

Winter Shelter 2026-27 Fact Sheet & FAQ

Revised 10/21/26

Emergency shelter is available again this winter for unhoused adults in Kalamazoo County. From November 2, 2026, through March 31, 2027, [Ministry With Community](#) and [Kalamazoo Gospel Ministries](#) offer 210 nighttime shelter beds (plus 25 more for extreme weather), along with over 200 spots for daytime shelter. [Housing Resources Inc.](#) continues to provide shelter coordination through its 24-hour hotline.

By bringing together the expertise and resources of local governments and nonprofits for the second consecutive year, people have a safe, warm place to be during the harshest season, and they can connect to programs that help address their specific needs so they can get back on their feet. This power of partnership offers hope that no one will need to worry about being unhoused.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q1. Do shelter users have to pay anything?

No. The budget for the winter shelter project, totaling \$979,398, is provided by [Kalamazoo County Continuum of Care](#) and [United Way of South Central Michigan](#), [Kalamazoo County](#), [City of Kalamazoo](#), and [City of Portage](#).

Q2. Who is eligible for shelter?

Winter shelter through this program is available to unhoused individual adults.

Q3. Must people who need shelter more than once sign up through the hotline every day?

Anyone assigned an overnight shelter bed may retain that bed without calling again, provided it is used each day. If the bed goes unused, it will be returned to the inventory of available beds.

Q4. Can couples or families get access to shelter?

This program is geared toward individual adults. Couples can also get access if they agree to be placed separately. Housing Resources Inc. coordinates shelter access for other providers in the area, including those serving families. Call HRI any time day or night at 269-382-0287 and press 1.

Q5. Can unhoused people with medical needs or disabilities get shelter access?

Yes. Kalamazoo County has a separate, year-round program available in partnership with [Integrated Services of Kalamazoo](#). Call HRI at 269-382-0287 and press 1. While this is not part of the winter shelter project and HRI doesn't coordinate day shelter placement, callers can get information on how to contact ISK.

Q6. How can unhoused people without transportation get to their assigned shelter?

We're working with local providers to answer that question as quickly as we can.

Q7. Are pets included in winter shelter access?

Yes, pets will be allowed in some shelter spaces. We know this is a big concern, and the partners have been working on details for how to safely care for the pets of shelter users.

Q8. Will increased funding and shelter space take care of all unhoused people this winter?

We're committed to doing everything we can so that every person who wants shelter can get it. We also realize that some people may choose not to seek shelter. We'll continue to reach out to those individuals to offer any help that's feasible and that they'll accept.

Q9. Where can people learn more about the winter shelter project?

The CoC has information about the program on its website, kzococ.org. We will update that site as the program unfolds during the winter.