



Washtenaw CoC 2023 Winter Shelter Task Force Update

*Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners Working Session -
October 18, 2023*



Presenters:

Amanda Carlisle, Washtenaw Housing Alliance

Dan Kelly, Shelter Association of Washtenaw County





Summary of Task Force's Purpose & Process

New Continuum of Care Winter Shelter Planning Task Force was created in April 2023 to:

- Help **analyze existing data and programs** for winter shelter,
- **Research best practices** for providing winter shelter in Michigan climate,
- **Develop strategies and recommendations**, and
- **Identify funding** necessary to provide winter shelter for all populations.

Meetings held between May and October, with more to be scheduled.



Task Force Members / Participants

- **Ann Arbor District Library** (Eli Neiburger & Len Lemorie)
- **Ann Arbor Housing Commission** (Jennifer Hall)
- **City of Ann Arbor** (Derek Delacourt)
- **City of Ypsilanti** (Katie Jones)
- **Daytime Warming Center** (Ben Foster)
- **FedUp Ministries** (Anna Taylor-McCants)
- **Food Gatherers** (Markell Miller)
- **IHN at Alpha House** (Shonagh Taruza, Denise Diggs-Taylor & Brad White)
- **Interfaith Council for Peace & Justice** (Eleanore Ablan-Owen)
- **MISSION A2** (David Goldbaum)
- **Pease House Ypsi** (Sheri Wander)
- **Shelter Association of Washtenaw County** (Christina Johnson & Dan Kelly)
- **SOS Community Services** (Rhonda Weathers)
- **Washtenaw County Board of Commissioners** (Annie Somerville)
- **Washtenaw County Community Mental Health** (Christie Blais & Katie Hoener)
- **Washtenaw County Office of Community & Economic Development** (Andrew Kraemer & Morghan Boydston)
- **Washtenaw County Sheriff's Office** (Kathy Wyatt)
- **Washtenaw County Racial Equity Office** (Alize Asberry-Payne & Akintunde Oluwadare)
- **Washtenaw Housing Alliance** (Amanda Carlisle & Sharon Lapides)



Polar Vortex during the 2013-2014 Winter led to changes in winter shelter programming here in Washtenaw County

Prior to 2013-14:

- **Rotating shelter existed**, rotating at various congregations throughout winter months for adult men
- **Emergency overnight shelter** at Delonis
- **Weather amnesty only daytime shelter** at Delonis Center
- **No overflow families response**, as typically did not see unsheltered family homelessness

Winter Shelter Response Work Group (2014-16) suggested changes:

- **Addition of day-time shelter at Delonis and additional site** through SAWC partnership w/ MISSION, at various congregations
- **Addition of off-site** (from Delonis Center) **overnight Warming Center**
- **Additional funding for emergency hotel/motel stays** for individuals who could not stay in congregate settings

2022-2023 Winter Response transformed again, to include additional sites and programs



