



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

Denver Cold Weather Sheltering Plan

Maintained By:
City and County of Denver

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

1.1 PURPOSE

This is a plan for how the city will provide shelter to our unsheltered persons experiencing homelessness (PEH) population on nights that certain cold weather thresholds are met. Cold weather shelter would be overnight only (not 24/7) unless there is an extenuating circumstance requiring extended operations.

1.2 THRESHOLDS

1.2.1 OVERNIGHT PEH COLD WEATHER SHELTER OVERFLOW

Denver will continue to use the interim thresholds for overnight cold weather sheltering that began in 2022. This occurs when capacity is exceeded in the existing PEH system AND one of the below criteria is met:

- Wind Chill Advisory, Watch, or Warning issued by the NWS
- Forecasted **overnight low** temperature of 20 degrees or below
- Two inches or more of snow forecasted for Denver (Existing snow accumulation will also be taken into account and activation will depend on amount and city's ability to clear snow from roads, sidewalks, and bus stops)

This threshold represents the average overnight winter low in Denver. It will result in approximately half of the nights between December and March being below this threshold (about 60 nights).

Refer to the Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) for implementation procedures.

1.2.2 DAYTIME WARMING CENTERS

If one or more of the below thresholds are met, warming centers should be opened at recreation centers, libraries, and other public facilities during normal business hours:

- Wind Chill Advisory, Watch, or Warning issued by the NWS
- Forecasted **daytime high** of 20 degrees or below
- Two inches or more of snow forecasted for Denver (Existing snow accumulation will also be taken into account and activation will depend on amount and city's ability to clear snow from roads, sidewalks, and bus stops)

Refer to the EOP for implementation procedures.

1.3 STAFFING

1.3.1 OVERNIGHT PEH COLD WEATHER SHELTER OVERFLOW

- HOST has contracted with Bayaud Enterprises to provide shelter staffing, currently for up to 400 guests for 60 nights. Funding is already allocated.
- Staffing will need to be versed on egress requirements as well as Fire Watch responsibilities. Denver Fire Department to provide training and templates for this.
- HOST is also pursuing an option for The Salvation Army to manage staffing at hotel overflow shelter.
- GS is pursuing an additional a security contract to assist with this effort.

SECTION 2: LOCATIONS

2.1 PRIORITY SITES

2.1.1 SITES TO BE USED FIRST

- 100 beds in available hotel ballroom
 - Available mid-October
- 300 beds in next available hotel ballroom
 - Available late-November or early December

2.1.2 SITES TO BE USED SECOND

NOTE: Each of these sites may be utilized at different times throughout the winter depending on existing programming and level of need.

- 200 beds at McNichols building, if not programmed.
- 200 beds in the Webb Building atrium, if not programmed.
- 500 beds at the Coliseum, if not programmed.
- City and County Building (capacity TBD), if not programmed.



2.1.3 SITES TO BE USED THIRD

Recreation Centers may be used for short term emergency use during extreme winter weather events when the above sites are full or already booked.

- Prolonged shelter use poses significant legal risk within City Charter.
- Utilization of recreation centers will displace existing services.
- Recreation Centers in neighborhoods with significant equity considerations should not be used if at all possible.

2.1.4 ADDITIONAL NOTES

All identified sites that will be used for Cold Weather Sheltering must be audited in advance of use for proper egress signage, capacity requirements, and feasibility of fire suppression systems.

All identified sites will need to have documented and readily available Emergency Preparedness/Evacuation Plans for each facility.

For future enhancement and further development, the City and County of Denver Real Estate should be used for determining and locating facilities and sites that are already under City ownership, or that can be purchased or leased in the future, for dedicated PEH Cold Weather Sheltering.

SECTION 3: OVERNIGHT PEH COLD WEATHER SHELTER ACTIVATION

Given the potential need to activate cold weather shelters numerous times throughout the winter, HOST will utilize the hotel ballrooms through a streamlined, internal programmatic process. If/when the hotel ballrooms reach capacity, the city will implement the procedures in the EOP.

SECTION 4: MAINTENANCE

Date	Description of Change
September 22, 2023	Plan approved by CWS multi-disciplinary/multi-agency working group
October 24, 2023	Updates to thresholds to include daytime warming centers and reference to implementation procedures.

Table 1. Maintenance Schedule