

Bloomington-Monroe County 2025-2026 Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (Winter Contingency)

Why Do We Need A Severe Weather Sheltering Plan?

The Bloomington-Monroe County Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (also known as winter contingency) provides a coordinated response to protect people experiencing homelessness in Monroe County from exposure-related injury or death during cold weather. This plan includes emergency shelter options, crisis services, outreach protocols, animal support resources and transportation options.

The plan is designed to support **all individuals and families in need**—including men, women, children, families, couples, people with pets, and veterans. It prioritizes **low-barrier, inclusive access to shelter and services** while integrating medical and behavioral health resources.

Our objectives:

- Prevent injury or death due to exposure to extreme cold.
- Provide low-barrier emergency shelter and services during inclement weather.
- Coordinate resources efficiently across government entities, nonprofits, and volunteers.
- Ensure timely communication to at-risk individuals and support networks.

Note: This plan describes the emergency response to extreme winter weather in Bloomington-Monroe County, the population & service hub for Region 10. Separate plans will be developed for Lawrence County and Morgan County.

Together, we will work to ensure that every person—regardless of circumstance—has access to safe shelter, compassionate care, and community support this winter.

Activation of White Flag Protocols

White flag protocols refer to our community response to homelessness during severe weather, particularly when temperatures drop to freezing or below. During these nights, we work to expand shelter availability for those in need – in some cases relaxing shelter restrictions or adding backup shelter – to provide everyone a safe, warm place to stay. Day centers will also be opened during these periods.

This plan will be in effect from November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Winter contingency/white flag protocols will be activated when:

- Temperatures fall below 32°F (0°C), or
- Wind chills reach dangerous levels (below 20°F), or
- Snow/ice storm warnings are issued.

The Monroe County Emergency Management Department will be responsible for activating the plan. Jamie Neibel, Director of Emergency Management, will email the activation alert to a distribution list that includes all agencies listed in this document as well as Heading Home of South Central Indiana.

Plan Distribution, Communication & Training

This plan will be shared with:

- First responders
- Shelter providers
- Outreach teams
- Medical and behavioral health teams
- Relevant public, private and nonprofit entities
- Community volunteers and faith partners


A training session will be held in October to explain the activation process and address any outstanding issues.

OVERNIGHT WINTER SHELTERS

Wheeler Mission

Men only for overnight stays ([website](#))

215 S. Westplex Avenue

 812-333-1905

- 80 beds + 25 overflow mats
- Check-in: 7:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. daily
- Dayroom: Open 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. for anyone from the public, including women. Services include showers, restrooms, toiletries, internet access, laundry, clothing, phones.

- Meals served daily:
 - **Breakfast:** 7:00 – 8:00 a.m.
 - **Lunch:** 12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
 - **Dinner:** 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.


Notes:

- Overnight referrals for men accepted from police and service providers
 - Case management required for individuals with recent violence history
 - **Service animals only**, with vaccination documentation required
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Friend's Place

Women, men, LGBTQIA+, pets ([website](#))

919 S. Rogers Street


 812-332-1444

- 36 beds for women / 4 for men, plus 10 additional floor mats. Women, couples, people who are especially vulnerable, and people with pets are prioritized.
 - Check-in begins at 5:15 p.m.
 - Closes at 7:45 a.m.
 - Priority for **Monroe County residents**
 - Must not be actively under the influence of substances
 - **Well-behaved pets welcome**
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New Hope for Families

Families with children, no marriage requirement ([website](#))

1140 S. Morton Street


 812-334-9840

- Capacity: 12 families
 - Call to check space availability
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Middle Way House

Domestic Violence Shelter ([website](#))

338 S. Washington St.


 812-336-0846

- Capacity: 30 beds
 - Emergency shelter for survivors of domestic violence (individuals and families)
 - Call for availability
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Monroe County Youth Services Bureau

Youth ages 10-17 years old ([website](#))

615 S. Adams Street

 812-349-2506

- Capacity: 15
 - Emergency shelter for youth ages 10-17
 - To access the YSB shelter, call the 24/7 line or go to a Safe Place. If a youth shows up to a place where they can not be sheltered due to their age, YSB staff can transport them to the YSB shelter, but only from a Safe Place location. Click [here](#) for a list of Safe Places in Monroe County.
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BACKUP OVERNIGHT EMERGENCY SHELTERS

Bloomington Severe Weather Emergency Shelter (BSWERS)

This volunteer-run shelter will be activated based on weather and volunteer availability. The group needs a 36-48 hour notice to coordinate volunteers.