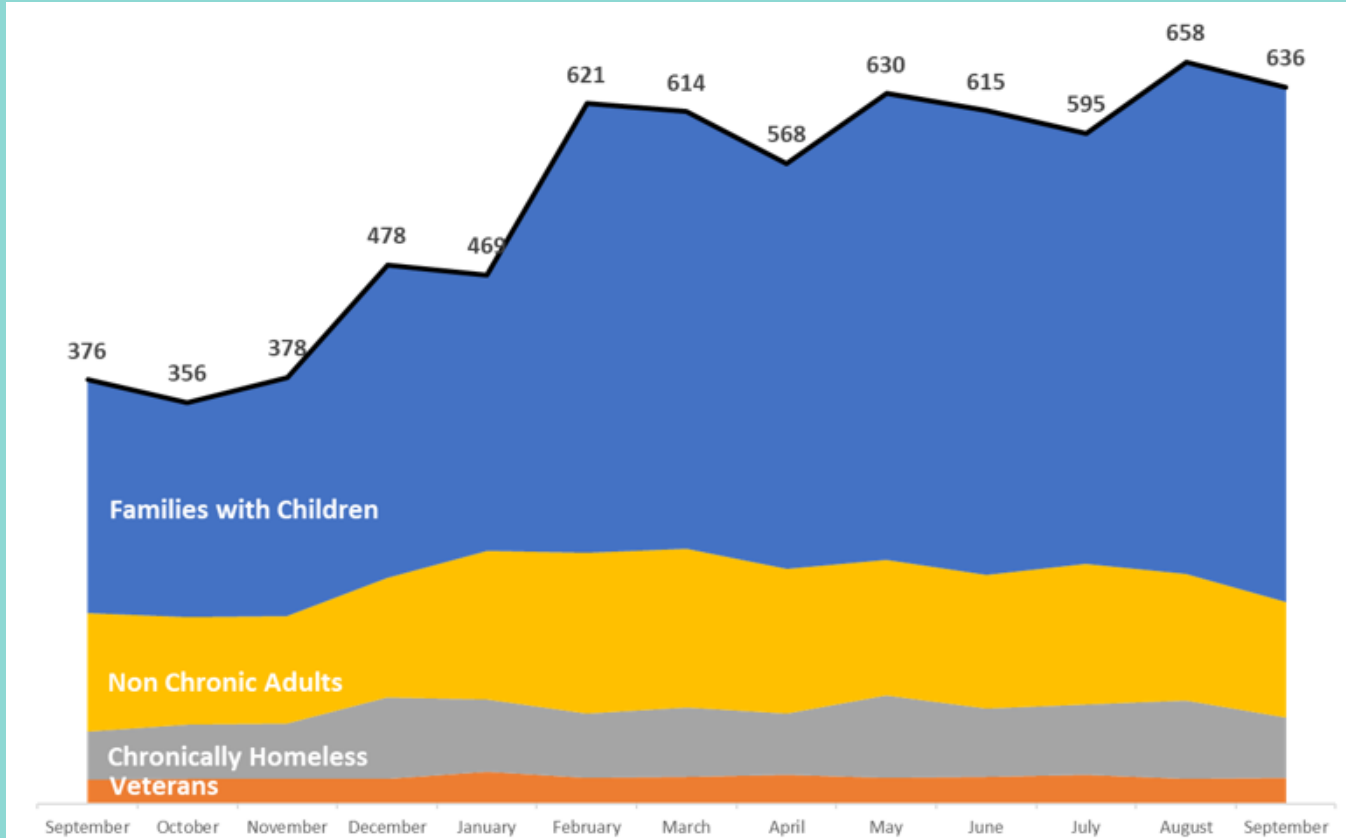
Last winter:

- **SAWC year-round shelter beds**
- **Off-site Warming Center**
 - Ann Arbor & Ypsilanti
- **Expansion of Day-Time Shelter sites during weekdays**
 - Ypsilanti Freighthouse (Ypsi)
 - Various Congregations in Ann Arbor (AA)
 - SAWC/Delonis Center on weekends, and Calvary Baptist Church (AA)
- **Funding for hotel/motel stays** for families through OCED, in partnership w/ MISSION
- **Funding for stipends for families**, through OCED

