

FINAL FY 2022 FREEZING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN COMPONENTS

COUNTY: Harford County, Maryland

DATE COMPLETED 11-18-2021

SUBMITTED BY: Harford Community Action Agency, MD-502 CoC Lead

I. Weather Conditions - *Describe the conditions that activate the Freezing and Inclement Weather Plan.*

The Harford County Freezing and Inclement Weather Plan go into effect when the outside temperature in Bel Air, Maryland reaches 32 degrees for 24 consecutive hours.

II. Key Decision Makers:

Name: Len Parrish
Position: Director
Department/Agency: Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development
Address: 15 South Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number: 410-638-3045
Email: lrparrish@harfordcountymd.gov

III. Agency Communication - *Describe the procedure for informing key agencies about activating the Freezing and Inclement Weather Plan. Be certain that all providers of services to homeless people are aware of the plan, and how and when the plan is activated.*

The final Freezing Weather Plan is presented at the Continuum of Care meetings (a consortium made up of local non-profit providers, faith-based organizations and government agencies that provide homeless prevention services) and emailed out to all of the participants of the Continuum of Care. When the plan has been activated, members of the Harford County CoC and local law enforcement are immediately notified via email that the Harford County Freezing Weather Plan is in effect. A notice is placed on the Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development website and on the Harford County Government Facebook page. This same process is utilized when the freezing weather plan is deactivated.

The Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development will communicate daily with the Harford Community Action Agency regarding the status of the plan for the duration of the event.

IV. Involvement of Key Departments and Agencies:

1. Name of Organization: Harford County Dept. of Community & Economic Development
Address: 15 S. Main Street
Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number: 410-638-3045
Contact Person(s): Barbara Richardson
Area of Responsibility: Communication with the Continuum of Care and declaration of freezing weather plan.

2. Name of Organization: Harford Community Action Agency, Inc. (HCAA)
Address: 1321 B Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, MD 21040
Telephone Number: 410-612-9909 Ext. 2202
Contact Person(s): Brian Wainwright, Director of Supportive Services
bwainwright@harfordcaa.org
Telephone Number: 410-612-9909 Supportive Services Program (SSP) Department.
Area of Responsibility: Lead agency for the Continuum of Care, correspondence with members, Coordinated Access, screening for placement in allhousing programs, including motels and cold weather shelter, outreach, case management and transportation vouchers for the local Harford County Transit system.

Contact Person: Heather Clapper, Direct Services Coordinator at 410-612-9909 Ext. 2240 as well as **Damon Presberry Sr., Direct Services Specialist at 410-612-9909 Ext. 2232**
Other services: Utility assistance, food pantry access, eviction prevention (**only if affected by a COVID-19 related incident**), vocational and financial case management referrals.

3. Name of Organization: Harford County Sheriff's Office
Address: 1305 Pulaski Highway
Edgewood, MD 21040
Telephone Number: 410-303-8319
Contact Person(s): Shawn Dundon
Area of Responsibility: Liaison between the Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development and local law officials, including municipalities.

Additional Contacts: Northern Precinct – Captain Royster, 410-692-7880
Southern Precinct – Captain Walter, 410-612-1717
Headquarters is 410-838-6600 for Captain Penman.
(Community Police are now there at HQ)

4. Name of Organization: Office on Mental Health Core Service Agency
Address: 125 N. Main Street, Rear
Bel Air, Maryland 21014
Telephone Number: 410-803-8726
Contact Person(s): Jessica Kraus, Executive Director

Area of Responsibility: Communication with PATH provider and other mental health service organizations regarding plan activation.

5. Name of Organization: Hope for the Homeless Alliance
Address: N/A
Telephone Number: 410-340-5436
Contact Person(s): Howard Magness
Area of Responsibility: Coordinator for the Emergency Winter Shelter

6. Name of Organization: Harford Crisis Center
Address: 802 Baltimore Pike, Suite A
Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number: 1-800-NEXT-STEP or
410-874-0711
Contact Person(s): N/A
Area of Responsibility: Behavioral health crisis center providing 24-hour, 7-day a week crisis care for mental health and addiction issues for adults and children.

V. Overflow Shelter(s):

1. Name of Organization: Harford Community Action Agency, Inc.
Address: 1321 B Woodbridge Station Way
Edgewood, MD 21040
Telephone Number: 410-612-9909
Contact Person(s): **Heather Clapper**, Direct Services Coordinator
410-612- 9909 Ext. 2240
Damon Presberry Sr., Direct Services Specialist
410-612-9909 Ext. 2232.

Who will be assisted? 2 adults to a room. The Emergency Winter Shelter will provide this overflow option for families with children too and is based upon limited capacity. These households will need to adhere to the lodging guidelines associated to the hotel provider.

