

Region 5 Planning Council on Homelessness

Winter Contingency Planning

Howard County:

- ❖ In Howard County, there are no White Flag Shelters established for severe cold weather conditions. However, several local service providers offer Warming Center hours for unsheltered homeless in the County to utilize. In addition, a Street Outreach team (Helping Our Homies) connects with and provides needed supplies to unsheltered homeless.
- ❖ Who initiates planning efforts for severe weather conditions? The Director of Howard County Department of Emergency Management coordinates with local shelters, police and county law enforcement, and county government offices, including the Parks Department and the Health Department, when temperatures are or are projected to be very low (there is no certain temperature degree that initiates the process). The Director relies on information from the National Weather Center. Unincorporated towns in the county are also notified by Director. Assistance may be needed by not only the unsheltered homeless but citizens who have lost electricity.
- ❖ What places have warming center hours?
 - Kokomo Rescue Mission (Will initiate certain extended hours or offer overnight shelter if needed. No screenings and barriers removed unless problems arise.)
 - Coordinated Assistance Ministries (CAM), Inc. (Will initiate certain extended hours. No screenings and barriers removed unless problems arise.)
 - Senior Center located at the Girl Scout building (Warming center hours are typically until 6 pm). Local government is looking into installing a camera so the center can be unmanned and would be monitored by the Parks Department and/or police.
 - Recovery Café at Turning Point System of Care will be open from 8:30 to 4:30 on the coldest days.
 - The FSA Domestic Violence shelter will also accept homeless during extreme cold if there are beds available.
- ❖ How are unsheltered homeless unwilling to go into shelter assisted? Helping Our Homies provides street outreach in Howard County. They provide needed supplies such as tents, blankets, food, and hygiene items to those in need. When needed, they may be able to assist with a hotel stay.
- ❖ Staffing concerns: Shelters report adequate staffing during warming center hours.
- ❖ Supplies needed: If shelters or other community partners providing warming center hours report needing additional supplies such as food, cots, blankets, PPE equipment,

etc., the Director of Emergency Management works to coordinate supplying the needs. The County has storage for items.

- ❖ Transportation strategies: City Trolley system runs until 6 pm M-F. Other options may be Howard County Connect or the police.
- ❖ How are Warming Center hours advertised? Director of Emergency Management prepares official media release. Information is shared via social media, radio, and emails, including the Region 5 Planning Council on Homelessness email network. Information is also posted on the City website.
- ❖ Key contacts for Howard County Government, Shelters, and Warming Centers:
 - Janice Hart / Howard County Department of Emergency Management / 765-431-7914
 - David Trine / Operations Coordinator for City of Kokomo / 765-456-7472
 - Kevin Smith / Executive Director of Kokomo Rescue Mission / 765-456-3838
 - Jerome Williams / Executive Director of CAM, Inc. / 765-452-8963
 - Naketa Catchings / Director of Helping Our Homies / 765-553-1704
 - Angie Ciski / Executive Director of Family Service Association / 765-513-8504
 - Howard County Connect: 765-431-1874
 - United Way of Howard and Tipton Counties: 765-457-HELP (765-457-4357)

Miami County:

- ❖ Several agencies open their doors during extreme weather conditions. They are all open during regular business hours; no after-hours or night warming stations. The Salvation Army will open their doors Monday-Thursday from 9:00-4:00 as needed. The Emmaus Mission is also currently working on a plan

Tipton County:

- ❖ No formal winter contingency plan at this time.

Wabash County:

- ❖ Individuals can contact Dispatch at 260-563-9223 for emergency weather related shelter. During the day individuals can go to the Bowen Center or the Library during business hours.

Cass County:

- ❖ No formal winter contingency plan at this time. The Salvation Army in Logansport will be open during office hours which are Monday-Thursday between 9-4 if someone needs to come in out of the cold. Jason with the Emmaus Mission is working on finalizing an overnight warming center location and winter weather protocol.