

Hudson County Winter Emergency System Protocols

November 15, 2020 - March 31, 2021

The **Hudson County Winter Emergency System** will be in effect continuously from **November 15, 2020 - March 31, 2021**. The system may also be enacted before or after this time period if the forecast calls for temperatures **below 32 degrees pursuant to NJ Code Blue Legislation A815**. The intent of the system is to provide shelter for those who seek it, and provide outreach to engage those who typically refuse shelter with the goal of preventing anyone from sleeping on the street throughout the winter months.

Homeless Street Outreach

Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation (GSECDC) will provide **street outreach** to unsheltered homeless individuals from **5:00 PM – 11:00 PM, 7 days a week**.

Daytime Centers

The following centers are open daily and provide a warm place for individuals to obtain food and access a variety of services:

Name	Address	Hours of Operation
GSECDC Hudson CASA Drop in Center	514 Newark Ave, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Hudson County Integrated Services Center	124 Claremont Ave, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 7:30 AM -5:00 PM
Hoboken Shelter	300 Bloomfield Ave, Hoboken	Mon - Thurs 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri - Sun 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM
PERC Shelter	111 37 th St, Union City	7 days a week from 7 AM – 3 PM
St. Lucy's Shelter	619 Grove St, Jersey City	Mon - Fri 9:00 AM - 3:00 PM

In the event of extremely cold daytime temperatures, or significant daytime snowfall, all three homeless shelters listed below will also remain open during the day.

Note that due to COVID-19 restrictions, drop in centers may not be operating at full capacity. Clients may still be referred to these providers, but services and programs may be functioning at a staggered or reduced capacity.

Regular Overnight Shelter Overflow

As in the past, any individual seeking shelter should be directed to one of the emergency shelters below. St. Lucy's and PERC will accept overflow clients throughout the winter and will not turn anyone away unless they demonstrate that they are a threat to themselves. In this situation, appropriate emergency professionals will be contacted.

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Name	Capacity	Address	Hours of Operation	Latest Walk in Accepted
St. Lucy's Shelter	40 Regular 40 Overflow	619 Grove St, Jersey City	24 hours	11: 00 PM
PERC Shelter ^{1,2}	61 Regular 40 Overflow	111 37th St, Union City	24 hours <i>Open for dinner at 6:00 PM</i>	No cut-off time.
Hoboken ¹ Shelter	50 Regular	300 Bloomfield St, Hoboken	Mon - Th 9:00 AM – 9:00 PM Fri - Sun 9:00 AM – 8:00 PM	7:00 PM

¹ Shelters are ADA accessible

² Shelter overflow consists of chairs or mats, not beds

Due to COVID-19 restrictions the shelter capacity listed above has been adjusted to reflect the current capacity while accommodating social distancing to ensure the health and safety of the guests and staff.

The Warming Center

The Warming Center is located at the Naval Reserve Facility in the Town of Kearny and will be operated by Collaborative Support Programs of NJ (CSPNJ). The goal of the warming center is to provide a warm and safe place for unsheltered homeless individuals to spend the night during the winter months. The warming center is designed to be a place of last resort for unsheltered homeless, and therefore all emergency shelter beds and overflow slots throughout Hudson County must be filled to the greatest extent possible prior to a client being transported to the Warming Center.

Access to the warming center will be controlled by the existing Homeless Outreach Team currently operated by Garden State Episcopal Community Development Corporation. CSPNJ will coordinate closely with the Outreach Team to manage evening pick up for the warming center.

The warming center has limited capacity to shelter individuals per night. Therefore, coordination with the existing shelters is necessary to ensure that the regular and overflow shelter beds are occupied before going to the Kearny Warming Center.

Note: The Warming Center is NOT ADA accessible. Provisions for sheltering will be made on a case by case basis.

Hudson County Severe Weather Plan

“Assembly Bill No. 815 of 2016 (A815_R1) requires county emergency management coordinators to establish a Code Blue Program for at-risk individuals who require shelter during a severe weather event. The purpose of the Code Blue Program is to identify at-risk individuals prior to, or during, a severe weather event and assist those individuals in voluntarily finding appropriate shelter.

