



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
HOMELESS SERVICES

FY 2026 WINTER SHELTER & CODE PURPLE PLAN

November 15, 2025 - March 15, 2026

Developed by the City of Baltimore
Mayor's Office of Homeless Services

For more information, visit
bit.ly/bmorewintershelter

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Summary

The Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS) developed the FY 2026 Winter Shelter Plan to coordinate efforts between the City of Baltimore and community-based organizations to provide hypothermia shelters and vital, life-saving services for Baltimore residents experiencing homelessness during the winter season. The plan is in effect from November 15, 2025, to March 15, 2026. However, MOHS may activate winter shelter before November 15, 2025, or beyond March 15, 2026, if there is extreme inclement weather.

MOHS will support the operations of City-funded shelter providers who are participating as Winter Shelter locations for the 2025-2026 winter season. All winter shelter locations will expand shelter capacity when the temperature with wind chill is forecast to reach **32°F or below**.

Following the COVID-19 global pandemic, MOHS works with the Baltimore City Department of General Services (DGS) to ensure that City-funded shelters are following the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention Guidance for Congregate Settings. All safety measures and protocols will comply with the Baltimore City Health Department's guidance and recommendations.

2024-2025 Winter Shelter Data

During the 2024-2025 winter shelter season, there were 74 winter shelter declarations and 25 Code Blue Days (temperature with wind chill is 13°F or below). In addition, there were six (6) hypothermia or cold-related deaths in Baltimore City, as reported by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.

Winter Shelter Activation

A winter shelter declaration is made when the temperature with wind chill is forecasted to reach 32°F or below. When winter shelter is activated, partnering shelter providers will increase their capacity to ensure any individual or family seeking shelter is accommodated.

As the lead for the FY 2026 Winter Shelter Plan, MOHS will assume responsibility for daily declarations, communications, and coordination with MOHS staff, CoC shelter providers, 211 Maryland, and Baltimore City 311 Services. MOHS is also responsible for coordinating bed utilization of all City-funded shelters during a winter shelter declaration.

MOHS will communicate all winter shelter declarations via email to City agencies, hospitals, and CoC members and providers. Declarations will also be posted via social media and on the [agency website](#) for the general public.

Warming Centers

When Winter Shelter is activated, the following Continuum of Care (CoC) providers will operate as warming centers. Days and hours of availability vary and are detailed below:

Facility Name	Address	Hours of Operation
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231	Monday – Friday, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm
Franciscan Center	101 W. 23rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Manna House	435 E. 25th St., Baltimore, MD 21218	Monday - Friday, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
My Sister’s Place Women’s Center – women and children only	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201	Monday - Sunday, 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC)	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Monday - Sunday, 9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Overnight Emergency Shelter

When Winter Shelter is activated, Baltimore City residents must contact the **Baltimore City Shelter Hotline at 443-984-9540** to get connected to emergency shelter for the night. The Shelter Hotline will be available Monday - Friday, between 8:30 am to 9:00 pm, and Saturday - Sunday, between 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

For requests between 9:00 pm – 12:00 am (midnight), community partners and shelter seekers can contact the **Winter Shelter Hotline at 443-695-7378**.

Winter Shelter Location	Address	Population Served
MCVET	301 N. High St., Baltimore, MD 21202	Single males
Weinberg Housing & Resource Center (WHRC)	620 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Single females
Sleep Inn & Suites Hotel	301 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202	Families Couples Single females

***If necessary, MOHS will activate additional overflow shelter spaces to accommodate residents in need.*

Participating Winter Shelter locations will provide accommodations **from 4:00 pm to 9:00 am the next morning**. Facilities will shelter in place when temperatures are 20°F or below at the time of release at 9:00 am. MOHS encourages all local homeless shelters to operate extended hours to allow residents to remain indoors during periods of extremely cold weather.

Services provided at Winter Shelter locations:

- **Food** - Food services and hot beverages are available for individuals at each location. Dinner is provided during each declaration; breakfast and lunch are provided if facilities are sheltering in

place during Cold Blue Extreme Cold Alerts.

- **Case Management** - Individuals seeking case management services will be provided with information for local drop-in centers to assist them with their identified needs.

Transportation

All single adults and couples seeking shelter during the Winter Shelter period should report to any of the locations listed below where they will be provided with transportation to available Winter Shelter locations, Monday - Sunday.

