



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELESS SERVICES

FY 2025 WINTER SHELTER & CODE PURPLE PLAN

November 1, 2024 - March 31, 2025

Developed by the City of Baltimore Mayor's
Office of Homeless Services.

For more information, visit
bit.ly/bmorewintershelter

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Summary

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) developed the FY 2025 Winter Shelter Plan to outline the coordination of efforts between the City of Baltimore and providers in the Baltimore City Continuum of Care (CoC) to provide hypothermia shelters and vital, life-saving services for Baltimore residents in need, including those experiencing homelessness during the winter season. The plan is effective from November 1, 2024, to March 31, 2025, however, MOHS may activate winter shelter before November 1, 2024, or beyond March 31, 2025, in the event of extreme inclement weather.

MOHS will support the operations of City-funded shelter providers who are participating as Winter Shelter locations for the 2024-2025 winter season. All winter shelter locations will expand shelter capacity when the temperature with wind chill is forecast to reach **32°F or below**.

2023-2024 Winter Shelter Data

During the 2023-2024 winter shelter season, there were (66) Winter shelter declarations by MOHS and (13) Code Blue Extreme Code Alert Declarations by BCHD (temperature with wind chill is 13°F or below). In addition, there were six (6) hypothermia or cold-related deaths in Baltimore City, as reported by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

COVID-19 Guidelines

MOHS will continue to operate in compliance with CDC guidelines for COVID-19 as it relates to congregate spaces in City-funded shelters

Winter Shelter Activation

A winter shelter declaration is made by MOHS when the temperature wind chill is forecasted to reach 32°F or below (referred to as Code Purple). When winter shelter is activated, partnering shelter providers will increase their capacity to ensure any individual or family seeking shelter is accommodated.

As the lead agency for the city's winter shelter response, MOHS will assume responsibility for daily declarations, communications, and coordination with MOHS staff, shelter providers, 211 Maryland, and Baltimore City 311 Services. MOHS is also responsible for coordinating bed utilization of all City-funded shelters during a winter shelter declaration.

MOHS will communicate all winter shelter declarations via email to City agencies, hospital partners, and CoC members and providers. Declarations will also be posted via social media and on the [agency website](#) for the general public.

Warming Centers

Once winter shelters are activated, the following providers will operate as warming centers. Days and hours of availability vary and are detailed below:

Facility Name	Address	Hours of Operation
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231	Weekdays, 10:00 am – 2:00 pm
Franciscan Center	101 W. 23rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Weekdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Manna House	435 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Weekdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
My Sister’s Place Women’s Center – women and children only	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201	Daily, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC)	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Daily, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Overnight Emergency Shelter

When Winter Shelter is activated, Baltimore City residents must contact the **Baltimore City Shelter Hotline at 443-984-9540** to get connected to emergency shelter for the night. The Shelter Hotline will be available Monday - Friday, between 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturday - Sunday, between 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

For requests between 9:00 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. (midnight), community partners and shelter seekers can contact the **Winter Shelter Hotline at 443-695-7378**.

Winter Shelter Location	Address	Population Served
Fairfield Inn Hotel	101 S. President St., Baltimore, MD 21202	Single females Couples Families
MCVET	301 N. High St., Baltimore, MD 21202	Single males
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC)	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Single females
Robert C. Marshall Recreation Center	1201 Pennsylvania Ave., Baltimore, MD 21217	Overflow
Lois T Murray	1600 E. Arlington Ave. Baltimore, Md 21239	Overflow

Participating winter shelter locations will provide accommodations **from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. the next morning**. Facilities will shelter in place when temperatures are 20°F or below at the time of release at 9:00 a.m. MOHS encourages all local homeless shelters to operate extended hours to allow residents to remain indoors during periods of extremely cold weather.

Services provided at Winter Shelter locations:

- **Food** - Food services and hot beverages are available for individuals at each location. Dinner is provided during each declaration; breakfast and lunch are provided if facilities are sheltering in place during Cold Blue Extreme Cold Alerts.
- **Case Management** - Individuals seeking case management services will be provided with information for local drop-in centers to assist them with their identified needs.

Transportation

All single adults, couples and families 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, Sunday - Saturday.

Pick-up & Drop-off Location	Address
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231
Health Care for the Homeless	421 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202
MCVET	301 N. High St., Baltimore, MD 21202
My Sister's Place Women's Place	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201
Sleep Inn & Suites	301 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

Service Coordination

Street Outreach

MOHS Outreach Team, People Encouraging People (PEP), and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) collaborate to provide targeted street outreach across Baltimore City daily. During winter shelter activation, Outreach Teams will continue canvassing the city to engage unsheltered individuals and share information on shelter availability and additional resources.

Outreach Teams will also provide an array of direct services, including routine safety checks and essential survival items (e.g., food, water, blankets, hats, gloves, socks, and thermal underwear) for clients who have not yet accepted shelter. When an unhoused individual declines assistance, a crisis evaluation may be used to determine when additional measures (e.g., involuntary evaluation) are needed to protect the health and safety of the individual, particularly in times of extremely cold weather.

If residents have concerns related to individuals experiencing homelessness, please call **311** or email HomelessOutreach@baltimorecity.gov to submit a homeless outreach request.

Housing Navigation

Residents can meet with [Housing Navigators](#) at three Enoch Pratt Free Library Branches for resource and housing assistance. Housing Navigators are available for free, in-person consultations from 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

Pratt Library	Address	Phone	Days of Operation
Central	400 Cathedral St., Baltimore, MD 21201	443-401-9759	Monday, Thursday, Friday
Walbrook	3203 West North Ave., Baltimore, MD 212216	443-615-1232	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Waverly	400 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	443-615-1232	Tuesday & Thursday

For direct inquiries, please email HousingNavigatorMOHS@baltimorecity.gov.

Behavioral Health Services

Those in need of behavioral health services are encouraged to call the Crisis, Information, & Referral Line at **410-433-5175** (available 24/7, daily). 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. For more information, visit <https://www.bhsbaltimore.org>.

Health and Recovery Services

Those in need of non-emergency medical care or treatment will be referred to [Health Care for the Homeless](#). If a person requires emergency health care and/or immediate transport to a hospital, call 911.

The Maryland Crisis Stabilization Center provides sobering services and referrals to treatment for substance use disorders. For more information, visit Tuerk House (730 Ashburton St., Baltimore MD, 21216) or call **410-233-0684**.

Baltimore City Health Department – Code Blue Extreme Cold Program

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) leads a multi-agency effort to reduce hypothermia deaths and protect the city’s vulnerable populations during periods of extreme cold weather, also known as the Baltimore City Code Blue Extreme Cold Program, which is from November 15, 2024, to March 15, 2025.

The Health Commissioner declares a Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert based on the following criteria. 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, extended period of cold, sudden cold after a warm period) deemed by the Commissioner of Health to be severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of vulnerable Baltimore residents.

If possible, the decision to declare a Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert will be made by 5:00 p.m. on the previous business day and by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the weekend in which extreme cold weather is forecasted. BCHD will send out a press release announcing the 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.

The Equal Access Rule

The Equal Access Rule requires all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs to provide equal access to services/resources without regard to a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. MOHS requires all grantees, regardless of funding source, to comply with these regulations. For more information on equal access for transgender people, visit the [HUD Exchange](#).

Shelter and housing programs serving families with children who are receiving funding through MOHS may not exclude children from programs based on age or gender.