



Supporting Vulnerable Edmontonians - Winter 2023/2024

City Council | October 4, 2023
CS02063

Winter 2023/24 Context



- As per Homeward Trust's By Name List (Sept 23, 2023), 3,119 Edmontonians are experiencing homelessness with 1,741 being provisionally housed and approximately 1,240 self-identifying as primarily sleeping in emergency shelters or outdoors.
- Shigella outbreak: City continues to support the shigella response through public washrooms and a hygiene hub
- Government of Alberta funded shelters have seen increased summer usage, as compared to previous years
- City funding for 150 day shelter spaces began in June and will scale up in November

Winter Emergency Shelter Spaces

Government of Alberta public commitment: over 1,700 spaces (Winter 23/24)

- These spaces include:
 - ◆ 792 spaces already open, or will be open by the end of September
 - ◆ 295 “long term shelter” spaces
 - ◆ GoA expressions of interests for:
 - Additional permanent women’s only and Indigenous-led spaces, “up to” 200
 - Additional winter 2023/24 temp spaces, "up to" 450
 - A second call for up to 200 permanent spaces may reduce the need for temporary space.

- Administration is working with Provincial and Agency partners to have as many new shelter sites operating by November 1, 2023

- The City will continue to partner with Al Rashid Mosque on 50 additional extreme weather emergency shelter spaces

Current Day Shelter Services Spaces

On May 16, 2023 City Council approved an increase to Social Development Branch 2023 operating expenditure budget by \$4.08 million for the following Day Shelter Service Spaces:

- Bissell Centre Community Space (10530 96 Street NW)
 - ◆ Funded for \$2,290,000.
 - Operations began in June 2023 and will expire on March 31, 2024
 - ◆ Provides services such meals, showers, laundry, Indigenous cultural services, and connections to housing and referral services
- The Boyle Street Service Society (Various locations City-Wide)
 - ◆ Funded for \$1,790,000.
 - Operations scheduled to begin in Oct 2023 - May 2024
 - ◆ Operational at up to 20 community buildings (such as community leagues and churches) in various locations throughout Edmonton.
 - ◆ Provision of shelter spaces for people to have access basic need services, coffee/snacks, case management support; and transportation services from day shelters to overnight shelters.

Winter Transportation Service

Administration requested expressions of interest from potential operators for the following services, with a submission deadline of September 17, 2023.

1. **Winter Weather Bus**

- Operating nightly regardless of temperature starting in November
- A predetermined but flexible route that includes Transit Centres and LRT stations with higher numbers of vulnerable people congregating
- Transport individuals to emergency shelters with available beds

2. **Extreme Cold Route**

- Active only during extreme weather activations (-20 degrees or below for three days or more)
- Operating two fixed routes overnight to help transport people to shelter

Next Steps: Review submissions from potential operators and finalize service contracts.

Questions