

# Region 5 Winter Contingency Plan

## (Updated 11.24.25)

This document outlines winter contingency planning efforts across Region 5 counties, including updated severe weather response strategies.

### Howard County

- *In Howard County, there are no White Flag Shelters established for severe cold weather conditions. However, several local service providers offer Warming Center hours for unsheltered homeless in the County to utilize. In addition, a Street Outreach team (Helping Our Homies or 4C Health) connects with and provides needed supplies to unsheltered homeless. Such supplies may include tents, blankets, food, and hygiene items to those in need.*
- **Who initiates planning efforts for severe weather conditions?** The Director of Howard County Department of Emergency Management coordinates with local shelters, police and county law enforcement, and county government offices, including the Parks Department and the Health Department, when temperatures are or are projected to be very low. The Director relies on information from the National Weather Center. Unincorporated towns in the county are also notified by Director. Assistance may be needed by not only the unsheltered homeless but citizens who have lost electricity.
- **Potential Warming Centers:**
  - Girl Scout Cabin in Foster Park: Opens after 12 hours of single-digit temperatures or 12 hours wind chill below zero. No set hours yet; overnight not considered but subject to change. Monitored by police and camera.
  - CAM Warming Center: Monday-Friday, 8:00 AM – 4:30 PM. Provides warming, rest, essential services, and support.
  - Kokomo Rescue Mission (Will initiate certain extended hours or offer overnight shelter if needed. No screenings and barriers removed unless problems arise.)
- **Transportation strategies:** City Trolley system runs until 6 pm M-F. Other options may be Howard County Connect or the police. CAM Transportation: Available case-by-case during severe weather.
- **Key contacts for Howard County Government, Shelters, and Warming Centers:**
  - Janice Hart / Howard County Department of Emergency Management / 765-431-7914
  - David Trine / Operations Coordinator for City of Kokomo / 765-456-7472
  - Kevin Smith / Executive Director of Kokomo Rescue Mission / 765-456-3838
  - Naketa Catchings / Director of Helping Our Homies / 765-553-1704
  - Howard County Connect: 765-431-1874

- CAM Key Contact: Jerome J. Williams, Executive Director, 765-434-0687, [Jerome@camhope.org](mailto:Jerome@camhope.org)

## Cass County

Calvary Presbyterian Church: 8:00 PM – 8:00 AM when operational.

- Advertising: Radio announcements and Facebook posts.
- Street homeless teams refer individuals to Logansport Street Outreach (LSO).
- Planning initiated by Cass County Warming Center Taskforce.
- Supplies: Donation requests through LSO-affiliated churches; distributed and verified by LSO.
- Transportation: Potential agreement with local transit company for emergency rides.
- Key Contacts: Jason Mitchell – Emmaus; Father Clark Miller – Trinity Episcopal.

### **Continuum of Care Region 5 – Cass County – Warming Center Protocol**

The Cass County Warming Center Taskforce is coordinated by multiple agencies including Logansport Street Outreach, Emmaus Mission Center, Calvary Presbyterian Church, Trinity Episcopal Church and the Cass County Health Department.

The Taskforce's function is to create and maintain protocols related to the establishment of warming center sites to protect the health of at-risk individuals and families who are not adequately prepared for low extremes of temperature.

The Warming Center Protocol will be activated immediately when National Weather Service issues a severe weather alert relating to a cold weather advisory.

When the established criteria above is met, the following Phases will occur in sequence:

#### **Phase I:**

A call will be placed by Logansport Street Outreach to designated points of contact at Cass County warming centers. These points of contact will begin the activation of their individual warming center processes and attempt to reach a state of full operation during the duration of the severe weather alert.

Each individual warming center will maintain their own procedures based upon their capacity to serve at-risk individuals within their facilities. These procedures will be made available to all members of the Cass County Warming Center Taskforce

and will include the maximum number of at-risk individuals that the warming center can accommodate.

Local law enforcement may be requested to monitor warming centers if necessary.

Each participating agency will report the number of people utilizing their warming center each day to the Cass County Warming Center Taskforce for data tracking purposes.

It is understood that each participating facility reserves the right to decline admission to any potential guest who has posed a risk to their facility, staff, guests, and/or volunteers.

Privately owned facilities who spontaneously open as warming centers will be encouraged to notify the Cass County Warming Center Taskforce so that information on these facilities can be gathered and disseminated.

### **Phase II:**

Public health information, provided by the Cass County Health Department, will be issued through local media outlets, including advisory information on:

Guidelines for keeping warm

Guidelines for keeping hydrated

Requests for checking on at-risk individuals and helping them relocate if necessary

Warning signs and symptoms of cold weather related illnesses

### **Phase III:**

Once fully operational, each warming center will immediately contact Logansport Street Outreach, by noon on the first day of their operation with the following information:

The location of the warming center

Warming center hours of operation and operating procedures

Warming center contact information

By noon, Logansport Street Outreach will provide information on the opening of warming centers to Iron Horse Broadcasting, will post information regarding the openings on Logansport Street Outreach's Facebook page and will e-mail

information regarding the openings to all members of the Cass County Warming Center Contact List.

At-risk individuals who require access to a warming center will be directed to call Logansport Street Outreach who will provide the above information to the caller. Logansport Street Outreach will then notify the warming center sites of their potential usage.

Cass Area Transit and local law enforcement may be engaged to transport individuals and families to and from warming center locations as appropriate.

Information regarding the warming center will also be provided through any media possessed by the warming center's lead agency itself.

Any warming center reaching maximum capacity at any time will contact Logansport Street Outreach and report their status immediately, so that at-risk individuals are not advised to seek shelter at warming centers that have no available accommodations.

Warming centers will provide information on their activation status to Logansport Street Outreach by noon on a daily basis while this protocol remains in effect.

#### **Phase IV:**

Warming Center Protocols will be ended upon a joint decision made by a representative of each participating Cass County Warming Center Taskforce agency.

In the event that conditions within the community deteriorate further and extend beyond the scope of these procedures, additional response measures will be discussed and implemented by the Cass County Warming Center Taskforce as deemed necessary.

#### **Miami County**

- Miami County: No Winter Contingency Plans submitted at this time.

#### **Tipton County**

- Tipton County: No Winter Contingency Plans submitted at this time.

#### **Wabash County**

- No Winter Contingency Plans submitted at this time.