

What is an inclement weather shelter?

Inclement weather shelters provide temporary, low-barrier, safe, and supportive emergency shelter for people experiencing homelessness to escape severe cold and wet weather conditions. The City of Long Beach Inclement Weather Shelter program will be open to people between 5:30 p.m. and 7 a.m. when overnight weather forecasts call for rain or other significant weather conditions. The program aims to protect people from experiencing health-related issues caused by extreme cold and wet weather, including hypothermia and pneumonia.

When will the Inclement Weather Shelter be activated?

The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (Health Department) will monitor forecasted weather conditions and coordinate with various City departments to determine if activation of the shelter is necessary. Activation of the Inclement Weather Shelter will be necessary if the following conditions are met:

- Forecasted temperatures of 45° F or lower
- Flood watch or warning issued by the National Weather Service
- Forecasted rain or storm that exceeds light showers

Why is the City implementing an Inclement Weather Shelter program?

The 2023 Long Beach Homeless Point-in-Time Count identified over 2,200 people experiencing unsheltered homelessness in the city of Long Beach. Living on the street or in a structure not fit for human habitation makes people extremely vulnerable to adverse weather like cold, rain or wind, creating a higher risk of hypothermia, frostbite, carbon monoxide poisoning, heart attacks from overexertion, and other sickness. The shelter reduces these risks by providing a warm, dry and safe space for people to sleep overnight.

Recent reports by the National Weather Forecast estimate a potential record rainy season due to El Niño. The City is preparing for approximately 50 nights of Inclement Weather Shelter due to forecasts that include increased rains, winds, and low temperatures.

Where will the Inclement Weather Shelter be located?

The shelter will be located at the Long Beach Multi-Service Center (MSC) at 1301 W. 12th St.

How will the Inclement Weather Shelter operate?

When activated, the Inclement Weather Shelter will provide each participant with:

- A warm, dry place to escape harsh weather and sleep for the night
- A cot with a blanket
- Access to restrooms and hygiene supplies
- A hot dinner and small breakfast
- Support from City staff and security for participant needs at the program
- Linkage to supportive services via the MSC

The shelter will operate from 5:30 p.m. to 7 a.m. and will be supervised at all times by at least three City staff and two contracted security guards. The shelter will accommodate up to 60 people, with separate rooms for men and women. Accessible beds for those with mobility disabilities will be provided. In the evening, shelter participants will check in on a first-come, first-served basis.

Who will operate the Inclement Weather Shelter site?

City of Long Beach staff and contracted security staff will supervise the shelter. One or more Homeless Services Bureau staff will be present at all times as subject matter experts to supervise shelter operations and link participants to supportive services. Additional staffing support will be provided by Long Beach Medical Reserve Corp (MRC) volunteers.



What are other successful examples of inclement weather shelters?

Many jurisdictions have emergency shelter sites that are activated during extreme weather conditions. Some notable programs are operated by the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, San Diego County and City of Pasadena. Additionally, Long Beach operated a successful Inclement Weather Shelter with a similar model earlier this year, which was active for over 20 days, as well as an emergency Inclement Weather Shelter during Hurricane Hilary in August.

How can people access the Inclement Weather Shelter?

The Inclement Weather Shelter will be open to anyone who needs shelter in inclement weather. Beds will be allocated on a per night basis and will be first-come, first-served. Check-in will start at 5:30 p.m. and check-out will be at 7 a.m.

Once the shelter is activated, Homeless Services Bureau staff, including General Outreach, REACH, and the Mobile Access Centers, will mobilize to notify people experiencing unsheltered homelessness of the shelter opportunity. City staff will also utilize the Homelessness Text Alert Program and the City's social media to provide information on how to access shelter.

How is the Inclement Weather Shelter being funded?

The Inclement Weather Shelter is funded through Measure H funds also used on the Winter Shelter Program, as well as additional support from L.A. County.

How long will the Inclement Weather Shelter site operate?

The shelter will only activate during significant weather conditions, with expected activation between December 2023 to April 2024. If extreme weather persists, shelter activation may be extended.

How can community groups help support the Inclement Weather Shelter?

Community groups can help support the program by [donating](#) items for hygiene kits and cold-weather items like blankets, coats, socks, sweaters, beanies, gloves and hand warmers. We will also be activating the MRC to support staff coverage. If you or someone you know would like to volunteer, sign up at www.longbeach.gov/mrc.