



Homeless Services 2024-25 Cold Weather Plan

November 1st, 2024 through April 1st, 2025

The Delaware County Cold Weather Plan (CWP) is a coordinated effort to ensure the safety and well-being of vulnerable and unsheltered people during the winter season. This plan outlines the County's response to cold weather emergencies, including the availability of shelter beds, outreach services, and educational resources.

Key Components of the CWP

- **Shelter Services:** The CWP leverages contracted shelter providers to offer emergency shelter beds to individuals experiencing homelessness.
- **Overflow Shelter Beds:** During periods of severe weather, the County works with shelter providers to activate additional beds to accommodate increased demand.
- **Outreach Services:** Outreach teams proactively locate unsheltered individuals and encourage them to seek refuge in warm facilities, especially during Code Blue events.
- **Community Education and Awareness:** The County collaborates with various organizations to provide educational resources on cold weather safety and available resources to the community.

Initiating the Cold Weather Plan

The Delaware County Department of Human Services, Adult and Family Services, is responsible for declaring Code Blue when the temperature falls below 32 degrees Fahrenheit. Under a Code Blue declaration, outreach efforts are intensified, and overflow shelter beds are made available.

Expanded Outreach

During Code Blue conditions, Outreach staff will circulate in areas frequented by unsheltered persons. The goal of the Outreach Team is to locate unsheltered persons and bring them to safety in a warm facility. Overflow shelter beds are utilized for identified unsheltered persons. The Outreach Team can be contacted by calling:

(267) 671-4357

Shelters and Overflow Beds

| Shelter Program | Location and Contact Info | Population Served | # of Beds Available | # of Overflow Beds Available |
|--|--|-------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Breaking Bread Community | 7200 Chestnut St. Upper Darby (484) 462-0135 | Single Adults | 15 | 2 |
| Life Center of Eastern Delaware County | 6310 Market St. Upper Darby (610) 734-5770 | Single Adults | 50 | 7 |
| Salvation Army | 151 W. 15 th St. Chester (610) 874-0423 | Single Adults | 40 | 5 |

Community Education and 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 organizations provide education and awareness activities:

➡ **Homeless Services Coalition, Adult and Family Services** - Annually updates, produces and distributes **The Resource Guide to Homeless Services** county-wide and is also available on the Internet at:
<https://delcohomelesservices.org/printable-resource-guide>

➡ **The Delaware County Health Department** - 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 1st through April 1st 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.

Resources can be obtained on provider websites or by calling the provider directly.

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| Adult and Family Services | (610) 713-2365 | https://www.delcohsa.org/ |
| County Office of Services for the Aging (COSA) | (610) 490-1300 | https://www.delcosa.org/ |
| Delaware County Health Department | (484) 276-2100 | https://www.delcopa.gov/health/ |
| Community Action Agency of Delaware Co. | (610) 874-8451 | https://caadc.org/ |

Further Information on Delaware County Homeless Services can be found at:
www.DelcoHomelessServices.org