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# HOST Severe Weather Shelter Briefing

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Homelessness Resolution & Housing Stability

# Accessing Shelter in Denver

There are many shelter facilities throughout the city, so rather than requiring people in crisis to navigate a complex system, **we have identified specific centrally-located facilities as the “front door” access to the entire system.** These locations offer both walk-up access and can refer (and sometimes transport) to other shelters as appropriate. They can also help people navigate which shelter facility is the best option for their individual situation.

Our shelters are listed online at  
[denvergov.org/findshelter](https://denvergov.org/findshelter),  
including hours of operation, locations and contact info.

# Front Door Shelters

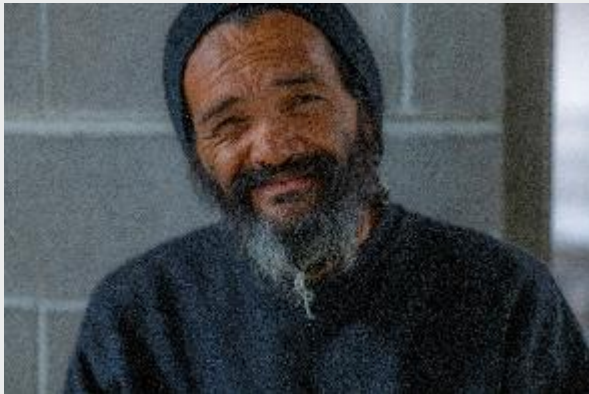
If you or someone you know is in housing crisis and needs shelter urgently, please refer them these "front door" facilities:

- **For individual men\***: Lawrence Street Community Center
- **For individual women\***: Samaritan House
- **For families with minor children\***: Samaritan House, The Gathering Place or Volunteers of America Mission
- **For youth ages 15 through 20**: Urban Peak
- **For those experiencing domestic violence**: SafeHouse Denver, 24-hour crisis hotline
- **Service Animals and Pets**: Certified service animals are allowed in shelters. Alternately, Denver Animal Protection offers a Safe Haven Program.

\* HOST-contracted shelters may not discriminate, including based on sexual orientation or gender identity.

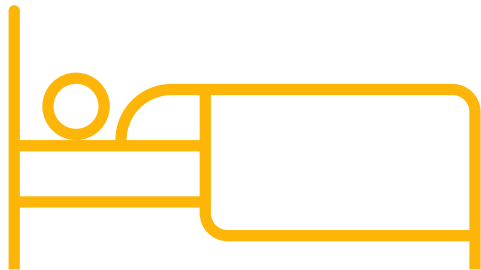
# Severe Weather Shelter Plans

We encourage people to come inside in severe weather. HOST, alongside shelter and outreach partners, monitors weather and shelter usage to activate severe weather protocols and shelter expansions, as necessary.



# Capacity

Denver has partnered with shelter providers to provide flexible capacity during severe weather events. By leveraging the existing staffing and facility resources, shelter for single individuals can flex to accommodate several hundred additional people in our regular shelter facilities during severe weather. For families, access to short-term stays in non-congregate shelter will be provided for the duration of a severe weather event.



# Outreach

Outreach workers, park rangers, safety personnel, and police actively reach out to unsheltered individuals to let them know when severe weather is expected and to assist them in finding and getting to shelter.



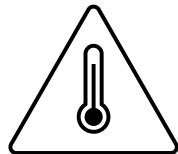


# Daytime Warming and Cooling Center Activation

The City's Emergency Operations Plan (4.5 Appendix E) outlines how City agencies will work together in the event daytime warming or cooling centers are needed to keep residents (including but not limited to those experiencing homelessness) safe from severe weather.

The general rule for these thresholds is:

- **Heat:** when the maximum heat index temperature is expected to be 100° or higher for at least 2 days, and nighttime air temperatures will not drop below 75°.
- **Cold:** Temperature below 10°, or 6 inches or more of snow forecasted.