Pick-up & Drop-off Location	Address
Beans & Bread	400 S. Bond St., Baltimore, MD 21231
HealthCare for the Homeless	421 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202
MCVET	301 N. High St., Baltimore, MD 21202
My Sister's Place Women's Place	17 W. Franklin St., Baltimore, MD 21201
Sleep Inn & Suites	301 Fallsway, Baltimore, MD 21202

Service Coordination

Street Outreach

MOHS Outreach Team, People Encouraging People (PEP), and Downtown Partnership of Baltimore (DPOB) provide targeted street outreach across Baltimore throughout the year. During Winter Shelter, Outreach Teams will canvass the city to notify unsheltered individuals without access to a phone or the internet about winter shelter availability.

Outreach Teams regularly engage vulnerable individuals and connect them to services, including shelter and housing resources. They also provide an array of direct services, including routine safety checks and essential survival items (e.g., food, water, blankets, hats, gloves, socks, and thermal underwear) for clients who are not yet willing or able to accept shelter. When a client is not willing to accept assistance, a crisis evaluation may be used to determine when additional measures (e.g., involuntary evaluation) are needed to protect individuals from cold weather injury.

If you are concerned about a neighbor living unsheltered, please call **311** or email HomelessOutreach@baltimorecity.gov to submit a homeless outreach request.

Housing Navigation

Community members can meet with [Housing Navigators](#) at conveniently located community hubs to get help resolving a potential or current housing crisis. This service is being offered at select Pratt Library branches in partnership with the Mayor's Office of Homeless Services (MOHS).

Housing Navigators are available for free, in-person consultations from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm at the following locations:

Pratt Library	Address	Phone	Days of Operation
Cherry Hill	600 Cherry Hill Rd. Baltimore, Md. 21225	443-835-0764	Monday & Wednesday
Walbrook	3203 West North Ave., Baltimore, MD 212216	443-615-1232	Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
Waverly	400 E. 33rd St., Baltimore, MD 21218	443-615-1232	Tuesday & Thursday

For direct inquiries, please email housingnavigatormohs@baltimorecity.gov.

Behavioral Health Services

Anyone in need of behavioral health services is encouraged to call the Crisis, Information, & Referral Line at **410-433-5175** (available 24/7, 365 days a year). As the local behavioral health authority, Behavioral Health System Baltimore (BHSB) funds a range of services, such as outreach and crisis response, that work closely with people who are vulnerable to severe weather. BHSB provides consultation and training on issues related to the public behavioral health system. For more information, visit <https://www.bhsbaltimore.org>.

Health and Sobering Services

Anyone in need of non-emergency medical care or treatment will be referred to [Health Care for the Homeless](#). If a person requires emergency health care and/or immediate transport to a hospital, call 911.

The Maryland Crisis Stabilization Center provides sobering services and referrals to treatment for substance use disorders. For more information, visit Tuerk House (730 Ashburton St., Baltimore MD, 21216) or call **410-233-0684**.

Baltimore City Health Department – Code Blue Extreme Weather Program

The Baltimore City Health Department (BCHD) leads a multi-agency effort to reduce hypothermia deaths and protect the city's vulnerable populations during periods of extreme cold weather, also known as the Baltimore City Code Blue Extreme Cold Program, which is from November 15, 2025, to March 15, 2026.

The Health Commissioner declares a Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert based on the following criteria. When appropriate, the declaration will specify the risk period as "all day" or "night only" based on forecasted temperatures.

- Temperatures, including wind chill, are expected to be 13°F or below. This threshold can be reached by having a temperature of 20°F or less with 5 mph sustained winds or a temperature of 25°F or less with 15 mph sustained winds.
- Other conditions (e.g., strong winds, extended period of cold, sudden cold after a warm period)

deemed by the Commissioner of Health to be severe enough to present a substantial threat to the life or health of vulnerable Baltimore residents.

If possible, the decision to declare a Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert will be made by 5:00 p.m. on the previous business day and by 5:00 p.m. on the Friday before the weekend in which extreme cold weather is forecasted. BCHD will send out a press release announcing the Code Blue Extreme Cold Alert status. BCHD will also notify the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and other members of the Code Blue Extreme Cold Planning Committee.

The Equal Access Rule

The Equal Access Rule requires all U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) programs to provide equal access to services/resources without regard to a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or marital status. MOHS requires all grantees, regardless of funding source, to comply with these regulations. For more information on equal access for transgender people, visit the [HUD Exchange](#).

Shelter and housing programs serving families with children who are receiving funding through MOHS may not exclude children from programs based on age or gender.