



## Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness - Crisis Cold Weather Shelter Guidance

*This guidance is intended to educate interested parties of minimum requirements and expectations for hosting a Crisis Cold Weather Shelter in Springfield City Limits in partnership with the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness.*

### Minimum Requirements through the City of Springfield

Crisis Cold Weather Shelters operate under the City of Springfield's Declaration of an Economic and Housing Calamity ([Council Resolution 10540](#)), which allows "Individuals, agencies, or churches that can meet building, safety, and health codes may establish facilities during the duration of this calamity to provide food and lodging to the unemployed and working poor who are without a permanent residence or dwelling and shall not be considered "shelters" as that term is defined in Section 36-321 of the City Code of Springfield, Missouri." According to Council Resolution 10437, "The Departments of Fire, Health, and Building Development Services, together with the City Manager, shall determine the applicability of the various City Codes and whether a facility meets such code provisions, as well as whether any Codes may be adjusted administratively on a site-by-site basis to meet the intent of this resolution."

Shelters must also comply with relevant zoning regulations, including [Section 36-303, 34 \(e\)](#), which states that "Under no event shall a certificate of occupancy be issued for a shelter herein if it is less than 1,000 feet from an elementary or secondary school, unless said shelter is given written consent of the governing body of such school."

### System Level Coordination through the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness

While each shelter is independently supported, staffed, and operated, shelters operating in partnership with the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness are asked to coordinate and communicate with each other and system partners to ensure a cohesive shelter system that is easy to access. In addition to health and safety requirements from the City of Springfield, the Ozarks Alliance to End Homelessness expects and supports the following best practices for all overnight Crisis Cold Weather Shelters:

- Follow sanitation and spacing considerations for COVID-19, per the Springfield Health Department.
- Coordinate operations with other Crisis Cold Weather Shelters, including:
  - Consistent opening parameters
  - Following community communication processes regarding openings and referrals
  - Ensure safety of volunteers and guests
  - Ensure confidentiality of guests
  - Ensure access is low-barrier, including no ID or background check requirements
- Not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability
- Track numbers served, including number served per night, number of unduplicated guests, and total number of bed nights provided (when possible)
- Update shelter information with 211

For more information, contact Amanda Stadler at [astadler@cpozarks.org](mailto:astadler@cpozarks.org) or 417-888-2020