

Region 5 Planning Council on Homelessness

Summer Contingency Planning

Howard County:

- ❖ In Howard County, several local service providers have stated they will open their shelters as a temporary cooling center during times of extreme heat. In addition, our Street Outreach teams (Helping Our Homies and 4C Health) connects with and provides needed supplies to unsheltered homeless.
- ❖ 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 high (there is no certain temperature degree that initiates the process). 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.
- ❖ What places have cooling center hours?
 - Coordinated Assistance Ministries (CAM), Inc. (Will initiate certain extended hours. No screenings and barriers removed unless problems arise.)
 - Kokomo Rescue Mission
 - Girl Scout building (Cooling center hours are typically until 6 pm). Local government is looking into installing a camera so the center can be unmanned and would be monitored by the Parks Department and/or police.
 - Recovery Café at Turning Point System of Care will be open from 8:30 to 4:30 on the hottest days.
 - The FSA Domestic Violence shelter will also accept homeless during extreme heat if there are beds available.
- ❖ How are unsheltered homeless unwilling to go into shelter assisted? Helping Our Homies and 4C Health provides street outreach in Howard County. They provide needed supplies such as water, food, and hygiene items to those in need. When needed, they may be able to assist with a hotel stay.
- ❖ Staffing concerns: Shelters report adequate staffing during cooling center hours.
- ❖ Supplies needed: If shelters or other community partners providing cooling center hours report needing additional supplies such as food, cots, blankets, PPE equipment, etc., the Director of Emergency Management works to coordinate supplying the needs. The County has storage for items.
- ❖ Transportation strategies: City Trolley system runs until 6 pm M-F. Other options may be Howard County Connect or the police.

- ❖ How are Cooling Center hours advertised? Director of Emergency Management prepares official media release. Information is shared via social media, radio, and emails, including the Region 5 Planning Council on Homelessness email network. Information is also posted on the City website.
- ❖ Key contacts for Howard County Government, Shelters, and Cooling 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
 - Jerome Williams / Executive Director of CAM, Inc. / 765-452-8963
 - Naketa Catchings / Director of Helping Our Homies / 765-553-1704
 - Angie Ciski / Executive Director of Family Service Association / 765-513-8504
 - Howard County Connect: 765-431-1874
 - United Way of Howard and Tipton Counties: 765-457-HELP (765-457-4357)

Miami County:

- ❖ Several agencies open their doors during extreme weather conditions. They are all open during regular business hours; no after-hours or night warming stations. The Salvation Army will open their doors Monday-Thursday from 9:00-4:00 as needed. The Emmaus Mission is also currently working on a plan

Tipton County:

- ❖ No formal winter contingency plan at this time.

Wabash County:

- ❖ No formal winter contingency plan at this time.

Cass County:

- ❖ Trinity Episcopal Church will be open during the days of extremely hot weather, most likely from 8:00 am – 8:00 pm.
- ❖ Looking for Safe Parking Cass County to go into effect on June 1st.