Description of amenities (e.g., access to showers, cots, meals, etc.): motel rooms with showers, microwaves, mini refrigerator in some.

2. Name of Organization: Hope for the Homeless Alliance Emergency Winter Shelter
Address: The Days Inn 783 W Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md.
21001 and The Travelodge of Aberdeen 820 West Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md. 21001
Telephone Number: 410-340-5436 (Howard)
Contact Person(s): Howard Magness

Number of people that can be housed: 14 individual adult men & women. There will be limited capacity for families with children and this capacity will be based upon household size being assisted.

Description of amenities (e.g., access to showers, cots, meals, etc.): cots, meals, toiletries, access to showers on-site or off-site depending on location, transportation to and from site.

VI. Point of entry and transportation. (1) *List the point of entry or referral necessary for someone to access the cold weather shelter. If no referral is needed, please indicate that.* (2) *Describe the transportation options available to those experiencing homelessness, in need of the cold weather shelter.*

The point of entry for all in need of cold weather shelter is Harford Community Action Agency, the designated Coordinated Access point. Individuals and households are screened and assessed for placement in appropriate housing programs. Intake packets for the Freezing Weather Plan Motel Vouchers will be available at the 1321 Woodbridge Station Way office location in Edgewood, Md. 21040. Once the packet has been completed, please place them into the locked box provided in the vestibule.

A member of the Supportive Services Program will review the completed requests for services **while the household waits** outside of the 1321 Woodbridge Station Way office location until added to the appropriate roster. Once added, each household will be provided a Freezing Weather Plan Motel Voucher after signing the Emergency Motel Agreement form to be provided a motel voucher at The Ramada Inn of Edgewood located at 1700 Van Bibber Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040.

The same process will be implemented for the Emergency Winter Shelter in January 2022 and each household will be provided with an overview and referral into the EWS and prompted to The Days Inn 783 W Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md. 21001 or The Travelodge of Aberdeen 820 West Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md. 21001 for check in.

The Epicenter in Edgewood located at 1918 Pulaski Highway in Edgewood, Md. 21040 (**Open Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm**) and The Epicenter of Aberdeen located at 21 Aberdeen Shopping Plaza in Aberdeen, Md. 21001 (**Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 3pm**) will be providing bus vouchers to access the Harford County Transit System for those in need of transportation services. The United Way, 211 helpline is available 24/7 for information and referral. In addition, middle of the night protocol has been discussed and developed with the county's various emergency personnel services.

VII. Entry requirements and Security. (1) *Describe any requirements for entry to the cold weather shelter such as breathalyzers, urinalysis or background checks.* (2) *If these are required please describe the reason why.* (3) *Describe the involvement of private security or police within the cold weather shelter:*

Breathalyzers and urinalysis are not required for entry into the cold weather shelter. Harford Community Action Agency, Inc. staff does screen all potential residents for obvious signs of harmful behaviors that may warrant emergency intervention prior to shelter placement. This reduces the risk of incidents occurring at the shelters that may endanger the individual or others. There will be no on-site private security in place at the Emergency Winter Shelter run by the faith community.

VIII. Outreach. (1) *Describe efforts to locate and inform homeless people about the availability of cold weather shelter, particularly those living in encampments or abandoned buildings.* (2) *Include the agencies responsible for outreach:*

Harford Community Action Agency, Inc. is the primary outreach provider that goes to locations where people sleep outside or congregate during the day. With the assistance of the Office of Community & Economic Development, local law enforcement, and the PATH provider, efforts will be made to go to known encampment locations to offer placement in cold weather shelters when the freezing weather plan has been activated.

Other agencies that may be involved include Shepard Pratt Mobile Crisis and The KleinFamily Harford Crisis Center.

- IX. Day Shelter.** *(1) Is the cold weather shelter open during the day or does it require people to leave during the daytime hours? (2) If weather conditions become too extreme, does the cold weather shelter location have the option and staff availability to stay open during the day? (3) If not, please indicate the plan for those staying in cold weather shelters that are unable to leave shelter during the day.*

Note: The day shelter hosted by New Hope Fellowship Church located at 2048 Watergate Court in Edgewood, Maryland 21040 will be closed for the winter due to COVID-19 protocol. Individuals and families placed in motels will **NOT** be able to visit this location during daytime hours. Transportation will no longer be provided due to COVID-19 concerns as well but Harford County Transit System passes can be obtained at the locations below.

Individuals and families placed in the Emergency Winter Shelter may go to The Epicenter of Edgewood located at 1918 Pulaski Highway in Edgewood, Md. 21040 (**Open Wednesdays from 1:30pm to 4:30pm**) or The Epicenter of Aberdeen located at 21 Aberdeen Shopping Plaza in Aberdeen, Md. 21001 (**Open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11am to 3pm**).