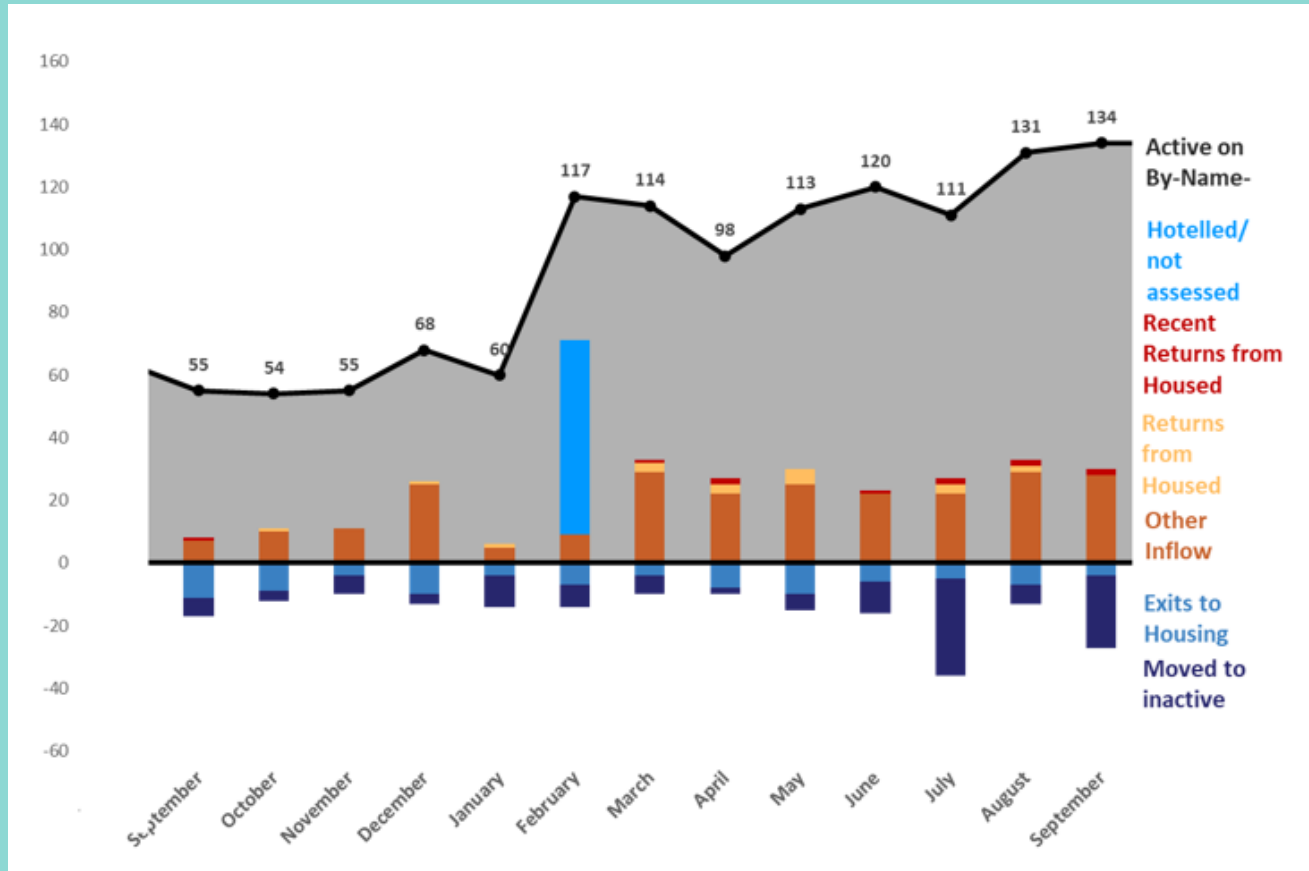


Data from 2022-2023 Winter Shelter Programs

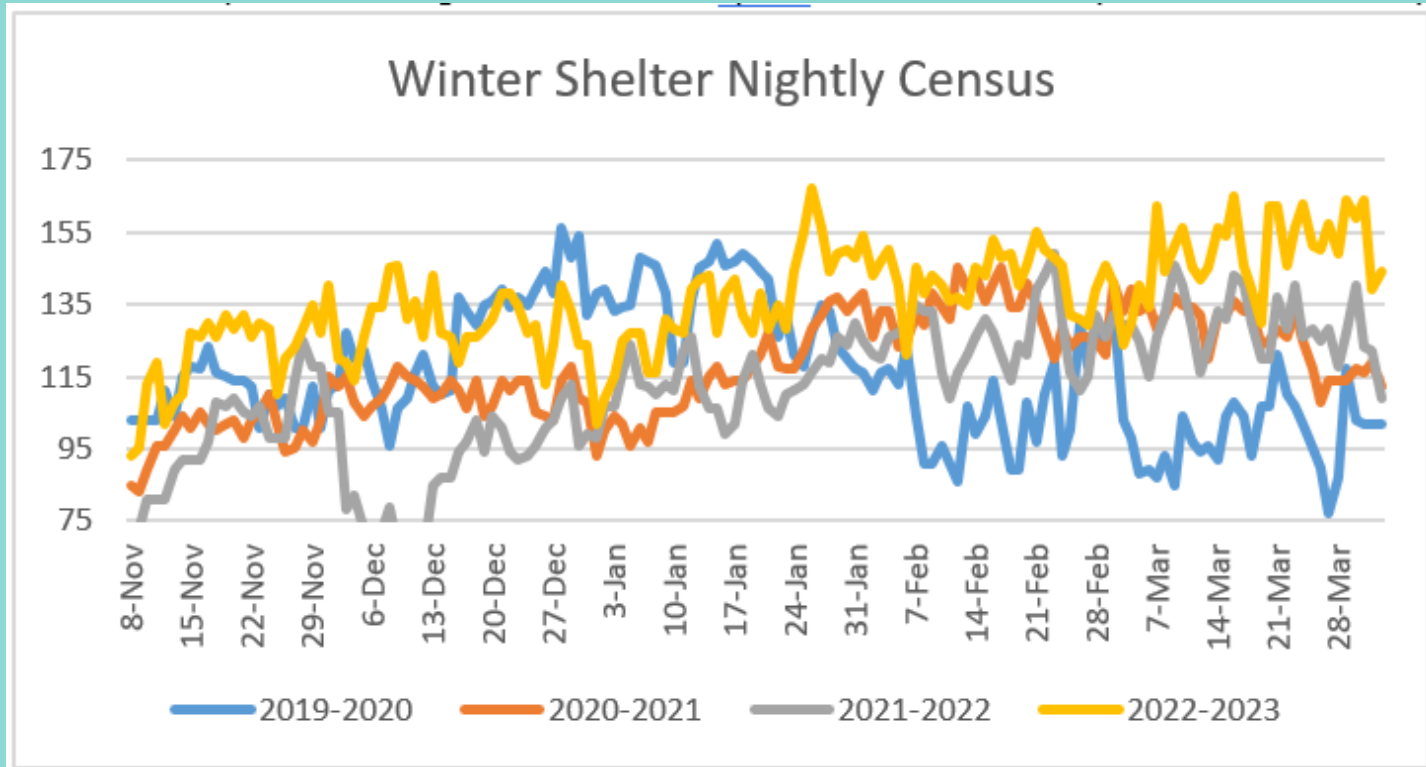
All Households - Sept 2022-Sept 2023



Family Households - Sept 2022-Sept 2023



Single Adult Households Winter Shelter Census 2019-2023 Comparison





Lessons Learned from 2022-2023 Winter

- **Increased Acuity of Needs for Single Adults**
 - Increased mental health and substance use challenges
 - 36% of Single Adults were age 51+
 - 66% of Single Adults reported having a disability
- **Shelter Diversion Stipends Less Costly than Hotel Stays**
 - 58% of households that received diversion stipend never returned to the homeless system of care
 - Lack of *timely* family shelter assessments, due to HAWC transition, led to surge in hotel stays among families
 - Lack of case management for hoteled families led to long stays
- **Increased Staffing needs for winter programs**
 - Daytime; overnight; and, weekends



Other Michigan communities surveyed are grappling with similar winter sheltering issues

Task Force Interviewed:

- Kent County
- Detroit
- Oakland County
- Out-Wayne County

WINTER SHELTER TASK FORCE

• Kent County

- Talked with Adrienne Goodstal, Chief Engagement Officer at Mel Trotter Shelter (single adult shelter)
- Witnessed a substantial increase in winter shelter needs: used to be around 500, now estimating over 600-650 each night
- Coordinating a special summer PIT count to better estimate potential winter needs
- Needs additional funding support to meet increased demand

