



**Homeless Solutions Policy Board  
Chairpersons**

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**Dr. Victor McCarley, Behavioral Health Consultant  
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## **SEVERE WEATHER PLAN**

**GOAL: Implement a coordinated response to prevent harm and death from severe weather conditions**

### **EXTREME COLD**

#### **St. Vincent Winter Shelter Operations**

St. Vincent opens winter shelter in mid-October or once the nighttime low is consistently 40° or below. Winter shelter closes in mid-April or once nighttime temperatures are consistently above 40°. Winter shelter is available to people who are homeless and who:

- Just want shelter from the cold and are not willing to work with case management
- Have been removed from the regular shelter because of a rule infraction temporarily or permanently
- Are intoxicated but not a danger to themselves or others

At the Gettysburg Gateway for Men winter shelter clients can enter at 7:00 p.m., they sleep on mats in the gym and must leave at 7:00 a.m. after breakfast.

At the Gateway Shelter for Women & Families, winter shelter families come in at 4:30 p.m. and leave at 9:00 a.m. and winter shelter single women come in at 7:00 p.m. and leave at 7:00 a.m. They are given a sack lunch when they leave.

When the temperature or wind chill are below 25°, winter shelter clients will be allowed to remain in the building.

#### **Extreme Cold Severe Weather Plan**

##### ***Definition:***

- Starts when the daily high temperatures or wind chill are forecasted to be 10° or below.
- Ends when the daily high temperatures or wind chill are forecasted to be above 10°.
- Starts when significant snowfall of 8 inches or more is forecast at one time or accumulated, especially when there is colder weather.

##### ***Communication:***

Distribute seasonal Severe Weather Plan to law enforcement, community agencies, including 211, and emergency management agencies at the start of each season.

Email will be sent from Homeless Solutions announcing Severe Weather Plan start or end to:

- All homeless agencies
- 211
- All community agencies that have been asked to be notified including meal sites and churches

- Law enforcement
- Fire and EMT
- Hospitals
- Emergency management officials at Montgomery County and other local jurisdictions
- Media
- Vectren, DP&L

***Shelter:***

During the Extreme Cold Severe Weather Plan St. Vincent will provide shelter to everyone who needs shelter including people who have been banned. St. Vincent will allow people in shelter to stay all day. Every effort will be made to prevent people from being exited during severe weather. If someone is exited then MVHO PATH Street Outreach will be informed as soon as possible, if not prior to exit, to follow-up with the person to ensure their safety.

People living outside will be urged to go to shelter. PATH workers will assist with transport and provide information about the client(s) to St. Vincent.

If the person is unwilling or unable to go to shelter, then other safe temporary accommodations will be explored including the person's support network of family or friends, other units in the homeless system, and motels.

***Basic Needs:***

**Clothing:** At the start of the winter season an appeal for hats, gloves, coats, footwear and socks will be made to the community. Donated items to be distributed to PATH and shelters.

**Food:** Warm, high-calorie food and drink, and a method to transport it, may be provided to serve people outside and in temporary locations.

**Health Care/Medications:** The Samaritan Health Center will provide health care support on-site at the Clinic, advice to street outreach workers, and limited medical supplies as appropriate and available.

**Transportation:** Transportation to shelter or other safe location will be coordinated through bus tokens or rides.

***Training:***

As needed, the Samaritan Health Center will hold training for all staff in the homeless system, on identifying possible hypothermia, frostbite and other cold weather-related health conditions in preparation for the winter season.

***Emergency Contact Information***

MVHO PATH Street Outreach  
 Heather Wilson, PATH/Homeless Outreach Director  
 (937) 263-4449 ext. 410 (office)  
 (937) 520-3243 (cell)  
 Hwilson@mvho.net

Gettysburg Gateway Shelter for Men  
1921 S. Gettysburg Ave., Dayton, OH 45417  
Quentin Herman, Asst. Director of Shelter Ministries  
(937) 222-5555 Ext. 308  
[gherman@stvincentdayton.org](mailto:gherman@stvincentdayton.org)

St. Vincent de Paul Gateway Shelter for Women and Families  
120 W. Apple Street, Dayton, OH 45402  
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