



State of Utah
Office of Homeless Services
FY25 (2025-2026) Winter Response

Local Task Force Winter Response Plan – October 15, 2025 – April 30, 2026
DUE BY AUGUST 1, 2025

Please direct questions about the narrative or budget to the appropriate Office of Homeless Services staff:

- **Davis and Utah Counties:** Wayne Niederhauser at wniederhauser@utah.gov and Tricia Davis at tadavis@utah.gov
- **Salt Lake and Weber Counties:** Nick Coleman at nickcoleman@utah.gov and Meredith Vernick at mvernich@utah.gov

TARGETED WINTER RESPONSE BED COUNT

Indicate the **target** number of beds provided by the Office of Homeless Services in coordination with the Local Homeless Council.

1. Target number of beds identified for individuals (men and women): **1100**
2. Target number of hotel/motel rooms needed for families: **10**
3. Target number of beds needed for youth (if not included in number 1): **20***
4. Target number of additional beds for code blue nights: **220**

*After consultation with providers and accounting for the additional housing resources available to youth through the Youth Homelessness Demonstration Program (YHDP), this number was reduced by 10 from the original proposed numbers.

WINTER RESPONSE BEDS IDENTIFIED

Specify the **total number of beds identified** by the Winter Task Force during the planning process.

1. Total number of beds identified in the plan for individuals (men and women): **716***
2. Total number of hotel/motel rooms identified in the plan for families: **10**
3. Total number of beds identified in the plan for youth (if not included in number 1): **20**
4. Total number of additional beds identified in the plan for code blue nights: **220**

*Total beds accounted for to date. The Winter Task Force is committed to continuously working to add more beds as new opportunities become available.

PLANNING PROCESS

Briefly describe the planning process, meetings that took place, and work groups that were created.

Include information about how the need for services, beds, or other accommodations was determined

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Millcreek Mayor Silvestrini and South Salt Lake City Mayor Wood were voted as co-chairs by the Task Force. They led weekly meetings, staffed by Salt Lake County, in person and virtually with Task Force Members to discuss and review potentially viable sites, operators, budgets and Code Blue planning. New to this Task Force this year included a public safety representative, Sandy Chief Greg Severson and West Valley Fire Chief John Evans.

The statutorily identified Task Force Members met weekly between May 15, 2025 and July 10, 2025. The initial meeting established chairs, reviewed statutory requirements (including recent statutory changes to membership), reviewed data that informed this year's bed count needs, reviewed previous year budgets, and determined a process to develop the plan and establish relevant subgroups. Scoring criteria was reviewed and approved by the Task Force on the second meeting. A site selection subgroup was established to determine the viability of potential sites and score each site based on predetermined scoring criteria.

Salt Lake County staff held working meetings to draft the plan, coordinate with stakeholders, and determine budgets necessary to execute the plan.

To start the conversations, criteria for potential sites was established, previous year budgets and data was reviewed, and a process for potential sites was created and sent out to all COM and COG members.

A GIS map was updated by the SLCo surveyors office, which was originally informed by legislation, but also showed facilities owned by local, and state governments, as those facilities were identified as the priority locations to consider. Privately owned facilities and property that could accommodate large tenting was also an option for consideration.

The Task Force reviewed previous years sites, as well as 6 new potential sites for winter overflow. Available members met to consider each proposed site, weighing the sites according to the scoring criteria.

The plan currently identifies 65% of the 1100 individual beds needed, not including code blue. Recognizing the goal is to identify 1100 beds in total, the task force is committed to continuing to consider potential facilities in partnership with the Office of Homeless Services. As this plan is submitted, at least two potential additional facilities are being considered. If any new facilities become available, the existing plan will be reevaluated to ensure the best and most efficient use of the up to 1100 beds.