## Daytime Warming and Cooling Center Activation

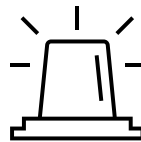
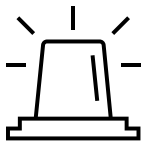
Denver Parks & Recreation will activate warming/cooling centers at open recreation centers during regular business hours. An area in each center will be staffed and available free of charge, with access to drinking water, restrooms, and a place to sit. Denver Public Library locations are also typically available free of charge during daytime hours, including during severe weather.



# Emergency Expanded Overnight Shelter Activation

If the daytime thresholds for severe weather are met AND either of the conditions below exist, additional overnight shelter expansion is considered:

- The City anticipates needing additional shelter capacity above what is available across existing shelters for those experiencing homelessness
- In the other emergency events, additional activation of emergency shelter is coordinated with OEM and Denver Human Services' Mass Care response.



# Emergency Expanded Overnight Shelter Activation

Expansions typically occur at existing overnight shelter facilities.

- This allows us to best leverage and utilize existing resources that are already set up for sheltering purposes.

People should continue to access shelter at regular front door locations.



# Notifications

DDPHE makes every attempt to alert other City agencies of anticipated severe weather at least 72 hours in advance, whenever possible.

- Coordination call set
- Public notice sent by DDPHE to media, Council offices, City's primary social media channels and on [denvergov.org/findshelter](https://denvergov.org/findshelter)
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- If overnight shelter expansion is activated, HOST will notify Council.
- Public "front door" access remains the same.



# 1-pager and Website

To better inform partners and the public about how to access shelter during a severe weather event, HOST has developed a 1-page document, which provides information also available on our website at a new vanity URL that is easier to find at [denvergov.org/findshelter](https://denvergov.org/findshelter).



**DENVER HOUSING STABILITY**

## Accessing Shelter in Denver

The Department of Housing Stability (HOST) partners with many agencies citywide to provide shelter for people experiencing homelessness. There are many shelter facilities throughout the city, so rather than requiring people in crisis to navigate a complex system, we have identified specific centrally-located facilities as the "front door" access to the entire system. These locations offer both walk-up access and have the ability to refer (and sometimes transport) to other shelters as appropriate. They can also help people navigate which shelter facility is the best option for their individual situation.



Our shelters are listed online at [denvergov.org/findshelter](https://denvergov.org/findshelter), including hours of operation. This website also lists walk-up only shelters that do not refer to other facilities, as well as day centers that offer supportive services.

If you or someone you know is in housing crisis and needs shelter urgently, please refer them these facilities:

- **For individual men<sup>18</sup>:** Lawrence Street Community Center, 2222 Lawrence St., 303-294-0157
- **For individual women<sup>18</sup>:** Samaritan House, 2301 Lawrence St., 303-294-0361
- **For families with minor children:**  
Samaritan House, 2301 Lawrence St., 303-294-0361;  
The Gathering Place, 1525 N. High St., 303-321-4186;  
Volunteers of America Mission, 2877 Lawrence St., 303-387-0408
- **For youth ages 16 through 20:** Urban Peak, 2100 Stout St., 303-674-2938
- **For those experiencing domestic violence:** SafeHouse Denver, 24-hour crisis hotline 303-218-0689
- **Service Animals and Pets:** Certified service animals are allowed in shelters. Alternatively, Denver Animal Protection offers a [Safe Haven Program](#), which provides two to four weeks of shelter for pets of families experiencing homelessness and during severe weather events.

<sup>18</sup> HOST contracted shelters may not discriminate, including based on sexual orientation or gender identity.



### Severe Weather Shelter Plans

We encourage people to come inside in severe weather. HOST, alongside shelter and outreach partners, monitors weather and shelter usage to activate severe weather protocols and shelter expansions as necessary.

**Capacity:** Denver has partnered with shelter providers to provide flexible capacity during severe weather events. By leveraging the existing staffing and facility resources, shelter for single individuals can flex to accommodate several hundred additional people in our regular shelter facilities during severe weather. For families, access to short-term stays in non-congregate shelter will be provided for the duration of a severe weather event.

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Published October 2022

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# Thank You

Questions?