

FY 2025

Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

CODE RED EXTREME HEAT ALERT PLAN



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELESS SERVICES

MOHS Code Red Extreme Heat Alert Plan

Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services Overview

The Mayor’s Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) has developed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Code Red Plan to aid in the coordination of efforts between the Baltimore City Health Department, the Office of Emergency Management, and providers within the Continuum of Care (CoC) to provide cooling center information, cold water access points, and vital life-saving services for Baltimore residents experiencing homelessness during the Code Red season.

The purpose of this document is to detail the specific plan and protocols to activate cooling centers to serve individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness during extreme heat temperatures. In partnership with CoC providers, MOHS will provide cooling center access and cold-water access points when a Code Red Extreme Heat Alert is issued by the Baltimore City Health Commissioner. An alert is issued when the forecast heat index reaches 105°F or greater.

The FY25 Code Red Extreme Heat Alert Plan is in effect from June 1, 2024, to September 1, 2024.

MOHS Cooling Centers

When a Code Red Extreme Heat Alert is issued, the following CoC providers will operate as cooling centers. Days and hours of availability vary and are detailed below:

Facility Name	Address	Hours of Operation
My Sister’s Place Women’s Center – Women & Children	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201	Monday - Sunday 10:30 AM - 5:30 PM
Manna House	435 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday 11:30 AM - 3:00 PM
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231	Monday - Friday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Franciscan Center	101 W. 23rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC) - Men’s & Women’s Shelter	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Monday - Sunday 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM

***All cooling centers will be open if Code Red Extreme Heat Alert is declared on a national holiday. Please call 311 for the latest cooling center hours and information.**

Cold Water Distribution

On Code Red Extreme Heat Alert days, MOHS Outreach Teams will coordinate cold water distribution to people experiencing unsheltered homelessness throughout the city. The following emergency shelters and community outreach offices will also have cold water onsite during these days:

Facility Name	Address
Holiday Inn Express – Men’s Shelter	221 N. Gay St., Baltimore, MD 21202
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center – Men’s & Women’s Shelter	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202
Fairfield Inn – Women’s Shelter	101 S. President St., Baltimore, MD 21202
Sarah’s Hope Family Shelter	1114 N. Mount St., Baltimore, MD 21217
People Encouraging People – Outreach Office	4201 Primrose Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215
Downtown Partnership of Baltimore – Outreach Office	20 S. Charles St., Baltimore, MD 21201

Baltimore City Health Department

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) leads a multiagency group to coordinate Baltimore City’s approach to support residents during periods of severe heat, also known as the Code Red Extreme Heat season. For more information about the City of Baltimore’s Code Red Extreme Heat response and resources, please visit the [BCHD website](#).

Baltimore City Cooling Centers are available to all Baltimore residents, including those experiencing homelessness. Residents are also encouraged to visit [open Pratt Library locations](#) during normal business hours to seek relief from the heat.

View an [Interactive Map of Baltimore City Cooling Centers](#).

Additional Code Red Information

- Individuals unsure of whether a Code Red Extreme Heat Alert is in effect can call [311](#) for clarification. 311 operators will also provide residents with cooling center locations, safety tips, and other information about warning signs for heat-related morbidity.
- Individuals can also call [311](#) to report specific concerns about vulnerable neighbors on Code Red Extreme Heat Alert days.

- Anyone without electricity is particularly vulnerable to heat-related health problems. City residents who need energy assistance can apply through the [State of Maryland's Emergency Assistance portal](#) or call [1-800-332-6347](#). Older adults who need energy assistance can call [410-396-CARE](#) (2273) for assistance.

Tips on Staying Cool

During periods of extreme heat, the [Baltimore City Health Department](#) recommends that city residents:

- Drink plenty of water and avoid alcohol and caffeine
- Reduce outside activities and stay inside in air-conditioned locations
- Never leave children or pets alone in closed vehicles, even for short periods of time
- Check on older, sick, or frail neighbors who may need help responding to the heat

Watch out for signs of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, which include:

- Confusion
- Hot, dry, flushed skin or cool and clammy skin
- Lightheadedness
- Nausea

Call 911 immediately if any of these symptoms occur.