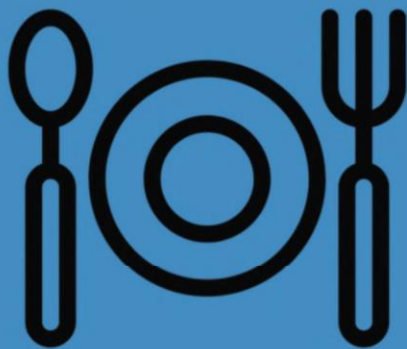




FY23  
**WINTER PLAN**



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF  
HOMELESS SERVICES

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## Summary

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) developed the FY23 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 while adhering to the housing first model. MOHS and other funded shelter providers will expand sheltering capacity when temperatures are forecast to reach 32°F or below (with wind chill). The FY23 Winter Plan covers the period beginning October 15, 2022, and ending on April 1, 2023. MOHS may, because of inclement weather (as defined in this document), activate the Winter Plan prior to October 15th or beyond April 1st.

- **Shelter in Place**-MOHS will shelter in place at all emergency and winter shelter sites when temperatures are forecast to reach 20°F or below.

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 Center for Disease Control (CDC) guidance for congregate settings in response to COVID-19. Safety measures and protocols will comply with Baltimore City Health Department's (BCHD) guidance and recommendations.

Last winter shelter season (2021-2022) included (79) winter shelter declarations and (19) code blue days. There were (18) hypothermia (cold-related) deaths in Baltimore City last winter, as reported by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

## 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 FY23 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 funded providers, hospitals, CoC membership, and the general public and government agencies via 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 homeless neighbors. The Code Blue season is from November 15th to March 15th.

The Health Commissioner declares a Code Blue day based on the following criteria. When appropriate, the declaration will specify the risk period as “all day” or “night only” based on forecast 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 sustained winds.
- Other conditions (e.g., strong winds, forecast 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 forecast. BCHD will send out a press release, announcing Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert status. BCHD will also notify the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) 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 FY23 Winter Plan focuses on those shelters funded through MOHS.

## WINTER SHELTER TRANSPORTATION

All single adults and couples seeking shelter during the Winter Shelter period should report to any of the locations listed below where they will be provided with transportation to available Winter Shelter locations, Monday-Sunday.

My Sister’s Place  
17 W. Franklin Street

Beans & Bread  
402 S. Bond Street

**\*Lockerman Bundy Elementary School  
301 N. Pulaski Street**

Health Care for the Homeless  
421 Fallsway

**\*MCVET  
301 N. High Street**

**\*Winter Shelter Sites\***

For families, adults and couples seeking shelter, please contact the Coordinated Entry Line at **443-984-9540** for referrals and transportation assistance on all winter shelter declaration days. Families will be picked up from the place where they are calling for help. Community partners and shelter seekers can contact the Lockerman Bundy location directly between the hours of 9:00 pm-12 midnight on declaration days at **410-396-9468** or **410-396-9469**.

**MOHS Emergency Shelters**

<b>Shelter Name</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Populations Served</b>	<b>Emergency Shelter Capacity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Hours of Operation</b>
Holiday Inn Express	TIME, Organization, Inc.	Single Men	<b>119</b>	<b>1701 Russell Street</b>	<b>24/7</b>
WHRC	Catholic Charities	Single Adult Men & Women	<b>57 M 21 W 5 C-dorm</b>	<b>620 Fallsway</b>	<b>24/7</b>
Fairfield Inn	TIME, Organization, Inc.	Single Women	<b>145</b>	<b>101 S. President Street</b>	<b>24/7</b>
Holiday Inn Express-Families	MOHS	Families	<b>11</b>	<b>221 N. Gay Street</b>	<b>24/7</b>

**MOHS Winter Shelter Emergency Shelter Sites**

<b>Name of Shelter</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Populations Served</b>	<b>Winter Shelter Capacity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Hours of Operation</b>
Maryland Center for veterans Education and Training	MCVET	Single Men	<b>60</b>	<b>301 N. High Street</b>	<b>4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration</b>
Lockerman Bundy Elementary School	MOHS	Single Adult Men, Women and Couples	<b>150</b>	<b>301 N. Pulaski Street</b>	<b>4pm-9am: 7 days a week upon Winter Shelter Declaration</b>

## **FOOD**

Food services for individuals are available at each shelter location. Hot beverages will be available at the Lockerman Bundy location operated by MOHS.

## **CASE MANAGEMENT**

Individuals placed in winter shelter beds seeking case management services, will be provided information for drop-in centers to assist them with their identified needs. Additionally, clients will be provided hygiene kits.

## **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES**

The Baltimore City Health Department will provide onsite vaccine clinics on designated declaration days.

## **WARMING SITES**

All MOHS funded drop-in centers will be used as warming sites this season.

My Sister's Place  
17 W. Franklin Street

Beans & Bread  
402 S. Bond Street

## **SERVICE COORDINATION**

### **Street Outreach Services**

In addition to MOHS Outreach staff, two other organizations People Encouraging People (PEP) and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) are contracted to provide targeted street outreach services across Baltimore throughout the year.

The outreach agencies provide a vital function in our homeless services system, working to engage vulnerable individuals connecting 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. Additionally, the outreach teams provide diversion services, 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](mailto: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 or disorders are available through the Maryland Crisis Stabilization Center, Tuerk House, 730 Ashburton St., Baltimore, Md, 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 based on age or gender.

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