



# WINTER CONTINGENCY PLAN

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA

2023-2024

\*Last updated on 10/17/2023

Approved via email by the Winter Contingency Planning Committee on 10/17/2023

The Winter Contingency Plan has been developed to provide relief to people experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis and Central Indiana when inclement weather occurs. This plan is intended to serve as a guide to prevent people experiencing homelessness from experiencing serious harm or death during the winter season. This plan will be active from November 1, 2023, through March 31, 2024.

## SHELTER COORDINATING AGENCY - WHEELER MISSION

Wheeler Mission – Shelter for Men (SFM) is the coordinating agency for men experiencing homelessness.

Shelter for Men  
520 E. Market St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Office: (317) 687-6795

Wheeler Mission – Center for Women and Children (CWC) is the coordinating agency for women and families who are experiencing homelessness.

Center for Women and Children  
3208 E. Michigan St.  
Indianapolis, IN 46201  
Office: (317) 687-3630

## PROCEDURE FOR MEN AND SINGLE FATHERS WITH CHILDREN

1. The staff of SFM will fill 250 beds available at Wheeler Mission SFM.
2. Once the beds are filled at Wheeler Mission SFM, up to 150 mats will be used on-site for additional overflow capacity. Wheeler Mission will assign men to stay at their Men's Residential Center (MRC), 245 N. Delaware St., Indianapolis, IN 46204. During the months of November through March, this facility will house up to 25 men for overflow services. (*Men will be required to arrive at the MRC no later than 6 PM and will be required to leave the facility by 7 AM*).
3. If necessary, Central Christian Church will be activated (after Jan. 1, 2024) and can shelter up to 50 men. In an extreme temperature situation, the Shelter for Men may also utilize their day room for sheltering up to 50 men overnight.
4. Wheeler Mission will **not** provide shelter or serve as a quarantine and isolation site for those who present positive for COVID-19 and/or MPox or have pending test results.
5. Single Fathers with Children/Father-led Households: Family Promise of Greater Indianapolis will prioritize single fathers with children and same-sex couples with children. Please contact Angie Blakey, Shelter Program Manager, at [angi@fpgi.org](mailto:angi@fpgi.org) directly.

## PROCEDURE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES

1. Regarding sheltering women and families, the CWC will attempt to fill all permanent beds and then call other women and family shelters to shelter women and children. If there is no other shelter available, the CWC will house them overnight and instruct them to begin calling shelters the next morning.
2. The CWC will serve as the point of contact for women and women-led families seeking emergency shelter from November 1<sup>st</sup>–March 31<sup>st</sup>. The CWC has 68 emergency shelter beds

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for single women and can house an additional 100 singles on cots and mats. The CWC has 20-family apartments and can house an additional 20 families for overflow. Shelter space at the CWC is not available for men over the age of 18 and fathers with children.

3. Check-in for Winter Contingency will be between the hours of 4 PM–7 PM. Those wanting to eat dinner must arrive by 5 PM when dinner begins.
4. Families with school-age children should speak with Wheeler staff to connect to transportation for their chosen school if they have not organized transportation already.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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### Alcohol policy at Wheeler Mission Shelter for Men:

If any man is suspected of being inebriated, he will be given a breathalyzer test before entering the building. If the man records a .08 blood alcohol content level or higher, he will not be allowed entrance into the SFM. If the man appears to be intoxicated beyond the ability to protect himself from any harm, the SFM staff will call IMPD for intervention.

### Alcohol policy at Wheeler Mission Center for Women and Children:

Women under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at the Center for Women and Children. IMPD will be contacted for any guest whose intoxication would make her a danger to herself or others.

### Referrals:

Referrals will be accepted from the police, outreach teams, hospitals, shelters, and other referring agencies on a 24-hour basis.

*For men:* Please call (317) 687-6795.

*For women or families:* Please call (317) 687-3630.

### Clients with Restrictions:

Please keep in mind that a few clients are barred from some or all shelters. Therefore, it is imperative to call the on-duty staff before bringing a client in. Wheeler Mission staff will do what they can to work with the outreach teams to seek alternatives for such individuals.

## DAY SHELTER-ONLY INFORMATION

The following agency provides specialty hours for their day shelter during extreme cold temperatures; no overnight stays are permitted.

### HORIZON HOUSE – SINGLE ADULTS AND FAMILIES

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1033 E. Washington St

Indianapolis, IN 46202

Questions: Contact [Felix Okhifo](mailto:felixo@horizonhouse.cc) - [felixo@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:felixo@horizonhouse.cc) or (317) 396-6377

Horizon House will open for all individuals/families experiencing homelessness during business hours when temperatures reach a wind chill below zero (0) degrees or air temperature below 10 degrees.

