



FY 2022
WINTER PLAN



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELESS SERVICES

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SUMMARY

FY22 Winter Season

FY21 Winter Season

ACTIVATION

Winter Shelter Activation

Code Blue Extreme Cold

EMERGENCY SHELTER

Shelter Access

Transportation

Food

Case Management

SERVICE COORDINATION

Street Outreach Services

Behavioral Health Services

Health and Sobering Services

THE EQUAL ACCESS RULE

SUMMARY

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) developed the FY22 Winter Plan to coordinate efforts between the City of Baltimore and providers within the Continuum of Care (CoC) to support hypothermia shelters and vital, life-saving services for Baltimore residents experiencing homelessness during the winter season.

This document outlines the winter plan and protocols to activate additional shelter and services to serve individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness during inclement winter weather. MOHS and other funded shelter providers will expand sheltering capacity when temperatures are forecasted to reach 32°F or below with wind chill. MOHS will shelter-in-place at all emergency and winter shelter sites when temperatures are forecasted to reach 20°F or below.

The FY22 Winter Plan covers the period beginning October 15, 2021 and ending on April 1, 2022. The plan covers two levels of winter shelter activation per the guidance of the Baltimore City Health Department. MOHS may, because of inclement weather (as defined in this document), activate the Winter Plan prior to October 15th or beyond April 1st.

The City will encourage private homeless shelters to open for extended hours to allow clients to remain indoors on Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert days.

MOHS worked with the City's Department of General Services (DGS) to ensure that City funded shelters follow CDC guidance for congregate settings in response to COVID-19. Additionally, safety measures and protocols will comply with Baltimore City Health Department's (BCHD) guidance and recommendations.

There are two types of shelter activation during the FY22 Winter Plan, Winter Shelter and Code Blue:

- **Winter Shelter** – declared by MOHS based on a combination of temperature and wind chill forecasted to reach 32°F or below; operates between October 15, 2021 and April 1, 2022.
- **Code Blue** – declared by the Health Commissioner when a variety of weather conditions exist that pose an extreme risk for hypothermia or other weather conditions that present a substantial threat to the life or health of vulnerable Baltimore citizens; operates between November 15, 2021 and March 15, 2022.

Last winter shelter season (FY21) included 76 winter shelter declarations, eight (8) code blue days and 22 shelter-in-place days.

WINTER SHELTER ACTIVATION

A Winter Shelter Declaration is made when the temperature is forecast to reach 32°F or below, inclusive of wind chill. MOHS will serve as the FY22 Winter Plan lead, assuming responsibility for daily declarations, communications, and coordination with MOHS staff, nonprofit shelter providers, 211, 311, and the coordination of bed utilization for participating shelter providers. MOHS will communicate this

declaration via email to City government agencies, hospitals, and the CoC; it will be communicated to the general public via MOHS' website, social media, and other channels. Partnering shelter providers will increase their capacity to ensure any homeless individual or family seeking shelter is accommodated.

CODE BLUE EXTREME COLD ACTIVATION

The Code Blue Extreme Cold (Code Blue) program is a multi-agency effort to reduce hypothermia-related deaths during winter months by protecting the City's neighbors experiencing homelessness. The Code Blue season is from November 15, 2021 to March 15, 2022.

The Health Commissioner declares a Code Blue day based on the following criteria and, when appropriate, the declaration will specify the risk period as "all day" or "night only" based on forecasted temperatures:

- Temperatures, including wind chill, are expected to be 13°F or below. This threshold can be reached by having a temperature of 20°F or less with 5 mph sustained winds or a temperature of 25°F or less with 15 mph sustained winds.
- Other conditions (e.g., strong winds, forecasted precipitation for more than two hours, extended period of cold, sudden cold after a warm period) deemed by the Health Commissioner to be severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of vulnerable Baltimore citizens.

If possible, the decision to declare a Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert will be made by 4:00 p.m. on the business day before or by 4:00 p.m. on the Friday before the weekend in which extreme cold weather is forecasted. BCHD will send out a press release, announcing Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert status. BCHD will also notify the Mayor's Office of Emergency Management (MOEM) and other members of the Code Blue Extreme Cold Planning Committee.

EMERGENCY SHELTER

The City of Baltimore has several shelter resources for homeless individuals and families. The FY22 Winter Plan focuses on those shelters that received funding through MOHS.

