



KCRHA
King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Severe Weather Response: Sheltering our Unhoused Neighbors

2023-2024 Winter Weather Season

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March 21, 2024

Mission & Theory of Change

Our mission is to significantly decrease homelessness throughout King County, using equity and social justice principles.

If we create a homeless response system that centers the voices of people with lived experience, then we will be able to meet needs and eliminate inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.



Role of KCRHA in Severe Weather

To provide an emergency system of services, including opening safe, short-term emergency day and nighttime shelters, and coordinating outreach to unsheltered people.



Key Partnerships

- City of Seattle
- Public Health-Seattle & King County
- National Weather Service-Seattle Office
- King County Emergency Ops
- Harborview Hospital
- University of Washington



Winter Weather Response Tiers

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temps 45 or below for 3 days Real Feel (wind, rain) conditions predict dangerous situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temperatures predicted at 40 degrees or below for 3 days OR daily low temperatures predicted at 35 degrees or below for 3 days OR snow/ rain accumulation greater than 2 inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temperatures predicted at 35 degrees or below for a single day OR daily low temperatures predicted at 30 degrees or below for a single day OR snow/rain accumulation greater than 4 inches
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters Expanded transportation, storage, warming centers, hotel stays



Tier 3 Activation Response

Activated Shelters in 2024

- **Seattle:** Salvation Army SoDo Bay A
- **North KC:** Urban League @ St. Dunstan's
- **East/SnoValley:** Reclaim
- **South & Southeast:** City efforts
- **Family Intake Line:** Serves entire County

Pre-Activation

- Alert government agencies, cities, providers, community
- Request expansion of shelters and day center hours
- Coordination of resources, transportation, logistics

Activation

- Opening public buildings; Ongoing resource distribution and coordination
- Daily huddles with core Severe Weather Stakeholders.
- Daily emails to community. Flyers, website, resources

Post-Activation

- Utilization data from shelters & reporting to boards/media
- Closing down public buildings
- Feedback & After Action debrief



By the Numbers

Seattle 2024 Tier 3 Winter Weather Activation

- Jan 10-18: 8 nights at or below 30 Fahrenheit
- Jan 14, coldest night saw 317 people seek shelter in 398 beds available (79.7% capacity) in Exhibition Hall, SoDo Bay A & St. Dunstan's
- 56 families sheltered over 8 days in hotels



Improving our Response

- Five-Year Plan Severe Weather Activities:
 - Expand number of Severe Weather Shelter Beds
 - Coordinate & Centralize the Severe Weather Response Countywide
 - Expand Outreach During Severe Weather Events
 - Incorporate Severe Weather Funding into Existing Contracts
 - Improve Guests Connections to Services During & After Activation
- Potential shift to seasonal shelters
- Shore up funding and reimbursement processes
- Explore opportunities to engage community-based volunteers

