- c) **Howard Park Event Center** *winter hours Dec 1-Mar 29*
219 S. St. Louis Blvd
Monday-Thursday: 8am-8pm, Friday 8am-10pm,
Saturday: 9am-10pm, Sunday: 11am-8pm
Seating and restrooms open to public

- 4) Extreme Weather Emergencies:** In the event of an officially declared Extreme Cold Weather, the St. Joseph County Emergency Management Agency (SJCEMA) will coordinate with South Bend Venues Parks & Arts to provide additional emergency shelter and warming centers as needed. The City of South Bend Homeless Coordinator will coordinate this effort with SJCEMA