New permanent/on-going resources coming online this year were also acknowledged, as they were not considered when the original need for beds was submitted for winter planning purposes. Those include:

Odyssey House Sober Living - 26 units

Other Side Village Housing - 50 units

Sub Acute Residential Facility - 18 units

Youth Homelessness Demonstration Project (YHDP) - 26 PSH units & 29 RRH unit

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COORDINATION WITH THE LOCAL HOMELESS COUNCIL

Describe how the response has been coordinated with the Local Homeless Council and all agencies providing services for individuals experiencing homelessness during the winter within the county.

Per statute, The Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) identified and voted for two committee members as well as one individual with lived expertise. They determined the number of beds needed this winter utilizing Pit Data, and provided an in depth explanation for beds needed.

The SLVCEH helped to create necessary budgets for operations, reviewed and made recommendations regarding site selection criteria and Code Blue operations. In addition, the SLVCEH invited its steering committee and members to submit potential site recommendations through an online form process. They also developed the coordinated intake and assessment process, which is required by statute.

SITE SELECTION

Describe how, in conducting site selection for a temporary winter response shelter under a winter response plan, the task force:

1. Utilized objective data to prioritize locations, including:
 - a. Point in time count data for the applicable county
 - b. Blind reviews of possible facilities based on proximity to mass transit, transportation costs, and necessary facility updates.

1. *The Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness (SLVCEH) utilized several data points and expertise to help prioritize potential site selection.*
 - a. *Point in Time data, previous year's bed utilization numbers, and turn away numbers were used to determine shelter bed needs this year.*
 - b. *To help objectively prioritize locations, the representatives of the SLVCEH reviewed and updated the previously used criteria sheet to score potential facilities (see attached). Using the criteria sheet created in previous years in addition to the consideration of proximity to mass transit, transportation costs, facility updates, etc., the Task Force identified the following additional items to blindly consider during facility reviews:*
 - i. *Building condition (e.g., ventilation/HVAC, functioning utilities, electricity - including wifi)*
 - ii. *ADA accessibility*
 - iii. *Meal program stating area or plan*
 - iv. *Local public safety plan - police and fire/EMS*
 1. *Firewatch or sprinkled (firewatch requires additional staffing/considerations)*
 - v. *Client belongings storage area or plan*
 - vi. *Nearest K-12 school distance*

Describe how the task force prioritized a site(s) located:

1. More than one mile from any homeless shelter;
2. More than one mile from any permanent supportive housing, as verified by the Office;
3. In a municipality or unincorporated area of the applicable county that does not have a homeless shelter.

As part of the site submission process, the Task Force prioritized criteria for sites and requested information regarding the preferences for each potential site that was submitted for consideration. A link to [potential site submission form](#) was used to facilitate site submissions.

In addition a [GIS Map](#) was created by the Salt Lake County Surveyors Office to help show the proximity of potential sites to the nearest:

1. Homeless Shelter
2. Permanent Supportive Housing Unit
3. Municipality or unincorporated area without a homeless shelter

In the blind review process, the priorities were identified and scored accordingly, placing lower points for each of the three priorities identified above.

With a limited number of potential sites submitted, priorities were considered but did not eliminate potential sites from being considered.

IDENTIFIED FACILITIES

1. Location(s) including number of beds or other accommodations
2. Specify the hours of operation at location(s) (24-hour access or specify limited hours of operation)
3. Services provided (e.g., food, basic needs, etc.)

Individuals	<u>Location</u>	<u>Beds</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Services</u>
Men, women, couples	West Valley City	200	24/7	food, showers
Women	GEK Flex	50	24/7	food, showers
Men	PARC Flex	75	24/7	food, showers
Women	GMRC Flex	50	24/7	food, showers
Men and women	St. Vinney's	65 low barrier	7pm-7am	overnight shelter only
Men and women	Micro Units	56	24/7	all
Men and women	Facility(ies) TBD/Ville	220	24/7	all
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>716</u>		
Youth				
	YRC	20	9pm-7am	food, showers
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>20</u>		
Families Code Blue				
	Units	10	24/7	hotel vouchers
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>10</u>		
Code Blue				
	2nd and 2nd	70	7pm-7am	food
	Additional Church	70	7pm-7am	food
	GEK	20	7pm-7am	food
	PARC	30	7pm-7am	food
	Miller	20	7pm-7am	food
	<u>TOTAL:</u>	<u>210</u>		
	<u>GRAND TOTAL:</u>	<u>956</u>		

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ASSURANCES

Provide assurances on how the winter response task force will meet the targeted winter response need. Include information and details regarding:

1. Municipality commitment
2. Service provider commitment
3. Other key stakeholders' commitment

1. Municipal Commitment

As part of this plan, as approved by COM and COG, stakeholders recognize municipalities are committed to identifying temporary shelter sites and Code Blue options, as reflected in this plan.

