



STAFF REPORT – CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 01, 2023

TO: Honorable Mayor and City Council Members

FROM: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

PREPARER: Karen T. Diemer, City Manager

DATE: October 25, 2023

TITLE: **Consider Funding Support for Extreme Weather Shelter Services between November 15, 2023 and March 15, 2024.**

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Council consider approval of an agreement with Arcata House Partnership allocating the \$30,000 that was budgeted in the 2023/24 Fiscal Year Budget for Extreme Weather Shelter. Arcata House Partnership is partnering with the County, local non-profits and faith-based organizations to provide shelter and stabilizing support services during extreme weather days and nights.

INTRODUCTION:

Arcata continues to experience more nights of extreme weather between November 15 and March 15 annually. Last year's winter season, the community through Arcata House Partnership (AHP) operated night shelter for extreme weather for 47 nights, more than double most previous years. In the 2023/24 fiscal year budget, the City Council set aside \$30,000 to support local extreme weather shelter options. The Homelessness Services Working Group has worked to identify options for this upcoming season through the leadership of AHP. AHP will be present at the meeting to share the local planning efforts and need for operational funding.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:

The Extreme Weather Shelter Program provides additional shelter capacity during inclement weather days/nights. This summer members of the Homelessness Services Working Group have been meeting with local non-profits and faith-based organizations to identify any options to support those most vulnerable to extreme weather in our community. The current progress has identified both a day center/meal center program and a night shelter. Coordination for sites included in this program (which may rotate through the season) will be managed by Arcata House Partnership (AHP).

Humboldt County has established a county wide coordination team to better share knowledge and resources to serve those most vulnerable during extreme weather days/night. This team will coordinate on review of weather conditions, outreach, and shared resources.

Below is some basic info on the outlines of this year's program from Arcata House Partnership.

AHP and partners are planning to offer the Extreme Weather Shelter from November 15, 2023, to March 15, 2024, as funding allows. On days that the Extreme Weather Shelter is called the following will occur:

- **AHP ANNEX** - The AHP Annex (501 9th ST) will be open from 9 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for intake. Anyone who wants to be served in the day warming center or the overnight accommodations may check in there. There will be minimal restrictions for admittance. Screening will only occur for issues of safety. They will have access to AHP staff, referral services, showers and clean clothes, and a place to store their belongings.
- **DAY WARMING CENTER** - We are working with multiple partners to provide expanded services like a warming center. We are planning to trial a location open from 11:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m. where people can get food and a place to spend the day. Interested individuals will still check in at the AHP Annex site. The Site will not accept walk in's, this is to ensure safety of the people in the center and to minimize the impact on the neighborhood where the warming center will be. People will be able to leave at any time. There will be one AHP staff member available each day this service is offered. AHP staff and volunteers will prepare food at another location to be heated and served throughout the day at this location.
- **OVERNIGHT SHELTER** - From 4:00 p.m. through the morning of the following day, the overnight shelter is open. We are not announcing the location. There will be no walk-in services. People will be admitted and served through the Annex check-in. People will be able to leave at any time. If they leave, they will not be allowed to re-enter that night. Everyone will be expected to leave the overnight shelter location each day - even if it will be called again the next evening. This will allow staff to clean the area, change bedding, restock supplies, etc.
- **TRANSPORTATION**- AHP will provide transportation as available from McKinleyville, Arcata, Samoa, Manilla and between the Annex, the day warming center and the overnight location on days the Extreme Weather Shelter is called.

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACT:

Funds in the amount of \$30,000 were budgeted in the 2023/24 Fiscal Year to support local Extreme Weather Shelter options.