



Department of Housing

**PASADENA AND SAN GABRIEL VALLEY
COLD WEATHER RESOURCES FOR
PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS**

July 10, 2023





BACKGROUND

Department of Housing

- Since December 2020, the City has funded weather-activated motel vouchers and contracted with three nonprofit agencies in addition to the Pasadena Public Health Department to serve people experiencing unsheltered homelessness during inclement weather.
 - Despite significant constraints faced during the pandemic, the City has been able to sustain pre-pandemic emergency shelter bed inventory through the expansion of motel voucher programming.
- Weather-activated motel vouchers were available during winter months when at least one of the following conditions was met:
 - Overnight temperatures were predicted to fall below 40 degrees.
 - There was more than a 40% chance of rain.
 - Winds were predicted to exceed 40 miles per hour.



BACKGROUND

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- For the past three winter seasons, the City allocated and spent approximately \$1.036 million across federal (ESG and ESG-CV), state (HEAP), and county Measure H grant funds on weather-activated motel vouchers.
- In FY 2023, as a result of limited grant funding availability, City Council committed \$375,000 of General Fund dollars to sustain and expand the weather-activated motel vouchers provided by Friends In Deed and the Public Health Department.
- This past season, which operated from 11/30/2022 – 4/5/2023:
 - A total of 239 people were served across 91 nights;
 - On the busiest nights (February 24-26), 129 unsheltered residents stayed in motel rooms funded by the City.



SAN GABRIEL VALLEY WINTER SHELTER RESOURCES

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- While the City mobilized to provide critical shelter resources to Pasadenans experiencing homelessness, winter shelter resources in the greater San Gabriel Valley (SGV) were extremely limited.
 - A small number of winter motel vouchers countywide (509) were difficult to access, and no congregate winter shelters were available in Service Planning Area 3 (San Gabriel Valley).
- According to the 2023 Greater Los Angeles Homeless Count results, homelessness increased by 7% in SPA 3 compared to 2022 and unsheltered homelessness is also increasing across the County.
- The need for increased winter shelter resources this season is even greater than in past years, and it is the City's hope that the County will allocate additional winter shelter resources to SPA 3 that are accessible to unsheltered residents.



WINTER SHELTER STATUS

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- Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Pasadena's seasonal winter shelter (the Bad Weather Shelter) was operated by Friends In Deed for over 30 years out of a local church gym.
 - Friends In Deed lost its long-time lease in March 2020.
- Friends In Deed and City staff conducted an expansive search to locate an alternative location. Many sites have been considered, including City-owned and privately owned properties.
- Staff released a competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) to select a winter shelter operator on July 7, 2023 with responses due July 27.



WINTER SHELTER STATUS

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- The entity selected through this competitive process will be recommended as the program operator and brought forth to City Council for approval in late summer 2023.
- The Department plans to supplement the capacity of a congregate shelter with motel vouchers to serve residents with various needs.