The Task Force recognizes the critical need for year-round beds, as evidenced by the extension of winter beds through the summer for the past two years. Mitigation funding, however, has not supported this summer extension, highlighting how additional financial support is needed for the communities who support year-round solutions.

In addition, we recognize that some municipalities are continuing to step up and/or extend their temporary facilities in order to meet the demand. It is important to recognize that a long-term solution that includes year-round beds is urgently needed to ensure that communities who support temporary shelters are not pressed into hosting facilities unintended for long-term use.

The Task Force also recognizes that without ongoing funding/resources, it is difficult to develop a plan that meets the full need or incentivize participation in the site-selection process. Both operational and mitigation on-going funding is needed as well as an investment in ongoing year-round shelter solutions.

2. Service Provider Commitment

Service providers have committed to complying with the requirements of the statute and continuing existing services to the extent possible based on resources, when facilities are able to open, and what additional components of the plan come to bear after submission.

3. Other Key Stakeholders

County and state leaders have committed to identifying gaps and potential solutions. Communities will be engaged in the process as planning for operations moves forward.

LOCAL ZONING REQUIREMENTS

Describe how the winter response task force will ensure that any temporary winter response shelter planned for operation within the county will meet all local zoning requirements.

The task force has agreed to work with providers and municipalities to follow the process to meet all local zoning requirements.

TRANSPORTATION

If applicable, describe in detail the plan for addressing the transportation needs for individuals experiencing homelessness who need access to winter response beds. Include information on how the transportation needs were determined, and identify stakeholders and service providers key to implementing the transportation plan.

Transportation, as well as security and food for most of the facilities (excluding West Valley and Ville), will be coordinated through Shelter The Homeless, as they currently have contracts for those services that exist throughout the system, which provides consistency across operations.

Through our coordinated intake system, clients can present at any of our Homeless Resource Centers and be connected to overflow beds. All beds, including overflow ones, become available every morning at 10 am. Utah Community Action (UCA) coordinates with all providers within our system each morning to determine the number of beds available for clients seeking shelter. Using a no-wrong-door approach, UCA connects clients to overflow beds and ensures their transportation needs are met through our HRC shuttle system, UTA Trax vouchers, or cab vouchers.

The HRC shuttle program provides access to free and reliable transportation for the clients in the HRCs and the added winter plan sites. The van shuttles will accommodate up to 12 passengers in six vans that run 7 days a week from 6 a.m. through 1:00 a.m. in the winter months. With a goal of ensuring connections to bed availability, stops include the three HRCs, UTA Trax in South Salt Lake, Fourth Street Clinic for healthcare, St. Vincent's and Weigand Resource Center for daytime services, and the added winter facilities. STH has partnered with Advantage Services, which is a 501c3 organization employing formerly homeless and/or disabled individuals, to provide transportation services.

During Code Blue nights, the operator of the Code Blue Facilities will provide transportation to the sites.

COORDINATED INTAKE AND BED ASSIGNMENT PROCESSES

Describe the bed assignment process and how winter response beds will be integrated into the Local Homeless Council coordinated intake process. Include the following information:

1. How bed assignments will be made and coordinated across agencies.
2. Identify roles and responsibilities of service providers involved in coordinated intake and bed assignment.
3. Location(s) of coordinated intake and bed assignment (physical location and/or phone intake options).
4. Hours of intake and bed assignment operation (physical location and/or phone intake options).
5. Staffing impact and plan for hiring additional staff or volunteers.
6. How the task force will ensure all individuals seeking shelter are connected to a bed.
7. Assurances that all bed management, assignment, and turn-away is documented in HMIS.

