



Delaware County 2020/2021

Cold Weather Plan

The Delaware County Cold Weather Plan (CWP) is in effect from November 1st to April 1st. The CWP describes how we coordinate to provide cold weather education and other services for those who are vulnerable and homeless in Delaware County. Many of the services described are in place and operational regardless of the temperature, however, in times of severe winter weather, overflow shelter beds are made available and expanded outreach occurs. The Delaware County Department of Human Services, Office of Behavioral Health-Adult & Family Services Division coordinates the County shelter programs and oversees the Winter Shelter Plan (WSP) for homeless persons. In addition, the County Office of Intercommunity Health and the County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA), both provide other services and education to the community regarding cold weather survival.

Initiating the Winter Shelter Plan

The goal of the WSP is to ensure that vulnerable homeless people come in from the cold and are warm and safe. Delaware County does not formally declare a “Code Blue”. The five shelter programs listed below are very experienced and well-practiced in sheltering persons during severe weather situations. If they cannot provide shelter directly, vulnerable persons are referred to other programs for the evening. The “silent alert” happens when the temperatures reach 40 degrees or below and programs implement their extended services hours, expanded outreach and overflow beds practices.

A. Shelters and Over Flow Beds - The following shelter programs offer overflow beds.

Shelter Program	Location & Contact Information	Population	# Beds	Overflow Beds
Connect-by-Night	7200 Chestnut Street Rear Entrance, Upper Darby 267-507-3970 - Intake	Single Adults	25	TBD
Life Center of Eastern Delaware County	6310 Market Street Upper Darby 610-734-5770	Single Adults	30	5
Salvation Army	151 W. 15 th Street Chester 610-874-0423	Single Adults	20	TBD
Community Action Agency - Temporary Emergency Shelter Program	Voucher based for vulnerable households 610-874-8451-intake and overnight and weekend answering service.	Vulnerable families & single adults	N/A	As needed

B. Winter Storm Alerts - In situations of extreme conditions or an approaching winter storm, the Division of Adult and Family Services electronically alerts all shelter programs to prepare for power outages, food needs, overflow capacity and expanded hours if needed.

Expanded Outreach

The goal of Outreach is to locate homeless persons and bring them to safety in a warm facility. Outreach services are provided by Horizon House, 24 hours a day, on a rotating 5-day schedule. During Code Blue, Outreach staff will circulate in areas frequented by homeless persons. Horizon House can be contacted at (484) 479-3470.

Covid

During the Covid Pandemic, shelter space is limited and motel may be utilized to accommodate housing the homeless population as funding is available.

Community Education & Awareness

To ensure that the Delaware County community knows the resources available for residents during the winter months and where to find those resources, the following education and awareness activities take place:

- ❄️ **Homeless Services Coalition and the Office of Behavioral Health – Adult and Family Services Division- Annually** updates, produces and distributes the Emergency Shelter Resource Directory. The Directory details shelter program, the referral process and their Winter Shelter Plan role if applicable. This directory is distributed countywide to police stations, municipalities, county and local government offices, libraries, elected officials, school districts, etc. The Survival Guide to Homeless Services, a double-sided 4" x 8" resource card is also distributed county-wide. For easier access, both documents are available at www.delcohsa.org/adultfamily.html.
- ❄️ **The Delaware County Department of Intercommunity Health** – Provides information to help people avoid medical emergencies, such as hypothermia and frost bite.
- ❄️ **The Delaware County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)** – Extends outreach to senior citizens, conducts outreach and wellness checks on vulnerable seniors and prepares and distributes the pamphlet "Winter Weather Warm Up" -*Tips to Staying Healthy in the Cold Winter Months*". Cold Weather tips can also be heard on COSA's informational-only weather phone line **(610) 872-1558** from December 1 through April 1 each year.
- ❄️ **Community Action Agency (CAADC)** – The County's official anti-poverty agency can assist economically disadvantaged eligible households through their Weatherization program. On a limited basis, CAADC can provide heating oil assistance and can assist people in applying for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which helps people afford their winter heating bills.

The above resources can be obtained on websites or by calling the provider directly.

Office of Behavioral Health – Adult and Family Services	(610) 713-2365	www.delcohsa.org
County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA)	(610) 490-1300	www.delcosa.org
Department of Intercommunity Health	(610) 891-5311	www.co.delaware.pa.us
Community Action Agency of Delaware Co.	(610) 874-8451	www.caadc.org