• Detroit

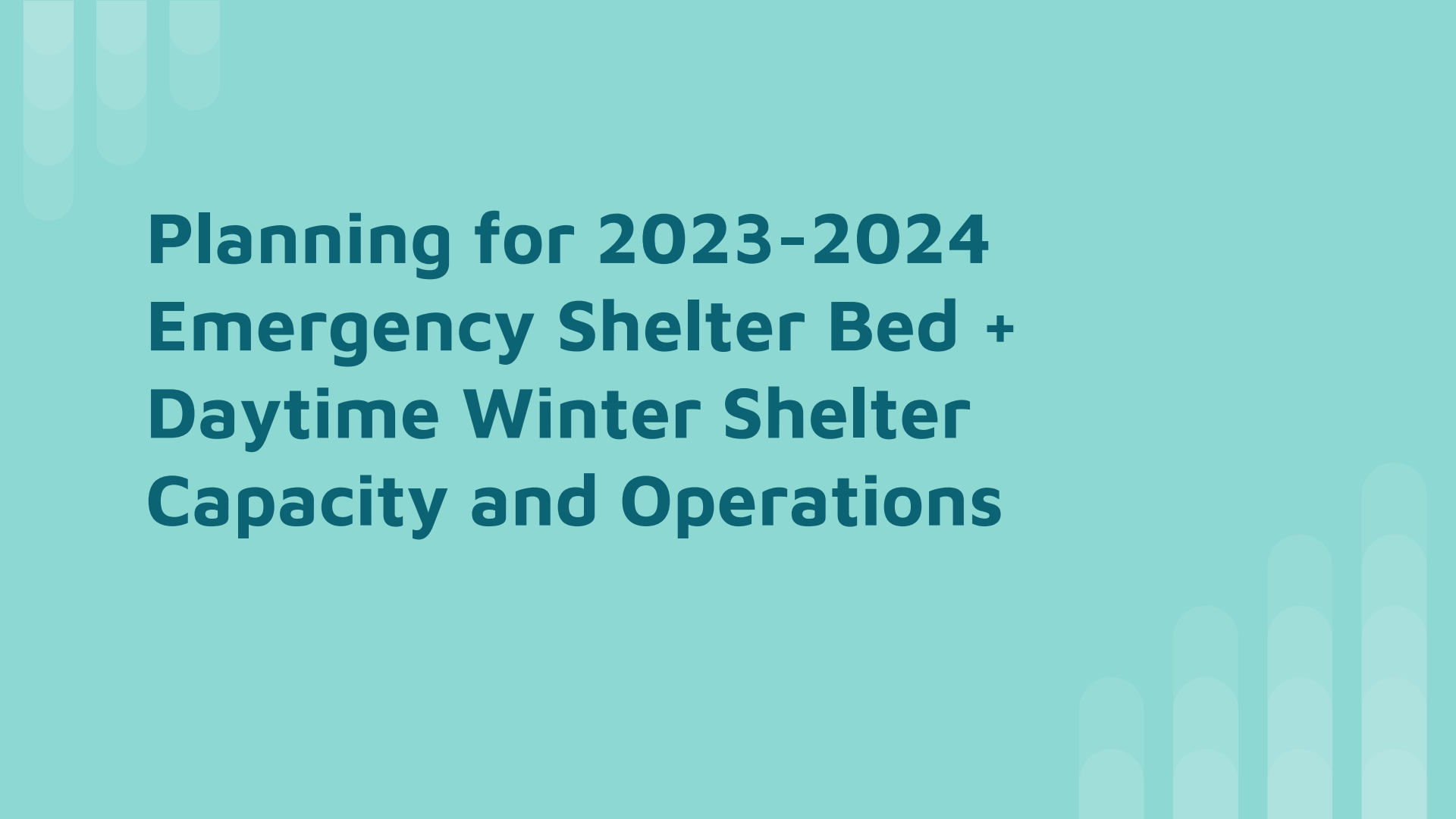
- Spoke with Terra Linzer from the City
- Shelters overcapacity in summer, expecting winter capacity challenges
- Adding 3 winter shelters (2 for families, 1 for single males) but may still need to turn away due to high demand
- Created overflow process for those turned away
- Limited additional funding expected, exploring alternate funding sources
- Shelter length of stay increasing rapidly
- Targeted use of HCVs and RRH for long stayers