- X. Role of Local Emergency Management Personnel.** *(1) Please indicate if your jurisdiction has a separate emergency management plan, not specific to those experiencing homelessness. (2) Also describe the role of local emergency management personnel in your local shelter process for the homeless.*

The Harford County Emergency Operations Plan outlines Harford County's response to an emergency or disaster, including protocol for mass sheltering. The Department of Emergency Services, along with our local and state partners, has multiple ways of getting emergency alerts and warnings to the public. When an emergency occurs, public safety officials may use the Emergency Alert System (EAS) to broadcast emergency public information via TV and radio. Public safety officials may also utilize the emergency notification system (phone callout system), NOAA Hazard Alert Radios, media releases, sirens, and/or route alerting. An alert and/or warning that is delivered by any of these methods will instruct the public to tune into radio to your **Local Emergency Alert System Stations** (WXCY 103.7 FM and WHFC 91.1 FM) or your television to **HarfordCable Network**. Activation/deactivation of the Freezing Weather Plan is communicated via email to the entire continuum and law enforcement and posted on the Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development website along with instructions for accessing shelter.

- XI. HMIS.** *(1) Do providers of cold weather shelter enter client data into HMIS? (2) If not please explain why.*

Client data for all individuals entering the motel or the Emergency winter shelter is entered into the HMIS and CAP 60 databases by Harford Community Action Agency to meet grant parameters.

XII. Plan Development and Evaluation. *Describe the process used to develop the Freezing and Inclement weather plan. Also, indicate the agencies involved in the plan development:*

The Continuum of Care met to review the current plan and make recommendations for this year. A debrief of the prior year was held in the summer in order to prepare for this year's plan. Agencies involved in this included Harford County Office of Community & Economic Development, Harford Community Action Agency, and the Hope for the Homeless Alliance.

XIII. Describe any gaps in services and how the Bureau of Homeless Services can aid your jurisdiction.

- Lack of evening and weekend public transportation which can make accessing shelter services more challenging. Especially during the Freezing Weather Plan because local transit systems will not be in operation.
- Lack of aggressive case management services for individuals with mental illness
- Insufficient permanent supportive housing for those with behavioral health challenges.
- Insufficient affordable housing.
- Lack of 24-hour shelter services in county.
- Insufficient daytime shelter service as this resource will be closed this year.
- Lack of housing opportunities for individuals with legal history.
- Lack of emergency shelter that will temporarily house unaccompanied youth under the ages of 17 years old.

This year our continuum has again identified the need for additional homeless/ homelessness prevention dollars as a significant need in our community. In part, this need was satisfied through the distribution of CDBG-CV funding for motel/hotel placement.

This, however, is a limited resource that is only in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be available in future years. All funds are used to provide homeless prevention services and to provide emergency shelter and are insufficient to meet the increasing demand for services. In particular, our continuum is in need of case management funding to provide the necessary support to ensure that clients remain housed and work towards self-sufficiency.

ADDENDUM

Standard Operating Procedure

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are identified through agency and self-referral at the HCAA. HCAA's Direct Services Coordinator screens all persons presenting as experiencing homelessness or a housing crisis to assess potential housing resources including relatives and friends. Once the Coordinator has determined that an individual or family has no other options, the coordinator seeks placement at one of Harford County's emergency shelters, including those activated for freezing weather.

Special Conditions for Individuals to receive emergency motel placement:

- All placements are going to hotel rooms this year, but some individuals may receive placement outside of the activation of the Freezing Weather Plan because of a documented medical condition; or
- Motel placements during extreme weather emergencies will be made at the discretion of the Director of Supportive Services Program with Harford Community Action Agency or his designee. Placements in motels will be made for the duration of the weather event only.

The Ramada Inn of Edgewood located at 1700 Van Bibber Rd, Edgewood, MD 21040 will be the primary hotel partner that HCAA will be working with during these weather events. Additionally, there are four motels located on the public bus route along the Route 40 corridor in Harford County that will be used for overflow to place individuals and families who meet the established criteria for placement.

The Days Inn located at 783 W Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md. 21001 or The Travelodge of Aberdeen located at 820 West Bel Air Avenue Aberdeen, Md. 21001 will be the providers for the Emergency Winter Shelter.

The goal of the emergency off-site locations and the motel program is to initially stabilize individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness by providing emergency shelter and then to provide case management services to remove the barriers to a more permanent housing option. Support services will be offered to each individual and family placed in the emergency shelters during inclement weather.