

# INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA WINTER CONTINGENCY PLAN 2020-2021

The Winter Contingency Plan has been developed to provide relief to people experiencing homelessness in Indianapolis and Central Indiana when inclement weather occurs. In response to COVID-19 the City of Indianapolis has partnered with Wheeler Mission to execute a new format for shelter to ensure that individuals are safe and to avoid outbreaks of the illness. This plan is intended to serve as a guide to prevent people experiencing homelessness from serious harm or death during the winter season. This plan will be active from November 1, 2020 through March 31, 2021.

## **SHELTER COORDINATING AGENCY - Wheeler Mission**

Wheeler Mission – Shelter for Men (SFM) is the coordinating agency for men experiencing homelessness.

Shelter for Men  
520 E. Market Street  
Indianapolis, IN 46204  
Office: (317) 687-6795

Wheeler Mission – Center for Women and Children (CWC) is the coordinating agency for women and families who are experiencing homelessness. CWC will be moving staff to a hotel location. The hotel site will serve as the coordination site for shelter, and women and families should report to:

Hampton Inn Indianapolis Downtown Circle Center  
105 S Meridian St  
Indianapolis, IN 46225

If you are making a referral for a family, please call the CWC prior to sending the family to shelter:  
Office: 317-687-6795

## **PROCEDURE FOR MEN**

1. The staff of SFM will fill 250 beds available at Wheeler Mission SFM.
2. Once the beds are filled at Wheeler Mission SFM, Wheeler Mission will assign men to stay at their Men's Residential Center (MRC), 245 N. Delaware St. Indianapolis, IN 46204. During the months of November through March, this facility will house up to 60 men for overflow services. *(Men will be required to arrive at the MRC No later than 6:00 PM and will be required to leave the facility by 7:00 AM).*
3. In addition to the SFM and MRC, we are utilizing overflow shelter at a local hotel (100 rooms). Individuals will be assigned to a hotel overflow location after they arrive at Wheeler and staff can assess an individual's need for shelter, safety and their risk for COVID-19.
4. **Each man must check-in at the SFM facility regardless of their assigned location, unless they are assigned to the hotel site.** Men transferred to the hotel overflow site should always return to the hotel nightly for the duration of their stay. Any individual who leaves the hotel shelter for longer than 24 hours will need to return to SFM to check-in again. They are not guaranteed the opportunity to return to the hotel overflow location.

## **PROCEDURE FOR WOMEN AND FAMILIES**

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5. Regarding housing women and families, the CWC will first fill all permanent beds, and then utilize a hotel location for overflow shelter. There will be 175 rooms at the hotel serving single women and families.
6. The CWC will serve as the point of contact for families seeking emergency shelter from November 1<sup>st</sup> – March 31<sup>st</sup>.
7. All shelter intakes will be at the hotel. During the first 2 weeks of Winter Contingency, the CWC will provide transportation from the hotel to the CWC. This will allow clients and partners to adjust to the new process for Winter Contingency for families. Referral partners should still use the phone number listed at the CWC in this document to reach CWC leadership for questions or concerns.
8. **Check-in for Winter Contingency will be between the hours of 1 PM – 7 PM. Those wanting to eat dinner must appear by 5:00 PM.**
9. Individuals with children that identify as a family can be sheltered at the hotel overflow location together. The ages and genders of children will not impact their ability to shelter together. This includes single men with children, couples with children, or single women with children.
10. Families with school age children should speak with Wheeler staff to connect to transportation for their chosen school, if they have not organized transportation already.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**Case Management and On-site Services for Hotel Overflow Shelter:**

Individuals (men, women and families) that are sheltering at the hotel locations will be encouraged to stay at the hotel and in their rooms (when not at work or school) to limit the spread of COVID-19. Case management and opportunities to connect to permanent housing will be available at all sheltering sites. Meals and hygiene items will be provided to individuals at all sheltering sites. Those at overflow hotels will also have laundry available.

