16.120 Emergency Shelter Plan

2023-2024

Anchorage Health Department

Agenda

- AMC 16.120 Plan Objective
- Minimum Requirements
- Activation and Deactivation Criteria
- Ideas for Emergency Cold Weather Shelter 2023-2024
- Limited Funding Available
- Non-Congregate
- Q & A

Title 16.120 - Emergency Shelter

Plan Objective

The emergency shelter plan for homeless persons implements measures to coordinate public and private resources when a lack of available shelter options poses a danger to the life and health of unsheltered people within the municipality.

The plan objective is to safeguard the lives of vulnerable homeless individuals by providing shelter during such emergency conditions.

Title 16.120

Title 16.120 – Emergency Shelter Plan for Homeless Persons

Activation Criteria:
1. Temperature drops below 45 degrees
2. Mayor by declaration of civil emergency
3. Health Director when lack of available shelter options otherwise poses a danger to the life and health of unsheltered people within the municipality

Activation and Deactivation Criteria

- Emergency Shelter under Title 16.120 is "generally" activated from October through April (7 months) – Continued mention of November 1

- <u>NEW</u> Proposed activation criteria is for the ambient temperature to be less than 45 degrees for 3 or more days prior to activation.

- <u>NEW</u> Proposed de-activation criteria is for the ambient temperature to be above 45 degrees for 3 or more days prior to notification to operators.

- <u>NEW</u> Date Specific Activation regardless of temperature for planning purposes.

1. Coordinate with existing shelters to expand capacity for winter 2023-2024.

Shelters willing to increase capacity for 2023-2024 winter:

- Covenant House
  - Current capacity: 50
  - **Can expand by 25**
  - **Cost about $200,000 per quarter to expand**
- Brother Francis Shelter
  - Current capacity: 120
  - **Stay at 120 capacity with current Municipal funding**
  - **1/1 – They will go back to 73 if annual funding changes**
- Anchorage Gospel Rescue Mission
  - Current capacity: 100
  - **Cannot expand**
- Complex Care
  - Current capacity: 83, with a waitlist
  - **Cannot expand**

- Clare House
  - Current capacity: 42
  - **Cannot expand**
- Downtown Hope Center
  - Current capacity: 70
  - Winter capacity: 60 (Patio closes)
  - **Cannot expand**
- AWAIC
  - Current capacity: 67
  - **Cannot expand**
- McKinnel House
  - Current capacity: 16
  - **Cannot expand**

Idea: Public/Private Resources for a Warming Area

2. Use vacant Municipally owned or privately owned buildings to allow nonprofits to operate a 'warming area'.

- Identify 3-5 smaller locations rather than 1 large location
- Work with Volunteer organizations to staff the facilities.

3. State Support – Look at state-owned properties.

- Ask if the state could support the emergency cold weather shelter plan in any other way

4. Proactively reach out to more churches and non-religious organizations. Non-religious organizations can operate as low-barrier facilities.

- Sobriety requirement under AMC 16.120 for churches, so they cannot be low-barrier.
- BARRIERS: **FIRE WATCH, INSURANCE.** Long gone are the days of good will. Red tape has bound us. We have essentially codified our way into spending more money.

5. NEW - Eliminate the sobriety requirement for churches under AMC 16.120 so that churches can operate as low-barrier facilities.

Idea: Utilize Community Food Resources

6. Create community partnerships to reduce the cost of meals. Possibilities include:

- Purchasing MRE's so that food is available 24/7

- Coordinate donations from supermarkets, etc.

- Organize a restaurant donation program, where 30 restaurants each donate 1 day of meals on their selected day of the month

- Create a collective of church groups, youth organizations, non-profits, and other organizations to cook and serve food – Issues in prior years with serving food outside of cooking establishments, licensed, food handlers etc.

Reference AR 2022 – 420

Idea: Declare a State of Emergency

7. Declare a local state of emergency and contact the state per AS 26.23.140 ([Alaska Statutes 2022 (akleg.gov)](https://akleg.gov)).

- This would activate the response and recovery aspects of Anchorage's Disaster Emergency Plan.
- Wouldn't likely come with state aid.
- The state of emergency would need to be renewed every 7 days.

Non-Congregate

We do have an RFI that hit the streets last Monday, we did email out and ask that social service providers engage with their circles to get the largest number of responses possible. The barrier, and there is only 1, is funding.

Non congregate is
- More expensive than congregate.
- Has better outcomes
- When people are kicked out of non-congregate settings, **where do they go**?
- Some clients will not fare well in non-congregate
  - room damages = increased costs.

  Rough Math // Estimated Costs
  - $85 x 400 unsheltered indiv. x 31 days = **1.054 Million a month.**
  - $100 x 400 unsheltered indiv. X 31 days = **1.24 Million a month**

  2023 (Nov-Dec) = 2.108 Million - 2.48 Million
  2024 (January – April) = 4.21 Million - $4.96 Million
  Total for ECWS 23/24 = $6.318 Million – **$7.44 Million**

Current Funding Streams

Going into the ECWS season we believe, with Assembly concurrence we can use these **One Time Funding.**

$600k **CDBG-CV** funds

$200k in **Healthy & Equitable State Grant**

$1.1 Million **ATAX – Currently appropriated.**

Possible Funding HOME-ARP - $2.7 Million (not immediately available)

Let's Talk

As a local government, we cannot sustain the current path we are on.

Historically, we're spending roughly $12 million on homelessness operations.

We are now entering the 2023 Emergency Sheltering Season with $0 because we have appropriated our money away to external partners.

We have reached a fiscal cliff.

All funding for this year, is one time.

Questions?

Thank you!

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