• Oakland

- Talked with Leah McCall, Director of Alliance for Housing Oakland County
- Insufficient beds for winter sheltering for everyone
- Bed capacity: 75 single adult beds year-round, 54 family beds, 35-40 additional winter beds, 52 DV beds
- HOPE and Lighthouse (primary single adult and family providers respectively) have applied for MSHDA and Oakland County funds for additional non-congregate sheltering, no timeline on when that will be implemented though

• Out-Wayne

- Winter capacity is only 60 beds (30 new year round beds and 30 additional beds during the coldest 2 or 3 months of winter)
- Waiting list for shelter up to 400 people at a time (10 to 20 referrals for shelter per week)
- Limited engagement from local government to support efforts is primary barrier they noted



**Planning for 2023-2024
Emergency Shelter Bed +
Daytime Winter Shelter
Capacity and Operations**

Plans to increase nightly bed capacity for single adults by 14-17% from last winter to this winter

Table 1. Emergency Shelter Capacity for Individuals

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program Name / Location</u>	<u># Year-Round Beds for Individuals</u>	<u># Seasonal Beds for Individuals</u>
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (SAWC)	Residential Beds / Robert J. Delonis Center (312 W Huron St)	56	-
SAWC	Residential Beds Overflow (2nd Floor) / Robert J. Delonis Center	20	-
SAWC	Warming Center (Overflow) / Robert J. Delonis Center	-	Up to 60
SAWC	Rotating Shelter / Various Congregations throughout Washtenaw County (See Appendix A)	-	25
SAWC	Winter Shelter - Ypsilanti / St. Luke's Episcopal Church - 4-nights/week Mo-Th & TBD Location Fr-Su	-	30-35 (not confirmed)
SAWC	Recuperative Care Program / Ann Arbor Hotel Location	8	0
TOTAL BEDS		84	115-120

Current nightly capacity for families (households with children under age 18)

Table 2. Emergency Shelter Capacity for Families

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program Name / Location</u>	<u># Year-Round Emergency Shelter Households Served (Beds)</u>	<u># Seasonal Family Households Served (Beds)</u>
SOS Community Services	<i>Families Emergency Shelter /</i> Scattered Site	5 families (30 beds)	-
IHN at Alpha House	<i>Families Emergency Shelter /</i> 4290 Jackson Rd, Ann Arbor 48103	6 families (24 beds)	-
SOS Community Services	<i>Families Emergency Shelter - Expansion /</i> Scattered Site	-	2 families (12 beds)
MISSION A2	<i>Family Emergency Motel Stays Program /</i> Various hotels in Washtenaw County (stays of up to 2-weeks at a time)	6-8 families at a time (24-32 beds)	-
TOTAL FAMILIES SERVED (BEDS)		17-19 families (78-82 beds)	2 families (12 beds)



Considerations for families experiencing homelessness during 2023-2024 winter

- **Need for increased eviction prevention resources**
 - Currently no funds are available to prevent evictions
- **Need for shelter diversion + shelter diversion stipends**
 - Estimates are to divert 30% of family households
- **Planning for an overnight rotating shelter for families from January - March 2024**
 - Contingent upon site(s) being secured for this purpose
- **Need for funding for short-term hotel stays**
 - Reserved for clients with complex medical and/or behavioral health needs

Current nightly capacity for other populations (DV/IPV, youth and Veterans)