**Alcohol policy at Wheeler Mission Shelter for Men:**

If any man is suspected of being inebriated, he will be given a breathalyzer test before entering the building. If the man records a .08 blood alcohol content (BAC) level or higher, he will not be allowed entrance into the SFM. If the man appears to be intoxicated beyond the ability to protect himself from any harm, the SFM staff will call IMPD for intervention.

**Alcohol policy at Wheeler Mission Center for Women and Children:**

Women under the influence of alcohol or drugs will be evaluated on a case by case basis at the Center for Women and Children. IMPD will be contacted for any guest whose intoxication would make her a danger to herself or others.

**Referrals:**

Referrals will be accepted from the police, outreach teams, hospitals, and other referring agencies on a 24-hour basis.

**For men:** outreach teams are asked to call the number listed on page one (1) under SFM.

**For women or families:** call the number listed under CWC. The on-duty staff person will let the outreach team know how to proceed.

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Clients with Restrictions:

Please keep in mind that a few clients are barred from some or all shelters. Therefore, it is imperative to call the on-duty staff person before bringing a client in. Wheeler Mission will do what they can to work with the outreach teams to seek alternatives for such individuals.

**DAY SHELTER ONLY INFORMATION**

The following agency provides specialty hours for their day shelter during extreme cold temperatures, and no overnight stays are permitted. Please note that in the event a weather emergency, as declared by the City of Indianapolis in accordance with their Extreme Temperature Plan, other shelter options are available to the community. Contact [sara.woodson@indy.gov](mailto:sara.woodson@indy.gov) for information on the Extreme Temperature Plan.

**Horizon House- Single Adults**

1033 E Washington St  
Indianapolis, IN 46202

Questions? Contact Niki: [nikiw@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:nikiw@horizonhouse.cc)

Horizon House will open for all individuals experiencing homelessness during their business hours when temperatures reach a wind chill temperature below 0 degrees, or air temperature below 10 degrees. Hours of operation:

7 AM-3 PM Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday

7-12:30 PM Wednesday

Any individuals may stay for warmth, but those needing additional services (mail, laundry, showers, storage, clothing requests, and case management appointments) will be provided based on Horizon House traditional shifts schedule.

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**WINTER CONTINGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

**Shelter Coordination**

**Wheeler Mission Shelter for Men**, 520 E. Market Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. **317.687.6795**  
**Contact:** Darius Gover (Ext. 214) or William Bumphus ([williambumphus@wheelermission.org](mailto:williambumphus@wheelermission.org))

**Wheeler Mission Center for Women and Children**, 3208 E. Michigan Street, Indianapolis, IN 46201. 317.687.6795  
**Contact:** Mary Beth Hamilton ([marybethhamilton@wheelermission.org](mailto:marybethhamilton@wheelermission.org))

**Resource, Day Shelter and Response Teams**

**Salvation Army Women's Shelter**, 540 N. Alabama Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204. **317.637.5551**  
**Contact:** Nydia Botero, ([Nydia.Botero@usc.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Nydia.Botero@usc.salvationarmy.org))

**Horizon House**, 1033 E. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46202. **317.396.6360**  
**Contact:** Niki Wattson, ([nikiw@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:nikiw@horizonhouse.cc))

**Outreach Indiana**, 2416 E New York St, Indianapolis, IN 46201. **317.951.8886**  
*Young Adults Only: 18-24*

**The PourHouse**

**Contact:** Andrea DeMink **1.866.814.8314**

**Street Outreach (PBSO/Coordinated Outreach)**

**Contact:** Nicole Wesling, ([nicolet@horizonhouse.cc](mailto:nicolet@horizonhouse.cc))

**Homeless Initiative Program**, 3908 Meadows Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46205. **317.957.2275**  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday from 8:30 AM to 11:30 AM.  
**Contact:** Lindsay Leonhard ([lleonhard@indyhealthnet.org](mailto:lleonhard@indyhealthnet.org))

**Street Outreach Animal Response, (SOAR)**. First, fill out the agency form online at [www.soarinitiative.com](http://www.soarinitiative.com). For urgent situations, follow up via call or text to **317.529.4891**  
**Contact:** Angela Hopson, [soarinitiative@gmail.com](mailto:soarinitiative@gmail.com)