

ANNUALIZED COLD WEATHER EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAM



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Cold weather shelter offers a warm, safe place to stay for those who are outdoors in the coldest part of the year.

As of January 15th, there were over 800 people sleeping outdoors, with many turned away due to lack of capacity in shelters and warming centers. There simply is not enough space or staff to care for people who are unsheltered.¹

Connecticut's homeless response providers need an ongoing and permanent source of funding to provide enough beds to keep people from freezing outside, while having the correct staff-to-client ratio to safely manage shelters.

People experiencing homelessness face a significantly higher risk of developing exposure-related conditions like hypothermia and frostbite. These conditions are immediately life-threatening and can also increase the risk of dying from related conditions in the future

For the 2024 winter, no funds have been committed by the state. Committed funding would allow providers to secure staffing and locations in advance for this critical life-saving service.

Budget Request: \$5 Million to be added annually to the DOH Housing/Homeless Services line item

The Benefits

- Supports a critical component of the state's emergency response system.
- Provides a designated location in every community for safe shelter during the winter
- Diverts those seeking shelter during extreme cold weather from emergency rooms and public buildings, saving lives and public dollars.
- Keeps people safe, warm, and fed during a cold weather emergency

Citation:
Coordinated Access Network Smartsheet Data: https://cceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/FINAL-Weekly-Dashboard_-Unsheltered-Homelessness-in-CT-1.15.204.pdf

