

## Region 12 Regional Planning Council

Unsheltered Winter Contingency Plan

2025 – 2026 Winter Season

**Project's Purpose:** On behalf of Region 12, members of the Homeless Response System provide additional overflow beds for unsheltered men, women, and families in our Winter Contingency Plan. This plan is referred to as "White Flag Nights" in Region 12.

**Project's Service Plan:** In response to the community need for additional emergency shelter space during freezing winter weather conditions, the Region 12 Homeless Response System agrees to provide the following overflow beds:

- 80 additional beds for men and women at United Caring Services (UCS)
- 65 additional beds for men only at Evansville Rescue Mission (ERM)

**Winter Contingency Plan:** goes into effect beginning **November 1, 2025**, and continues until **April 1, 2026**, **dependent upon temperature and by location within the Homeless Response System.**

- I. **UCS White Flag (WF)** will be called every night starting 11/1/25-4/30/26. Location is 324 NW 6<sup>th</sup> St., Evansville, IN 47708.
  - a. **Check in for UCS WF will be 7:00 PM.** Men and Women will be allowed in, no couples in cots, mats, or mattresses from outside UCS are allowed.
  - b. Guests who are currently banned/barred from UCS at the time of WF will be allowed in.
  - c. **Check out for UCS WF will be 6:00 AM** and guests are allowed to stay in the UCS Day Shelter the following day, use the showers, laundry facilities, and eat three (3) meals.
- II. **ERM White Flag (WF)** will be implemented when "feels like" temperature is at or below thirty-five (35) degrees. Location is 500 E Walnut St, Evansville, IN 47713.
  - a. **Check in for ERM Overnight WF will be 8:00 PM.** Guests must be male, 18 years of age or older, and able to pass a breathalyzer test.
  - b. Guests listed on the sex offender registry or banned/barred from the facility are not eligible.
  - c. **Check out for ERM Overnight WF will be 6:00 AM.** Guests are allowed to stay within the atrium during the day and are provided three (3) meals.
- III. **Winter Contingency Plan** in the Region 12 Homeless Response System **is a varied living program.**
  - a. **UCS WF:** United Caring Services **understand that addiction is a medical and/or behavioral issue, and substance use outside of UCS WF hours should not be considered a reason to exclude someone from overnight shelter.** However, to have a safe and harmonious community, we must insist that everyone makes every effort to behave safely and appropriately during UCS WF hours. **UCS will not tolerate the use of alcohol or drugs in our building or anywhere on our property.** UCS WF guests are subject to rules and community expectations throughout their stay and refusal or inability to observe these rules may result in being asked to leave for the night.
  - b. **ERM WF:** Evansville Rescue Mission is a substance free facility. Guests must pass a breathalyzer test upon entry and may be subject to further screening if substance use is suspected.

**Warming Centers:** provided at various locations throughout Evansville

**I. Evansville-Vanderburgh Public Library (EVPL)**

- a. EVPL will serve as a warming center during our normal operating hours at EVPL Central Library. We always commit ourselves to being open and accessible for heating and/or cooling. During these times, everyone must follow our EVPL Code of Conduct, and anyone who has been suspended from using the library will still be suspended during weather events. Additionally, if the library closes due to truly inclement weather, EVPL Central Library would not be available during that time.
  - i. **Location:** 200 SE MLK Jr BLVD, Evansville, IN 47713 (corner of MLK & Walnut St)
  - ii. **Times are as follows** (excluding holidays or emergency weather events):
    - 1. Monday - Thursday: 9 AM to 8 PM
    - 2. Friday: 9 AM to 6 PM
    - 3. Saturday: 9 AM to 5 PM
    - 4. Sunday: 1 PM to 5 PM

**II. CK Newsome Center**

- a. CK Newsome Center, provided by the City of Evansville, will serve as a warming center during normal operating hours. All guests are subject to the rules of conduct of the center while in attendance.
  - i. **Location:** 100 E Walnut St, Evansville, IN 47713
  - ii. **Times are as follows** (excluding holidays or emergency weather events):
    - 1. Monday – Friday: 8 AM to 5 PM

**III. Evansville Rescue Mission**

- a. ERM provides daytime hours as part of their weather contingency plan. Guests may stay in the Atrium during this time. Standard rules of conduct apply.
  - i. **Location:** 500 E Walnut St, Evansville, IN 47713
  - ii. **Times are as follows**
    - 1. Daily: 8 AM to 6 PM – when “feels like” temperature is below thirty-five (35) degrees

**Extreme Weather Emergencies:** In the event of an officially declared Winter Weather Emergency, the Evansville-Vanderburgh County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) and City of Evansville plan is currently being developed.