

Nashville Cold Weather Community Response Plan

November 1, 2018 – March 31, 2019

www.coldweathernashville.com

The Nashville Cold Weather Community Response Plan is a collaborative effort between nonprofit, faith-based, and government entities to ensure intentional outreach to people experiencing homelessness and assistance with access to shelter during cold weather.

Cold weather forecasts are examined at <https://forecast.weather.gov> at 5 pm each evening for Nashville's zip code 37203. Once it is determined that for the *next/following* night the low will be at 28 degrees Fahrenheit or below, all partner agencies are alerted that Metro will open an extreme cold weather shelter. In addition, by 9 am the next morning, the www.coldweathernashville.com and the information line at 615-862-6391 will be updated.

Year-round shelter beds are available at the **Nashville Rescue Mission**.

- Men's Guest Services are located at 639 Lafayette Street – 615-255-2475 ext. 1460.
 - Showers are open at the Men's Guest Services 24 hours during Cold Weather Shelter season.
- Women's Guest Services are located at 1716 Rosa L. Parks Blvd – 615-312-1574.
 - Showers are open at the Women's Guest Services: Mon-Fri: 10-11am, 3-6:30pm, and 8-9:30pm; and Sat & Sun from 3-6:30pm
- Cold Patrol starts at 32 degrees Fahrenheit with a first shift at 3pm and a second shift at 6:45pm

From Nov. 1-March 31, the **Room In The Inn** program works with close to 200 congregations to open 150-250 shelter beds each night (615-251-7019).

At 28 Degrees Fahrenheit: Room In the Inn secures additional congregational beds; extends hours of the day center, does not remove any bags, and overlooks suspensions on a case by case basis.

Youth Sheltering (18-24 year olds) is offered through **LaunchPad** on the following nights:

Sunday – West End United Methodist Church, 2200 West End Ave, 37203

Monday – Boys and Girls Club, 916 16th Ave. North, 37210

Tuesday – City Road United Methodist Church, 701 Gallatin Pike South, Madison, 37115

Thursdays – City Road United Methodist Church, 701 Gallatin Pike South, Madison, 37115

Wednesday (**starting December through February only!!!**) – Boys and Girls Club

Wednesday in November & March only – Room In The Inn, 705 Drexel Street

Doors at LaunchPad open at 8 pm – Reservations can be made Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 4 pm by calling 615-983-6911. When capacity is reached, youth ages 18-24 will have to go to the Nashville Rescue Mission or other shelters. Capacity during nights above 32 degrees Fahrenheit is 20 youth. When it gets colder that capacity will increase and is determined based on the location and staff availability.

Unaccompanied youth ages 13 to 17 should call the Oasis Center hotline at 615-327-455 (24/7). Any youth ages 13-17 who is a runaway or experiences homelessness can come or be brought to the Youth Shelter, at Oasis Center, 1704 Charlotte Ave, 37203 for safety planning.

Outreach groups are providing day outreach throughout the week.

When temperatures fall to 28 degrees Fahrenheit or below, **Open Table Nashville** and its partners will start canvassing at 7 pm and provide wellness checks and transportation for people to shelters.

Metro Response:**At 32 Degrees Fahrenheit:**

- The Public Transit Cold Weather bus cards are activated. WeGo Public Transit (formerly MTA) provides 250 cold weather cards to the Metro Homeless Impact Division (HID) by November 1. HID distributes those cold weather cards to outreach workers (usually trained housing navigators) at partner agencies. 2. Outreach workers provide cards to people in remote areas of Davidson County (HID does not hand out Cold Weather bus cards to people experiencing homelessness). 3. Cold Weather bus cards are activated for a 24-hour period to allow people to access shelter, get to a relative, or otherwise seek a warm spot indoors and return to their encampment in the morning. 4. By the end of December, HID will determine whether there is a need to request an additional 100 Cold Weather Cards from WeGo.
- Metro Police officers in the Downtown area start doing wellness checks on people.
- Nashville's Office of Emergency Management (OEM) could start doing canvassing/wellness checks and cold patrol work.

At 28 Degrees Fahrenheit:

- Open an extreme cold weather shelter at Shelby Park Community Center, 401 S 20th St., 37206 at 7 pm-7:30 am
- Capacity goal is 75 people (no one will be turned away)
- Dinner, breakfast, restrooms and a sleeping area will be provided (no showers are available)
- Two back up locations are in place for situations in which Shelby Community Center is inaccessible
- Transportation to the shelter is provided through Metro Police and canvassers from nonprofit organizations.
- Transportation in the morning is provided by an MTA bus stop nearby
- The Homeless Impact Division will help develop a protocol to enter people who access the extreme cold weather shelter into Coordinated Entry System (2-hour shifts in the evenings or as needed)

Independent of Temperature and Cold Weather Response Levels:

In case of an ice storm, snow, floods or other inclement weather that causes a partial or full activation of OEM's Emergency Operations Center, the Homeless Impact Division (HID) will schedule a conference call between OEM, MSS, HID, and the Mayor's Office to outline the situation and determine next steps to include people experiencing homelessness in the response. Subsequently, HID will schedule a conference call with all Cold Weather Response Plan partners to inform them of that response.

Further discussion is needed on how our community addresses the following:

- People with non-service animals/pets where should they be directed to?
Currently check with each shelter if they accept pets. All shelters listed on here accept only certified service animals.
- A shelter designated for youth and young adults (18-24) for Friday and Saturday nights. *Youth are always accepted at all programs.*