

EMPLOYMENT & HUMAN SERVICES

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To: All Staff

Date: January 9, 2023

CC:

From: Community Relations/Media

Subject: Weather Related Information & Resources from CCHS & CDSS

As we face more severe weather this week, with storms potentially causing damage in many parts of the Bay Area and our state, [Contra Costa Health Services \(CCHS\)](#) announced that several County agencies are expanding capacity for unsheltered homeless individuals and families, as well as increasing outreach to deliver supplies to those who remain outdoors.

Anyone needing assistance with shelter placement should contact the [Contra Costa Crisis Center](#) by calling 211.

Here is a breakdown of the expanded shelter and warming-center capacity this week:

- Concord Service Center overnight Warming Center is increasing capacity from 6 slots to 15. Effective immediately.
- SHELTER, Inc. is adding capacity for 10 families in Martinez and Pittsburg. Effective immediately.
- Greater Richmond Interfaith Program (GRIP) is adding capacity for 20 adults and 3 families. Effective immediately.
- Trinity Center Winter Program in Walnut Creek is adding capacity for up to 50 adults. Effective January 9.
- Delta Landing in Pittsburg can expand by 6 beds beginning January 9
- Bay Area Rescue Mission has up to 9 beds available for men and up to 14 beds for the Women and Children's Shelter. Effective immediately.

CCHS has also temporarily expanded hours and staffing for the [CORE homeless-outreach program](#) to help facilitate shelter placements and deliver supplies such as tarps, blankets, sleeping bag, gloves and beanies to unsheltered homeless people who remain outdoors. CCHS outreach teams are in need of -- in order of importance -- sleeping bags, gloves and beanies, tarps and blankets. Donations can be dropped off at 2400 Bisso Lane, Suite D in Concord.

Visit the [Contra Costa County website \(www.contracosta.ca.gov\)](http://www.contracosta.ca.gov) for updates about road closures and storm preparedness information.

The **County Welfare Directors Association (CWDA)** has forwarded the following information and resources from the **California Department of Social Services**:

The [National Weather Service](#) is warning of the possibility of flooding in several regions throughout the state.

In addition to the [Governor's proclamation of a state of emergency](#) last week, the Governor today submitted a [request to the White House for a Presidential Emergency Declaration](#) to support ongoing storm response and recovery efforts.

Across the California Health and Human Services Agency we are prioritizing homeless or unsheltered populations, those who are older or medically vulnerable, those with disabilities (visible and invisible), and people residing in congregate facilities—medical and non-medical.

CDSS is supporting in a number of ways including, but not limited to, the below activities:

Mass Care and Shelter

- CDSS, in partnership with counties and the American Red Cross, are currently supporting 11 congregate shelters across 6 counties as well as additional non-congregate sites.
- CDSS has 7 personnel from the Disaster Services Branch (DSB) deployed including 3 County Emergency Operations Center. There are 10 Voluntary Emergency Services Team (VEST) members deployed and two Functional Assessment Service Team (FAST) members deployed.
- 14 additional shelters are prestaged across 9 counties and are ready to quickly stand up within 2 hours as needed.
- All are welcome at shelters, regardless of immigration status. Sites that provide emergency response and relief are considered protected areas. DHS Statement: <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2023/01/05/dhs-statement-safety-and-enforcement-during-severe-weather-and-flooding-california>
- Please engage with your assigned CDSS DSB Emergency Services Coordinator if you need any assistance with Mass Care and Shelter. In addition, the team is in the State Operations Center supporting the overall statewide storms. The team will be documenting open shelters resource needs and shelters on standby. Please reach out to them for any assistance 24/7 at ADMDutyOfficer@dss.ca.gov. (You may also send an e-mail to this address if you need assistance identifying your Coordinator.)

Licensed Facilities (Adult and Senior Care, Children's Residential, and Child Care)

Facilities and homes licensed by the State of California are required to have emergency plans that include what they will do, where they will go if it is necessary to evacuate, how they will get there, and additional considerations.

CDSS continues to share information with licensees about current conditions, support unmet needs, and facilitate relocation as needed.

IHSS

The Adult Programs Division sent out communication to program managers requesting them to work with local leadership teams to plan ahead, monitor conditions in your area, and perform well-being checks and emergency response.

Staying Safe During a Flood

- Floods may develop slowly or quickly with no warning. Evacuate immediately, if told to evacuate. Never drive around barricades. Local responders use them to safely direct traffic out of flooded areas.
- Be prepared and put together an emergency evacuation kit in a “go bag” you can grab quickly.
 - When packing your bag, start with the five P’s: People, Prescriptions, Papers, Personal Needs, Priceless Items.
- Listen to the Emergency Alert System, NOAA Weather Radio, or local alerting systems for current emergency information and instructions regarding flooding.
- Do not walk, swim, or drive through flood waters. **Turn Around, Don’t Drown!**
- Avoid bridges over fast-moving water whenever possible. Fast-moving water can wash bridges away without warning.
- Get to the highest level if trapped in a building. Only get on the roof if necessary and once there, signal for help. Do not climb into a closed attic to avoid getting trapped by rising floodwater.

Power Outage Tips

- Power outages may disrupt communications, water, and transportation.
- Keep freezers and refrigerators closed.
- Use a generator, but ONLY outdoors and away from windows.
- Do not use a gas stove or oven to heat your home.
- Disconnect appliances and electronics to avoid damage from electrical surges.
- Have alternate plans for refrigerating medicines or using power-dependent medical devices.
- Check with local officials about heating and cooling locations open near you.

Please sign up for the [California OES Wireless Emergency Alerts](#) to remain abreast of your local emergency situations.

Additional Resources

- CDSS Disaster Help Center - Guide to Disaster Assistance Services for Californians (English and Spanish) - www.cdss.ca.gov
- [CalHHS Emergency Resource Guide](#)
- If you are concerned about the well-being of a loved one residing in a long-term care facility (board and care, assisted living, skilled nursing), the Statewide Long-Term Care Ombudsman CRISISline is available 24/7 at 1-800-231-4024.
- Reach out if you need to talk with someone. The CalHOPE line is available. The peer counselors listen with compassion, provide non-judgement support and will guide you to additional resources that can help give you hope and help you cope. Call 1-833-317-HOPE (4673) or visit www.calhope.org.
- Additionally, isolation can be difficult for our older loved ones and neighbors. CalHHS has established a friendship line for older adults. It is a free crisis intervention hotline and a warmline for non-emergency emotional support calls for older adults. It is available by calling 1-888-670-1360.

- **Contra Costa County website** (www.contracosta.ca.gov) - updates about road closures and storm preparedness information.

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