Women, Men, Couples, LGBTQIA+, Pets (under certain conditions) ([website](#))

📍 Rotating Locations:

- *First Christian Church: 205 E. Kirkwood Ave. (Washington St. entrance)*
- *First United Methodist Church: 219 E. 4th Street (4th St. entrance)*

NOTE: On Sept. 21, First Presbyterian Church (221 E. 6th St.) will be deciding whether to become a third BSWERS site. We'll update this plan as soon as we know the outcome of their decision.

☎ 812-803-0983

✉ btownsevereshelter@gmail.com

- Capacity: 30 beds
- Priority given to **women (50% of beds reserved)**
- **Couples welcome**
- Intake begins: 8:30 p.m. (Guests are asked to line up no earlier than 8 p.m.)
- City of Bloomington After Hours Ambassadors might be available at intake


BSWERS Pet Policy

- At BSWERS sites that allow pets (First Christian and First United Methodist), the following rules apply:
 - Guests with pets are admitted only by permission of a Staff Person or Shift Leader. Permission may be revoked at any time should shelter staff become concerned the pet is becoming fearful, aggressive, disruptive or the situation is in any way unsafe.

- Pets should be up to date on recommended vaccinations before being brought onto Host Site property
 - All pets must be on a leash or inside an animal crate/carrier at all times while on Host Site property.
 - All pets must sleep inside an animal crate/carrier. The shelter has a few crates for animals no more than 30 inches long and weighing no more than 30 pounds. Guests with larger animals should seek shelter at Friends Place.
 - Service Animals are welcome to the BSWERS as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). “Emotional Support” and “Providing companionship” are not recognized as a “service” for purposes of the ADA. Guests with service animals will be asked the following two questions:
 - Is the dog a service animal required because of a disability?
 - What work or task has the dog been trained to perform?
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STRIDE Center

312 N. Morton Street ([website](#))


 812-650-4878

- 24/7 walk-in and mobile crisis intervention
- 23-hour safe stay available – capacity in emergency is about 12 spots
- Cold weather transport support
- Accepts referrals from community members, providers, first responders

CRISIS INTERVENTION & WINTER OUTREACH


STRIDE Center

312 N. Morton Street ([website](#))

 812-650-4878

- 24/7 walk-in and mobile crisis intervention
- 23-hour safe stay available – capacity in emergency is about 12 spots
- Cold weather transport support
- Accepts referrals from community members, providers, first responders

STRIDE Mobile Crisis Team

 812-650-4878 (Can be reached by calling the main STRIDE number)

- Responds to **mental health and substance use crises**
- Available for adults and youth
- Coordinates cold weather response with outreach and public safety teams

MEDICAL OUTREACH & CARE

HealthNet Homeless Initiative Program (HIP)

 Contact: Felicia Helvey – 812-340-2876

- Medical & mental health care team for unsheltered individuals
- Weekly schedule:

- **Mon. & Wed:** 8am-5pm
- **Tues & Thurs.:** 8am-8pm


Bloomington Fire Department Mobile Integrated Health Unit

 Shelby VanDerMoere – 812-803-9119

- EMT-based medical outreach and gap care in community

SEVERE WEATHER AFTER-HOURS OUTREACH

 BPD Non-Emergency: 812-339-4477

 DRO Mark Fabris: 812-947-8004

TRANSPORTATION

Our goal is to provide transportation for people to reach emergency shelter with minimal exposure to severe weather.

On a trial basis, Bloomington Transit has offered to provide transportation from downtown to Wheeler Mission or Friend's Place. They can do this with at least a 12-hour notice during periods when Monroe County Emergency Management has declared a white flag night.