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Horizon House – Hours of operation:

7 AM–3 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

7 AM–12:30 PM Wednesday

Any individual/family may stay for warmth, but additional services (mail, laundry, showers, storage, clothing requests, and case management) will be provided based on Horizon House’s traditional shift schedule.

### **OUTREACH INC – YOUTH AND YOUNG ADULTS (AGES 14-24)**

2416 E. New York St  
Indianapolis, IN 46201

Questions? Contact Anthony: [adumas@outreachindiana.org](mailto:adumas@outreachindiana.org)

Outreach will open on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM–4:00 PM (outside of normal programming hours) for any youth and young adults experiencing housing instability when the air temperature reaches 0 degrees or below. *Note: This is only for the day-of and not the night before.*

Individuals may stay for warmth and safety, but traditional services and coaching are not guaranteed. Outreach staff will be available to assist with transportation to shelters at the end of the day.

## **SHELTER COORDINATION**

### Wheeler Mission Shelter for Men

520 E. Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 687-6795

Contact: Darius Gover (Ext. 214) or

William Bumphus – [williambumphus@wheelermission.org](mailto:williambumphus@wheelermission.org)

### Wheeler Mission Center for Women and Children

3208 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201

(317) 687-3630

Contact: Marybeth Hamilton – [marybethhamilton@wheelermission.org](mailto:marybethhamilton@wheelermission.org)

## **RESOURCE, DAY SHELTER AND RESPONSE TEAMS**

### Salvation Army Women’s Shelter

540 N. Alabama Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

(317) 637-5551

Contact: Nydia Botero – [Nydia.Botero@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Nydia.Botero@usc.salvationarmy.org)

When to Reach Out: Overflow for one family room that accommodates one family (no restrictions on the number of people in the family) and one single room that holds up to four individuals.

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### Horizon House

1033 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202

(317) 396-6377

Contact: Felix Okhifo – [felixo@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:felixo@horizonhouse.cc)

When to Reach Out: Any individual/family may stay for warmth, but additional services (mail, laundry, showers, storage, clothing requests, and case management) will be provided based on Horizon House’s traditional shift schedule.

### Outreach Inc.

2416 E New York St, Indianapolis, IN 46201

(317) 951-8886

Contact: Anthony Dumas – [adumas@outreachindiana.org](mailto:adumas@outreachindiana.org)

When to Reach Out: Young Adults Only: 18–24 who are experiencing housing instability when the air temperatures reach 0 degrees or below. Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 AM–4:00 PM. Staff will be available to assist with transportation to shelters at the end of the day.

### The PourHouse

(317) 429-1600

Contact: Andrea DeMink

When to Reach Out? Basic outreach and urgent needs such as clothing, food, blankets, and hygiene products.

### Street Outreach (PBSO/Coordinated Outreach)

(317) 828-9858

Contact: Niki Wattson – [nikiw@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:nikiw@horizonhouse.cc)

When to Reach Out: To report or request engagement of individuals or families staying in unsheltered situations to support access to shelter, resources, and/or housing.

### Homeless Initiative Program

901 Shelby St, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Indianapolis, IN 46203

(317) 957-2275

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8:30 AM–11:30 AM

Contact: Melissa W. Bell – [melissa.bell@indyhealthnet.org](mailto:melissa.bell@indyhealthnet.org)

Please note: HIP does not have FEMA hotel funding this year. Additionally, they will only operate as a call center and will not offer walk-ins.

When to Reach Out: Triage for emergency needs.

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### Street Outreach Animal Response (SOAR)

Caseworkers and Agencies can text SOAR

SOAR Contact: Angela Hopson, (317) 529-4891 *Texting Only*

When to Reach Out? To request assistance for short-term, temporary foster or care for pets while their human accesses shelter.

## **EXTREME TEMPERATURE PLANNING**

Please note that in the event of a weather emergency, as declared by the City of Indianapolis in accordance with their Extreme Temperature Plan, other shelter options are available to the community. Contact [ema@indy.gov](mailto:ema@indy.gov) for information on the Extreme Temperature Plan.

## **COVID-19/MPOX QUARANTINE AND ISOLATION**

Referrals for individuals who test positive for COVID-19 or Mpox and are experiencing homelessness can contact Virgil Madden through the Marion County Public Health Department at 317-221-2324 or [vmadden@marionhealth.org](mailto:vmadden@marionhealth.org).

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