

FY 2024 FREEZING AND INCLEMENT WEATHER PLAN COMPONENTS

County:	Harford County, Maryland
Date Completed:	11 / 14 / 2023
Submitted by:	Harford Community Action Agency, MD-514 LHC 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:	Barbara W. Richardson
Position:	Director
Department/Agency:	Harford County Department of Housing and Community Services
Address:	15 South Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number:	410-638-3045 Ext. 1362
Email:	bwrichardson@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 Harford County Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) 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 amongst the LHC. When the plan has been activated, members of the Harford County LHC 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 website of the Department of Housing and Community Services and the Harford County Government Facebook page. This same process is utilized when the freezing weather plan is deactivated.

The Harford County Department of Housing and Community Services will communicate daily with 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 Department of Housing & Community Services
Address: 15 S. Main Street, Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number: 410-638-3045 Ext. 1362
Contact Person(s): Barbara Richardson
Area of Responsibility: Communication with the HC LHC Lead agency, HCAA and declaration of the Freezing Weather Plan.

2. Name of Organization: Harford Community Action Agency, Inc. (HCAA)
Address: 1321-B Woodbridge Station Way, Edgewood, MD 21040
Contact Person(s): Brian Wainwright, Director of Supportive Services Program (SSP)
Telephone Number: 410-612-9909 Ext. 2202
Email: bwainwright@harfordcaa.org
Telephone Number: 410-612-9909 Main Agency Line - Utilize extensions below.
Area of Responsibility: Lead agency for the HC LHC providing motel vouchers for those unsheltered during the plan activation.

Contact Person(s): Deven Chona, Asst. Director and Intake Specialist at Ext. 2222
Damon Presberry Sr., Asst. Director at Ext. 2232
Dawn Breslin, Direct Services Specialist at Ext. 2240

3. Name of Organization: Harford County Sheriff's Office
Address: 1305 Pulaski Highway, Edgewood, MD 21040
Telephone Number: 410-838-6600
Contact Person(s): Booth personnel staffed 24/7
Area of Responsibility: Liaison between the Harford County Department of Housing & Community Services and local law enforcement personnel, to include municipalities.

Additional Contacts: Northern Precinct – Captain Mike Schleper, 410-692-7880
Southern Precinct – Captain Tom Gamble, 410-612-1717

4. Name of Organization: Office on Mental Health Core Service Agency
Address: 2231 Conowingo Rd. Suite A, Bel Air MD 21015
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): Martin Horst
Area of Responsibility: Coordinator for the Emergency Rotating Shelter

6. Name of Organization: The Klein's Family Center
Address: 802 Baltimore Pike Suite A, Bel Air, MD 21014
Telephone Number: 1-800-639-8783 or 410-874-0711
Contact Person(s): N/A
Area of Responsibility: Voluntary behavioral health walk-in center that is accessible 24 Hour
7 days a week crisis care for mental health and addiction challenges.

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): Supportive Services Program (SSP) Staff:
Deven Chona, Asst. Director and Intake Specialist at Ext. 2222
Dawn Breslin, Direct Services Specialist at Ext. 2240
Damon Presberry, Asst. Director Ext. 2232

Note: The SSP Department will provide emergency shelter opportunities that are available for those assisted with an FWP motel voucher. The SSP staff will fill the availability at the Welcome One Emergency Shelter first and then Emergency Rotating Shelter as a secondary option.

2. Name of Organization: Hope for the Homeless Alliance Emergency Rotating Shelter
Address: Shelter locations rotate weekly from January 2024 to March 2024
Telephone Number: 410-816-8341
Contact Person(s): Martin Horst

Note: The number of people that can be assisted will be based upon the capacity provided at the church location and roster availability at the time of referral.

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 (HCAA), the primary Coordinated Entry System (CES) provider for Harford County located at 1321-B Woodbridge Station Way in Edgewood, Md. 21040. All households are possibly diverted and provided resources to improve their circumstances or screened and assessed, for interventions that may be available within the Harford County Local Homeless Coalition. Once those opportunities are explored and are not applicable, placement into a participating motel provider will be provided throughout the duration of the plan activation only.

If a household can not make it to the HCAA location above, there are other CES location points in Harford County to access a motel voucher during the plan activation. The Epicenter in Edgewood located at 1918 Pulaski Highway in Edgewood, Md. 21040 is Open Monday through Thursday from 10am to 3pm and The Epicenter of Aberdeen located at 21 Aberdeen Shopping Plaza in Aberdeen, Md. 21001 is Open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm.

Transportation to any emergency shelter locations will be the sole responsibility of each household assisted. Harford County Transit bus vouchers may be available at each CES location but it is not a guarantee these passes will be available nor will it be a guarantee that the Harford County Transit System will be in operation during the plan activation.

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 households for obvious signs of harmful behaviors that may warrant emergency intervention prior to shelter placement. This reduces the risk of incidents occurring at motel or emergency shelter locations which may endanger the individual or others. Note: The only police involvement would occur if there is a community-based interaction that prompts law enforcement personnel to get in contact with a staff member from the Department of Housing & Community Services. This option is only during after-hours during the plan activation.