Table 3. Emergency Shelter Capacity for Other Populations

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program Name / Location</u>	<u># Year-Round Emergency Shelter/ Temporary Housing Households Served (Beds)</u>	<u># Year-Round Emergency Shelter/ Temporary Housing Beds for Individuals</u>
SafeHouse Center*	SafeHouse Center / 4100 Clark Rd, Ann Arbor, MI 48105	12-18 families/individuals (22-38 beds)	
Ozone House**	Safe Stay / 1600 N. Huron River Dr., Ypsilanti, MI 48197 (10-17 minor youth emergency shelter)	-	6 (opening Dec/Jan)
Ozone House**	MyTLP (17.5-18 transitional living)	-	3
Ozone House**	Miller House (18-22.5 yo, 18-month program)		10
Michigan Ability Partners***	Whispering Creek Temporary Housing Program / 3331-3333 Platt Rd., Ann Arbor, 48108	-	6
Salvation Army of Washtenaw County***	Staples Veterans' Hope House / 3660 Packard, Ann Arbor, MI 48108	-	10
TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS SERVED (BEDS)		12-18 families/individuals (22-38 beds)	35 beds



Plans for Daytime Winter Shelter Capacity

In 2022, there was weekly daytime winter shelter staffing for 130 hours of support through MISSION A2 and 32 hours of support through SAWC at the Delonis Center. **Efforts to increase staff hours for 2023-2024 winter if funding secured.**

Table 4. Daytime Winter Shelter Capacity

<u>Agency</u>	<u>Program Name / Location</u>	<u>#s Capacity</u>	<u>Other Considerations</u>
MISSION A2, in partnership w/ SAWC	Daytime Winter Shelter Ann Arbor (Mo-Fr) - various congregations; rotates monthly	70-100	Capacity varies based on congregation size
MISSION A2, in partnership w/ SAWC	Daytime Winter Shelter Ypsilanti Freighthouse (M-Th)	40+	
Shelter Association of Washtenaw County (in Delonis Ctr cafeteria)	Daytime Winter Shelter (Sat-Su)	up to 100	



Current Congregational Partners for Single Adults Rotating Shelter

Dates	Hosting Congregation	Hosting Congregation Address
11/13-11/19	St. Mary Student Parish	331 Thompson St, Ann Arbor
11/20-11/26	Genesis/St. Clare /Temple Beth Emeth	2309 Packard St, Ann Arbor
11/27-12/3	First Congregational Church	608 E. Williams St, Ann Arbor
12/4-12/10	Keystone Church	3375 Saline Waterworks, Saline
12/11-12/17	First Baptist Church of Ann Arbor	517 E Washington, Ann Arbor
12/18-12/24	Ann Arbor Friends Meeting	1420 Hill Street, Ann Arbor
12/25-12/31	St Luke Lutheran	4205 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor
1/1-1/14/2024	First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor	1432 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor
1/15-1/21	St Luke Lutheran	4205 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor
1/22-2/4	Ann Arbor Christian Reformed	1717 Broadway, Ann Arbor
2/5-2/11	NO CONGREGATION IDENTIFIED	
2/12-2/18	NO CONGREGATION IDENTIFIED	
2/19-2/25	NO CONGREGATION IDENTIFIED	
2/26-3/3	Zion Lutheran	1501 W. Liberty St, Ann Arbor
3/4-3/10	St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church	2150 Frieze Ave, Ann Arbor
3/11-3/24	University Lutheran Chapel	1511 Washtenaw Ave, Ann Arbor
3/25-3/31	NO CONGREGATION IDENTIFIED	



Site Needs as of 10/13/2023

- **Individual overnight winter shelter site in Ypsilanti** Friday-Sunday each week, November-March.
 - Alternatively, a site for overnight winter shelter that can operate all 7 days at the same location would be better.
- **Individual Rotating Shelter sites for open weeks** in February 2024 and one week in March 2024.
- **Families Rotating Shelter site(s)** that can accommodate between 25-30 families for January-March 2024.