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The Hudson County Office of Emergency Management (OEM) shall declare a code blue alert within 24 hours prior to the onset of a severe weather event. A severe weather event is defined as snow emergency, excessive cold, etc. The code blue alert shall continue until 8 a.m. the following day after the declaration, unless the severe weather event worsens or continues for a prolonged period of time. Upon the declaration of a code blue alert, the Hudson County Division of Housing and Community Development will inform each law enforcement agency within the county of any amendments to the existing plan to identify and/or coordinate with the local outreach team to locate at-risk individuals who may be in need of shelter during a severe weather event.

Special Populations

While all individuals over 18 are eligible for the Winter Emergency System services, additional and more appropriate resources are available for specific populations. Specifically, Victims of Domestic Violence will be referred to WomenRising or the NJ Domestic Violence Hotline. Youth (ages 18-24) will be connected to Covenant House.

Name	Phone
WomenRising	(201) 333-5700
NJ Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 572-SAFE (7233)
Covenant House	(609) 513-7373

There has been an increase of individuals with service animals in Hudson County over the years. Under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), a service animal is defined as a dog that has been individually trained to do work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability. The task(s) performed by the dog must be directly related to the person's disability. Individuals with service animals are permitted in shelters providing the facility can accommodate both owner and animal. Each shelter identified in this document is fully aware of the law as it relates to the conditions when an individual with a service animal can or cannot be a guest in their facility.

Transportation

Transportation to the Warming Center will be provided according to the following schedule:

- From CSPNJ Drop In-Center (422 MLK Drive, Jersey City): 6:00pm (line formation begins at 5:30pm)*
- From Journal Square (Sip and Bergen Avenues): 7:00pm (line formation begins at 6:30pm)
- From Hoboken Terminal (Observer Highway & Park): 8:15 pm (line formation begins at 7:45 pm)

If the number of clients at a pick up location exceeds the number that are able to get on the bus, a second round of pick ups will be conducted.

Overnight clients will be brought back to Jersey City and Hoboken beginning at 8:00am and dropped off at existing drop-in centers or existing providers, including, but not limited to:

- Garden State Episcopal CDC Drop In Center: 514 Newark Avenue, Jersey City
- CSP Drop In Center: 422 MLK Drive, Jersey City*
- Five Corners (Library, other neighboring services): Bus stop at Summit and Newark Avenues, Jersey City
- Hoboken Terminal: 1 Hudson Place, Hoboken

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- Hudson County Welfare Administration: 257 Cornelison Avenue, Jersey City *only when services are open to the public again

*The CSPNJ Drop In Center on MLK Drive is only for pickups at this time. For services, clients should be directed to CSP's current Center location at 124 Claremont Ave in Jersey City.

Services

Meals (light dinner in the evenings and breakfast in the morning) will be provided to each individual. CSPNJ may also work with service agencies that wish to provide additional meals; however, CSPNJ must ensure that the food is handled properly.

Hygiene kits will be distributed upon arrival every night (as needed).

Community Referrals

Weekdays before 4 PM

Homeless Individuals or families in need of services should be directed to Garden State Episcopal CDC (514 Newark Avenue, Jersey City). Homeless Individuals can also be directed to PERC Shelter (111 37th Street, Union City). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, if families or individuals have the ability to call, they should call Garden State for a screening first, at (201) 604-2600.

Evenings and Weekends

- If an individual is found to be in need of shelter after the Warming Center transportation has finished for the day, a call can be made to PERC Shelter (201) 348-8150 to see if space is available or to NJ 2-1-1 by either dialing 2-1-1 or 1-877-652-1148. Should transportation not be available, please contact the local police department.
- If a family calls needing shelter after 4:30 PM, direct them to call NJ 2-1-1, by either dialing 2-1-1 or 1-877-652-1148.

COVID-19 Specific Guidance

- All clients will be screened for COVID-19 symptoms prior to boarding the bus for the warming center and will be provided a mask.
- Clients will also be advised to wear masks that are provided in the mornings, when clients are transported back from the warming center.
- Clients that identify having tested positive or displaying symptoms of COVID-19 should not be referred to the emergency shelters or warming center. Instead a call should be made to Alliance Community Healthcare (Betty Rentas 551-200-3003) to coordinate shelter and testing.