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 a provider that has a designated Street Outreach Coordinator who frequently visits community locations where people are living in a place not meant for habitation. With the assistance of the Department of Housing & Community Services, local law enforcement, PATH provider and other outreach providers; efforts will be made to frequently canvass 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 Klein's Family 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.

The day shelter hosted at New Hope Fellowship Church located at 2048 Watergate Court in Edgewood, MD 21040 is currently closed for renovations. Individuals and families placed in motels will NOT be able to visit this location during daytime hours. Note: If New Hope re-opens their doors within the FY 2024 time period, an addendum to this plan will be provided and a summary of amenities will be listed at that time.

During day-time hours, households provided an FWP motel voucher may visit The Epicenter of Edgewood located at 1918 Pulaski Highway in Edgewood, MD 21040 is Open Monday through Friday from 10am to 3pm and The Epicenter of Aberdeen located at 21 Aberdeen Shopping Plaza in Aberdeen, MD 21001 is Open Monday through Friday from 10am to 2pm. Programming at both locations are subject to change.

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 **Harford Cable 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 Department of Housing & Community Services 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 households assisted with an FWP motel voucher is entered into the HMIS and CAP 60 databases by Harford Community Action Agency (HCAA) staff 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:

Now under the Maryland Balance Of State (BOS) with the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD), HCAA has been provided guidance and best practices to help implement cold weather interventions such as the Freezing Weather Plan (FWP) of Harford County. HCAA has properly contacted all organizations involved with the FWP to obtain updated information pertinent to the FY 2024 FWP. The Harford County Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) will be presented with the final edited version at the November 2023 LHC virtual meeting. Agencies involved are listed on pages #1-2.

XIII. DESCRIBE ANY GAPS IN SERVICES AND HOW THE BUREAU OF HOMELESS SERVICES CAN AID YOUR JURISDICTION:

- Limited evening and weekend public transportation which can make accessing shelter services more challenging; especially during the Freezing Weather Plan activation because local transit systems will not be in operation.
- The need of emergency shelter bed expansion to address the growing demand of those experiencing homelessness in Harford County.
- Limited emergency shelter beds for individuals and families with children.
- Lack of aggressive case management services for individuals with mental illness.
- Insufficient Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) or Residential Rehabilitative Program (RRP) opportunities for those with persistent behavioral health challenges.
- Insufficient access and the development of affordable housing in the Harford County.
- Lack of 24-hour shelter services in Harford County.
- No, current access to daytime shelter service as this resource is closed.
- Barriers to permanent housing for individuals with legal, credit and criminal history.
- Lack of emergency shelter that will temporarily house unaccompanied youth under the ages of 17 years old.

This year, the Harford County LHC has again identified the need for additional homeless/homelessness prevention dollars as a significant need in our community. In part, this need was satisfied previously through the distribution of EHP, ESG-CV2 and CDBG-CV funding for motel/hotel placement as well as permanent housing assistance.

This, however, was a limited resource that was only in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be available during FY 2024. The lack of the aforementioned funding will cause a gap in services preventing certain interventions from occurring that have been routinely served unsheltered households since 2020.

FY 2024 Dept. of Housing & Community Services Freezing & Inclement Weather After-Hours Plan

Greetings Harford County Local Homeless Coalition (LHC) Members,

During each Freezing Weather Plan implementation in Harford County, the Department of Housing & Community Services (DHCS) will provide an on-call staff member to receive calls from local law enforcement personnel **ONLY**. This after-hours line will be kept confidential and only provided to identified law enforcement agencies of Harford County. DHCS staff will be contacted based upon community engagements with households in a vulnerable circumstance needing temporary shelter.

If transportation can be provided to the identified motel destination by the responding law enforcement personnel, that would be accommodated. However, there is an acknowledgement that due to lack of staff or potentially a jurisdictional concern, transportation can't always be provided. In that instance, it is requested that the identified motel destination be provided to the person(s) in question so they can be given the choice to utilize a transportation plan of their own and get to that destination.

Identified Hotel Partners and Destinations (Can and will vary based upon availability)

Northern Harford County, Bel Air and Edgewood Areas

The Ramada Inn located at 1700 Van Bibber Road in Edgewood, MD 21040

Point of Contact: Harry Patel 443-945-2240 or 410-398-3300

Harrypatel97@yahoo.com or frontdesk@ramadaedgewood.com or Pat@ramadaEdgewood.com

Belcamp and Aberdeen Areas

The Days Inn located at 783 West Bel Air Avenue in Aberdeen, MD 21001 &

The Travelodge located at 820 West Bel Air Avenue in Aberdeen, MD 21001

Point of Contact: Uyesh Bhatti 410-808-1729 or uyeshbhatti@gmail.com

Havre de Grace Area

Super 8 of HDG located at 929 Pulaski Hwy, Havre De Grace, MD 21078 -

Point of Contact: Super 8 Management - 410-939-1880 or super8hdg929@gmail.com

Best Budget Inn HDG located at 929 Pulaski Hwy, Havre De Grace, Md. 21078

Point of Contact: Dipak Patel – 410-937-4354 thepatelcrew912@gmail.com

NOTE: All motel vouchers will be predicated off of a completed HCAA application at the time of check in and applications will be readily available. Also, participating motel partners may require identification from the household assisted at the time of check in.