The STRIDE Mobile Crisis Team provides transportation to shelters as needed.

DAY CENTERS

Shalom Center (Beacon)

Women, men, , LGBTQIA+, pets ([website](#))

620 S. Walnut Street

 812-334-5728


Open: Monday–Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

- Breakfast: 8:00 – 9:00 a.m.
- Lunch: 12:00 – 1:30 p.m.
- Services: Restrooms, toiletries, showers, laundry, phones, storage, and crisis case work (9 a.m.–3 p.m.)

Wheeler Mission Day Services

Open to all ([website](#))

215 S. Westplex Avenue

 812-333-1905

Open: Daily, 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.

- Meal service: Breakfast, Lunch, Dinner
- Other services: Dayroom, internet access, laundry, clothing, phones, restrooms, showers

DAYTIME EMERGENCY WARMING CENTERS


In addition to day services provided at Shalom and Wheeler Mission, emergency warming stations are opened during extreme weather. These stations are for temporary relief from the cold and do not offer overnight accommodations or meals. Hours announced when activated. The list below are warming stations that were open in 2024:

- **Bloomington Fire Station:** 300 4th Street, Bloomington, IN
- **Ellettsville Fire Department Headquarters:** 5080 West State Road 46
- **Monroe Fire Protection District – Perry Station:** 3953 South Kennedy Drive
- **Monroe Fire Protection District – Clear Creek Station (Pet Friendly):** 9094 South Strain Ridge Road
- **Monroe Fire Protection District – Indian Creek Station:** 8019 South Rockport Road
- **Monroe Fire Protection District – Bloomington Station:** 5081 North Old State Road 37
- **Monroe Fire Protection District – Van Buren Station (Pet Friendly):** 2130 South Kirby Road
- **Monroe County Public Library:** These library locations also serve as warming stations:
 - Downtown Location: 303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington
 - Southwest Branch: 890 W. Gordon Pike, Bloomington
 - Ellettsville Branch: 600 W. Temperance Street, Ellettsville
 - **Hours:** Mon-Thur 9am-7pm, Fri-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm

ANIMAL CARE IN WINTER WEATHER

City of Bloomington Animal Shelter


3410 S. Walnut Street ([website](#))

 812-349-3492

- Emergency sheltering of **surrendered or stray animals**
 - 24-hour temporary shelter; owners must retrieve animals by next day
 - Open: Mon–Sat, 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - Provides kennels/crates for emergency shelters
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Monroe County Humane Association (MCHA)

791 S. Fieldstone Blvd. ([website](#))

 812-333-6242

- Temporary boarding for up to **14 days** with signed owner agreement
- Capacity: 6 dogs; 2 dogs can share a crate if from same household
- Offers crates, bowls, and food

After-Hours Animal Assistance:

 BPD Non-Emergency: 812-339-4477

 DRO Mark Fabris: 812-947-8004

Bedford-Lawrence County 2025-2026 Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (Winter Contingency)

Why Do We Need A Severe Weather Sheltering Plan?

The Bedford-Lawrence County Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (also known as winter contingency) provides a coordinated response to protect people experiencing homelessness in Lawrence County from exposure-related injury or death during cold weather.

The plan is designed to support **all individuals and families in need**—including men, women, children, families, couples, people with pets, individuals living with mental illness or substance use disorders, and veterans. It prioritizes **low-barrier, inclusive access to shelter and services** while integrating medical and behavioral health resources.

Objectives:

- Prevent injury or death due to exposure to extreme cold.
- Provide emergency shelter and services during inclement weather.
- Coordinate resources efficiently across government entities, nonprofits, and volunteers.
- Ensure timely communication to at-risk individuals and support networks

Note: This plan describes the emergency response to extreme winter weather in Bedford-Lawrence County. Separate plans will be developed for Monroe County and Morgan County in Region 10. These three counties are the only counties in Region 10 with emergency shelter services.

Together, we will work to ensure that every person—regardless of circumstance—has access to safe shelter, compassionate care, and community support this winter.

