



OFFICE OF COMMUNITY &
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Collaborative solutions for a promising future



Date: August 21, 2014
To: Community Stakeholders
From: Mary Jo Callan, Director OCED & Amanda Carlisle, Director WHA
Subject: Winter 2014-15 Warming Center Space Needs

The 2013-14 winter season was particularly brutal for Washtenaw County residents – and no more so for those most vulnerable residents struggling with homelessness. The local sheltering system was stretched beyond capacity to accommodate the overwhelming demand for safe, warm space during the near-constant emergency weather conditions. Despite best efforts on the part of local elected officials, service providers and community stakeholders, the local response could have been more deliberate and better planned.

To that end, the Office of Community & Economic Development – on behalf of the City of Ann Arbor and Washtenaw County – and the Washtenaw Housing Alliance have convened a Winter Emergency Shelter/Warming Center Response workgroup to ensure a more coordinated and sufficient response to the winter demands on our housing and homelessness system of care for the 2014-15 winter.

As a result of the initial meetings of this workgroup, a need has been identified for space to host an expanded overnight warming center for individual adults for the 2015 winter season. The committee has identified a provider for the staffing of this additional overnight warming center and is working to identify the resources to support the operation of it; however, the committee has not yet identified an ideal space to host this *temporary* overnight warming center for the winter months.

To that end, the committee is seeking input from community partners to assist in the identification of a site that meets the following specifications:

- Include a single room to accommodate approximately 50 adults lying down on thick mats (approximately 1500 square feet)
- Be accessible to limited-mobility individuals
- Have multiple, accessible bathrooms on site
- Ideally equipped with showers and/or a kitchen prep space
- Space should be available every night of the week (roughly 7pm to 7am) minimally from January 1 to March 31, 2015; with potential to begin earlier than January 1 if weather dictates
- Ideally have storage space for stacked sleeping mats during daytime hours

If you are aware of a space that meets these requirements and could provide a link to the person or persons who are able to commit the use of the space, the committee would greatly appreciate your assistance. Additionally, if space could be identified for daytime warming center capacity (roughly 7am to 7pm), the committee would also be interested in discussing further.

Please send any leads – for either the overnight or daytime warming center space – to Amanda Carlisle, Director, Washtenaw Housing Alliance at carlislea@ewashtenaw.org by Friday September 5th.