1. *Through the coordinated intake process within our Continuum of Care (COC) homeless services system, we align with a standardized check-in time of 10 am. Providers collaborate with Utah Community Action's (UCA) coordinated intake team to identify available beds and repurpose unused ones for clients seeking shelter. This trauma-informed approach ensures that clients are informed early in the day about their shelter options for the night. We have extended this approach to our overflow beds as well. Clients are first assigned any regular beds available within our system, and once those are filled, overflow beds are prioritized. This system maintains continuity of services within our community, providing clients with a consistent check-in process throughout the year.*
2. *UCA conducts coordinated intake activities for our Homeless Resource Centers and additional overflow facilities that come online during the winter season. Their staff engages in diversion conversations with clients, and if diversion is not possible, they capture the client's information through a coordinated entry within the HMIS system and then provide the client with a bed assignment.*
3. *The coordinated intake process occurs at the Homeless Resource Centers throughout our COC. All providers have established a workflow to communicate bed availability to UCA staff every morning by 10 am, ensuring a no-wrong-door approach. If a bed is not available at the facility where a client has presented, UCA staff will arrange transportation for the client to a facility with an available opening.*
4. *Providers will operate and deliver overflow services to clients in a 24-hour facility. The bed repurposing process will begin every morning at 10 am. UCA will first assign any available regular beds within the system, then move on to assigning flex beds until the facility reaches its full capacity. Intake will take place at each of the facilities.*
5. *Operators and providers will need to hire additional staff to support services for clients. This includes staffing for both shelter services and coordinated intake services for clients accessing flex beds.*
6. *Our COC's coordinated intake system ensures a centralized process for client intake. UCA collaborates closely with provider staff to identify available beds for the 10 am bed repurposing process. Additionally, UCA coordinates with other shelter providers to determine bed availability at their locations and arranges transportation to connect clients to these beds.*
7. *Coordinated intake program manager and a member of the OHS/HMIS team will participate in the weekly meetings with providers, reviewing data, and making adjustments, as needed. Currently, turn aways are unable to be tracked in HMIS, although opportunities to track in HMIS and other effective ways will be considered in partnership with the Office of Homeless Services and the HMIS team.*

IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE

In order to implement the plan by October 1st, 2025, the following will take place:

- *Secure Sufficient Funding - by August 15th*
- *Contracts in place - September 1st*
- *Hiring Staff - September 15th*
- *Coordination with municipalities on communications, safety and security plans, and Code Blue - September 15th*
- *Expedited Intake procedure in place - October 1st*
- *Implement Code Blue volunteer program - October 15th*

Continuity of care is important; keeping the extended winter beds open without a break in the fall will ensure clients don't lose their beds as we launch the winter plan. With that, it is recommended to keep these facilities operating through October 1st, if resources are available.

Opening any new additional beds/facility that are coming on-line as part of the plan may be considered to be phased in, starting October 15th, depending on funding, staffing, and additional resources.

CODE BLUE EVENT – A code blue event will be determined when the National Weather Service predicts temperatures of **18 degrees Fahrenheit or less**, including wind chill, or any other extreme weather conditions established in rules made by the Department of Health and Human Services.

Describe in detail the county plan for a code blue event. Include the following information:

1. Number of beds needed for a code blue event and how the need was determined in partnership with the Office of Homeless Services.
2. Location(s) of available beds during a code blue event.
3. Operator(s) of the identified facility or facilities.
4. Emergency shelter facilities where the capacity limit will be expanded by up to 35% (if applicable).
 - a. If expanding capacity, provide assurances that the building complies with applicable building code and fire code.
5. Expedited intake procedures coordinated with the Local Homeless Council.
6. Coordinated street outreach efforts to distribute any available resources for survival in cold weather, including clothing items and blankets.