Activation of White Flag Protocols

White flag protocols refer to our community response to homelessness during severe weather, particularly when temperatures drop to freezing or below. During these nights, we work to expand shelter availability for those in need to provide everyone a safe, warm place to stay.

This plan will be in effect from November 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Winter contingency/white flag protocols will be activated when:


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- Wind chills reach dangerous levels (below 20°F), or
- Snow/ice storm warnings are issued.

BEDFORD MEN'S WARMING SHELTER

Only one overnight emergency shelter for men is operating in Lawrence County: The Bedford Men's Warming Shelter. This agency serves as the hub for overnight emergency winter sheltering efforts as well as a daytime warming center for all, including women, couples and families.

1414 H Street, Bedford

<https://www.bedfordmenswarmingshelter.org/>

 812-329-1118

- 34 beds + 50 overflow cots
- Overnight check-in hours: 5:00pm-9:00pm
- Day room hours: 8:00am-8:00pm
- Meals served daily:
 - **Breakfast:** 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.
 - **Lunch:** 1:00 p.m.
 - **Dinner:** 6:00 p.m.

Notes:


- Overnight referrals accepted from police and service providers
- Will accept overnight guests after 9pm during severe weather
- During day room hours anyone welcome, including men, women, couples and families

- During severe winter weather, works to accommodate women as well as men
- No residency requirements
- Low barrier - no background check or sobriety requirement
- Well-behaved pets welcome

BECKY'S PLACE

1105 5th St., Bedford

<https://www.archindy.org/cc/bloomington/beckysplace.html>

 812-275-5773

Becky's Place serves women and children experiencing homelessness, but does not typically provide overnight emergency shelter. However, during severe winter weather they will offer the following accommodations:

- Using a family room for single women if they receive more calls from them than from families, allowing Becky's Place to house 3–5 women instead of one family.
- Welcoming women and children indoors to warm up, providing meals or food, and offering a couch or fold-out bed when extra space is needed.
- Providing gas cards (when available) to those sleeping in cars so they can stay warm, as well as distributing blankets or coats when they have extras.
- Contacting other shelters and resources to connect people with safe options if Becky's Place is unable to provide shelter directly.

Morgan County 2025-2026 Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (Winter Contingency)

Why Do We Need A Severe Weather Sheltering Plan?

The Morgan County Severe Weather Sheltering Plan (also known as winter contingency) provides a coordinated response to protect people experiencing homelessness in Morgan County from exposure-related injury or death during cold weather.

The plan is designed to support **all individuals and families in need**—including men, women, children, families, couples, people with pets, individuals living with mental illness or substance use disorders, and veterans. It prioritizes **low-barrier, inclusive access to shelter and services** while integrating medical and behavioral health resources.

Objectives:

- Prevent injury or death due to exposure to extreme cold.
- Provide emergency shelter and services during inclement weather.
- Coordinate resources efficiently across government entities, nonprofits, and volunteers.
- Ensure timely communication to at-risk individuals and support networks

Note: This plan describes the emergency response to extreme winter weather in Morgan County. Separate plans will be developed for Monroe County and Lawrence County in Region 10. These three counties are the only counties in Region 10 with emergency shelter services.

Together, we will work to ensure that every person—regardless of circumstance—has access to safe shelter, compassionate care, and community support this winter.

Activation of White Flag Protocols

White flag protocols refer to our community response to homelessness during severe weather, particularly when temperatures drop to freezing or below. During these nights, we work to expand shelter availability for those in need to provide everyone a safe, warm place to stay.

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- Wind chills reach dangerous levels (below 20°F), or
- Snow/ice storm warnings are issued.

WELLSPRING

Only one overnight emergency shelter is operating in Morgan County: WellSpring. This agency serves as the hub for overnight emergency winter sheltering efforts as well as a daytime warming center.

301 W Harrison St., Martinsville

<https://wellspringcenter.org/>

 765-342-6661

- 9 apartment units
- Onsite food pantry is available
 - **Mon, Wed, Fri:** 10am - 2pm
 - No referral needed – just walk in