Staffing & Volunteer Needs as of 10/13/2023

- **Additional funding to expand staffing** at daytime winter shelter sites - both at congregations and SAWC.
- **Overnight and driving (morning and evening) volunteers** to support Individuals Rotating Shelter.
- **Volunteers to be with those accessing daytime winter shelter** (play cards, chess, dominos, hang out and talk to people).
- **Volunteers that can conduct activities** including those with specialized skill sets such as haircuts, educational assistance, etc.
- **Staffing for overnight winter shelter sites.**
- **Washtenaw County has five (5) FTE case managers** that have been used to support families at hotels. As the hotel program ends, it is anticipated these case managers *could* be used as staff support at the Families Rotating Shelter site(s).



Food / Meal, Transportation & Laundry/Shower Needs as of 10/13/2023

- **Daytime sheltering meals.** Meals for daytime winter shelter come mostly from volunteers.
- **Funding to support provision of meals from Food Gatherers,** if off-site meal services are needed.
- **Use of passenger van to support transport of guests** to sites from the Delonis Center.
 - **Volunteer drivers.**
- **Donations of bus tokens and bus passes** for daytime winter shelter guests.
- **FedUp Ministries has offered** use of its Mobile Shower and Laundry Truck, when available.
 - **Other laundering and bathing needs TBD.**

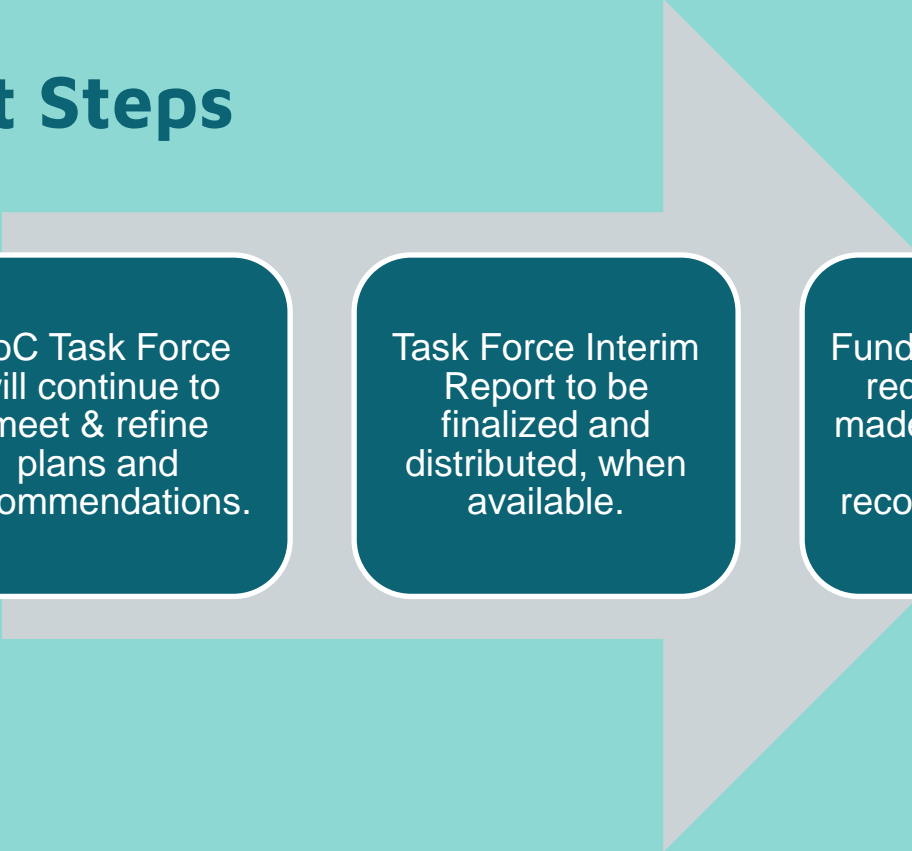


Next Steps and Planning





Next Steps



CoC Task Force
will continue to
meet & refine
plans and
recommendations.

Task Force Interim
Report to be
finalized and
distributed, when
available.

Funding and in-kind
requests will be
made based on the
Report
recommendations.