1. *220 beds were identified as needed by the Salt Lake Valley Coalition to End Homelessness. The need was based upon utilization of Code Blue beds last year, and in consideration of the number of beds identified as needed for additional winter beds this year.*
2. *Locations:*
 - a. *2nd and 2nd Church Location- 70 beds*
 - b. *Additional Church Location - 70 Beds*
 - c. *Hotel Vouchers for families - 10*
3. *Operators:*
 - a. *Unsheltered Utah*
 - b. *The Road Home*
 - c. *Volunteers of America, Utah*
4. *The following facilities may be expanded up to 35% during Code Blue events*
 - a. *GEK - 20*
 - b. *GMRC - 20*
 - c. *PARC - 30*

These sites would be utilized only after the additional Code Blue locations are full.
5. *An abbreviated intake process was created and used as individuals enter, which includes five questions. The data will then be entered into HMIS later that night/next day.*
6. *Street Outreach Teams as well as volunteer and advocacy groups will work to distribute any available resources for survival in cold weather, including clothing items and blankets. A call for donations will be made to the community, in an effort to collect the items needed for distribution.*

CODE BLUE ASSURANCES

Describe and provide assurances for the following:

1. Homeless shelters within the county will not deny temporary shelter to any individual experiencing homelessness unless the shelter is at the capacity or increased capacity limit as approved by building and fire code or unless an individual is determined to present a danger to public safety.
2. All local government entities, including all municipalities, law enforcement agencies, and local health departments will not seize any personal items used for survival in cold weather including clothing, blankets, tents, and sleeping bags.
3. Municipalities or local government entities may not enforce any ordinance or policy that limits or restricts the ability for the code blue provisions as outlined in [Utah Code 35A-16-703](#).

With the Council of Governments' approval of this plan, as indicated by resolution, we assure our compliance with U.C.A. 35A-16-703 Provisions in Effect for Duration of Code Blue Alert.

1. *A homeless shelter may not deny temporary shelter to any individual experiencing homelessness who requests access to the homeless shelter for temporary shelter unless the homeless shelter is at the capacity limit described in state statute, or if a reasonable individual would conclude that the individual presents a danger to public safety.*
2. *A state or local government entity, including a municipality, law enforcement agency, and local health department, may enforce a camping ordinance but may not seize from individuals experiencing homelessness any personal items for survival in cold weather, including clothing, blankets, tents, and sleeping bags.*
3. *A Municipality or local government entity may not enforce any ordinance or policy that limits or restricts the ability for the code blue provisions, including local zoning ordinances.*

FUNDING NEED AND BUDGET

Please complete the budget form found in the Google folder for your county by August 1, 2025.

- **Davis County:**
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1T09d7g6BrqhXIAbSeAcmJ-zYFLaKYSwK/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107121134523493119031&rtpof=true&sd=true>
- **Salt Lake County:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TmuAtB5q_mI4pWBwJNTKeepErR7WdbqE/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107121134523493119031&rtpof=true&sd=true
- **Utah County:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1bkfGtNAOPifTyabS2vL59thDTS7_O09T/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107121134523493119031&rtpof=true&sd=true
- **Weber County:**
https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1vAJZ5RjasajD_VeCZncY4efsfdlPH2K/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107121134523493119031&rtpof=true&sd=true

PLAN APPROVAL SIGNATURE PAGE

This winter response **plan must be approved** by the chief executive officers of any municipality located within the county in which a temporary winter response shelter is planned and by the chief executive officer of the county if a temporary winter response shelter is planned for operation within an unincorporated area of the county.

Name	Title	Electronic Signature
Mayor Jenny Wilson	Salt Lake County Mayor	
Mayor Jeff Silvestrini	Millcreek Mayor	
Mayor Cherie Wood	South Salt Lake Mayor	
Mayor Karen Lang	West Valley City Mayor	
Mayor Erin Mendenhall	Salt Lake City Mayor	
Mayor Natalie Hall	Bluffdale Mayor / Chair of COG	
Mayor Lorin Palmer	Herriman City Mayor/ Chair of COM	

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