SHELTER TRANSPORTATION

The following locations will serve as transportation pick-up and drop off locations for single adults seeking shelter Monday – Friday:

Fairfield Inn
101 S. President Street

Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center
1201 Pennsylvania Avenue

Greenmount Recreation Center
2304 Greenmount Avenue

My Sister's Place
17 W. Franklin Street

Updated 11/16/2021

Greenspring School
4701 Greenspring Avenue

Health Care for the Homeless
421 Fallsway

Maryland Center for Veterans Education and
Training (MCVET)
301 N. High Street

WINTER SHELTER TRANSPORTATION

For families and single adults seeking shelter, please contact MOHS, Monday – Friday, at 443-984-9540 for shelter referrals. Families will be provided with transportation assistance on all Winter Shelter declaration days. Families will be picked up from the place where they are calling for help. During Winter Shelter declaration days, single adults may report to any of the locations listed above under “Shelter Transportation” where they will be provided with transportation to available Winter Shelter locations, Monday-Friday.

MOHS Emergency Shelters

Shelter	Provider	Populations Served	Capacity	Location	Hours of Operation
Greenspring Men’s Shelter	SVDP	Single Men	153	4701 Greenspring Avenue	24/7
Holiday Inn Express	Catholic Charities	Single Adults	119	1701 Russell Street	24/7
Fairfield Inn	TIME Organization, Inc.	Single Women	145	101 S. President Street	24/7
Holiday Inn Express	MOHS	Families	15	221 N. Gay Street	24/7

MOHS Winter Shelter Emergency Shelter Sites

Shelter	Provider	Populations Served	Capacity	Location	Hours of Operation
Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training	MCVET	Single Men	60	301 N. High Street	4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration
Greenmount Recreation Center	MOHS	Single Women	25	2304 Greenmount Avenue	4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration
Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center	MOHS	Single Men or Women- Depending on the need	25	1201 Pennsylvania Avenue	4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration
TBD	MOHS	Single Men or Women- Depending on the need	15	TBD	4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration

FOOD

Food services is available at each shelter location for individuals and families receiving accommodations.

CASE MANAGEMENT

Individuals placed in winter shelter accommodations, who would also like to receive case management services, will be provided information for drop-in centers to assist them with their identified needs.

WARMING SITES

Due to COVID-19, CAP Centers are currently closed to the public and will not be used as warming sites this season.

SERVICE COORDINATION

Street Outreach Services

Three Outreach teams – MOHS, People Encouraging People (PEP), and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) – provide targeted street outreach services across Baltimore throughout the year.

The Outreach teams provide a vital function in our homeless services system, working to engage vulnerable, unsheltered individuals and connect them to services, including shelter and housing resources. Outreach teams provide an array of direct services, including routine safety checks and the provision of essential survival items (e.g., food, water, blankets, hats, gloves, socks, thermal underwear) for clients that are not yet willing or able to come into shelter, connection to shelter and support services for clients willing and able to accept assistance, and crisis evaluation to determine when additional measures (e.g., involuntary evaluation) are needed to protect individuals from cold weather injury.

Requests for outreach services can be made by emailing homelessoutreach@baltimorecity.gov. A member of the appropriate outreach team will be dispatched to engage individuals to aid them in connecting to available city services.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES

Persons in need of behavioral health services are encouraged to call the Crisis, Information, & Referral Line at 410-433-5175 (available 24/7, 365 days a year). As the local behavioral health authority, Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) funds a range of services, such as outreach and crisis response, that work closely with people who are vulnerable to severe weather. BHSB provides consultation and training on issues related to the public behavioral health system. More info at <https://www.bhsbaltimore.org>.

HEALTH SERVICES AND SOBERING SERVICES

Persons in need of non-emergency medical care or treatment who can wait until the clinics open the next day will be referred to Health Care for the Homeless, 421 Fallsway. Call 911 for persons in need of emergency health care and/or immediate transport to a hospital. Sobering services and linkage to treatment for substance use disorders are available through the Maryland Crisis Stabilization Center: Tuerk House, 730 Ashburton St., 410-233-0684.

THE EQUAL ACCESS RULE

The Equal Access Rule requires equal access to HUD programs without regard to a person's actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. MOHS requires all grantees, regardless of funding source, to comply with these regulations.

Shelter and housing programs serving families with children and receiving funding through MOHS may not exclude children from programs on the basis of age or gender.

<https://files.hudexchange.info/resources/documents/Equal-Access-for-Transgender-People-Supporting-Inclusive-Housing-and-Shelters.pdf>