

Hudson County Winter Emergency System Protocols

November 15, 2018- March 31, 2019

The **Hudson County Winter Emergency System** will be in effect continuously from **November 15, 2017 - March 31, 2018**. The system may also be enacted before or after this time period if the forecast calls for temperatures **below 32 degrees pursuant to NJ Code Blue Legislation A815**. The intent of the system is to provide shelter for those who seek it, and provide outreach to engage those who typically refuse shelter with the goal of preventing anyone from sleeping on the street throughout the winter months.

Homeless Street Outreach

Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation (GSECDC) will provide **street outreach** to unsheltered homeless individuals from **4:00 PM – 11:00 PM, 7 days a week**.

The GSECDC Outreach Team will coordinate with Covenant House to ensure that any homeless youth (ages 18-24) are connected to services and housing most appropriate to their needs.

Daytime Centers

The following centers are open daily and provide a warm place for individuals to obtain food and access a variety of services:

Name	Address	Hours of Operation
GSECDC Hudson CASA Drop in Center	514 Newark Ave, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Hudson County Integrated Services Center	124 Claremont Ave, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 7:30 AM -5:00 PM Sat 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
Hoboken Shelter	300 Bloomfield St, Hoboken	Mon - Thurs 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri - Sun 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
PERC Shelter	117 37 th St, Union City	7 days a week from 7 AM – 3 PM
St. Lucy's Shelter	619 Grove St, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

In the event of extremely cold daytime temperatures, or significant daytime snowfall, all three homeless shelters listed below will also remain open during the day.

Regular Overnight Shelter Overflow

As in the past, any individual seeking shelter should be directed to one of the shelters below. St. Lucy's and PERC will accept overflow clients throughout the winter and will not turn anyone away unless they demonstrate that they are a threat to themselves or others. In this situation, appropriate emergency professionals will be contacted. Once capacity is reached at any given shelter, staff will work to coordinate transportation to a facility that has space.

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Name	Capacity	Address	Hours of Operation	Latest Walk in Accepted
St. Lucy's Shelter	80 Regular 40 Overflow	619 Grove St, Jersey City	24 hours	11: 00 PM
PERC Shelter ^{1,2}	61 Regular 80 Overflow	111 37th St, Union City	24 hours <i>Open for dinner at 6:00 PM</i>	No cut-off time.
Hoboken ¹ Shelter	50 Regular 5 Overflow	300 Bloomfield St, Hoboken	Mon - Th 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri - Sun 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM	7:00 PM

¹ Shelters are ADA accessible

² Shelter overflow consists of chairs or mats, not beds

The Warming Center

The Warming Center is located at the Naval Reserve Facility in the Town of Kearny and will be operated by the Urban Renewal Corporation (URC). The goal of the warming center is to provide a warm and safe place for unsheltered homeless individuals to spend the night during the winter months. The warming center is designed to be a place of last resort for unsheltered homeless, and therefore all emergency shelter beds and overflow slots throughout Hudson County must be filled to the greatest extent possible prior to a client being transported to the Warming Center.

Access to the warming center will be controlled by the existing Homeless Outreach Team currently operated by Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation. The URC will coordinate closely with the Outreach Team to manage evening pick up for the warming center.

The warming center has limited capacity to shelter individuals per night. Therefore, coordination with the existing shelters is necessary to ensure that the regular and overflow shelter beds are occupied before going to the Kearny Warming Center.

Note: The Warming Center is NOT ADA accessible. Provisions for sheltering will be made on a case by case basis.

Hudson County Severe Weather Plan

“Assembly Bill No. 815 of 2016 (A815_R1) requires county emergency management coordinators to establish a Code Blue Program for at-risk individuals who require shelter during a severe weather event. The purpose of the Code Blue Program is to identify at-risk individuals prior to, or during, a severe weather event and assist those individuals in voluntarily finding appropriate shelter.

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The Hudson County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) shall declare a code blue alert within 24 hours prior to the onset of a severe weather event. A severe weather event is defined as snow emergency, excessive cold, etc. The code blue alert shall continue until 8 a.m. the following day after the declaration, unless the severe weather event worsens or continues for a prolonged period of time. Upon the declaration of a code blue alert, the Hudson County Office of Homeless Services (OHS) will inform each law enforcement agency within the county of any amendments to the existing plan to identify and/or coordinate with the local outreach team to locate at-risk individuals who may be in need of shelter during a severe weather event.

Special Populations

While all individuals over 18 are eligible for the Winter Emergency System services, additional and more appropriate resources are available for specific populations. Specifically Victims of Domestic Violence will be referred to WomenRising or the NJ Domestic Violence Hotline. Youth (ages 18-24) will be connected to Covenant House.

Name	Phone
WomenRising	(201) 333-5700
NJ Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 572-SAFE (7233)
Covenant House	(609) 513-7373

There has been an increase of individuals with service animals in Hudson County since last season. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. Individuals with service animals are permitted in shelters providing the facility can accommodate both owner and animal. Each shelter identified in this document is fully aware of the law as it relates to the conditions when an individual with a service animal can or cannot be a guest in their facility.

Transportation

Transportation to the Warming Center will be provided according to the following schedule:

- From Hoboken Terminal: 8:30 pm (line formation begins at 8:15 pm)
- From Journal Square (Sip and Bergen Avenues): 10:00 pm (line formation begins at 9:45 pm)

Overnight clients will be brought back to Jersey City and Hoboken beginning no later than **8:30 AM** and dropped off at existing drop-in centers or existing providers, including, but not limited to:

- Hudson County Welfare Administration: 257 Cornelison Avenue, Jersey City
- Five Corners (Library, other neighboring services): Bus stop at Summit and Newark Avenues, Jersey City
- Hoboken Terminal: 1 Hudson Place, Hoboken

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Services

Meals (light dinner in the evenings and breakfast in the morning) will be provided to each individual. URC may also work with service agencies that wish to provide additional meals; however, URC must ensure that the food is handled properly.

Hygiene kits will be distributed upon arrival every night (as needed).

Community Referrals

Weekdays before 4 PM

Individuals or families in need of shelter who present or call providers during the day should be directed to PERC Shelter (111 37th Street, Union City) or Garden State Episcopal CDC (514 Newark Avenue, Jersey City).

Evenings and Weekends

- Unsheltered individuals with no other options for housing for that night who seek assistance from providers after 4:00 PM should be assisted by the outreach team.
- If a family calls needing shelter after 4:30 PM, direct them to the Hudson County Homeless hotline 1 (800) 624-0287.
- A list of available weekend service providers has been provided to URC staff to bring clients to on Saturdays and Sundays.

After 10 PM

- If an individual is found to be in need of shelter after the Outreach Team has finished for the day, they can be brought to the PERC Shelter or contact the Hudson County Homeless hotline 1 (800) 624-0287. Should transportation not be available, please contact the local police department or the hotline for assistance. They have been provided information regarding the available resources in the community.