



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 4, 2024

Community-wide planning advances Winter Contingency efforts with family shelter at former IPS School 68

INDIANAPOLIS – As temperatures continue to drop, several dedicated partners in the City of Indianapolis are intensifying efforts to provide safe and warm spaces for residents experiencing homelessness. Thanks to a partnership with Indianapolis Public Schools (IPS), the former School 68 building has been approved as a contingency site to shelter families in need during the winter months. The new overflow site is part of a broader Winter Contingency Plan spearheaded by the City and its community partners.

The City aims to have the family overflow shelter site operational by December 15, 2024. The facility is expected to accommodate 34 to 40 families of four, with provisions to support larger families as needed. The Mayor's Office of Public Health and Safety (OPHS) in collaboration with HealthNet's Homeless Initiative Program (HIP) and trustee offices are assisting families with alternative shelter solutions until the overflow shelter is operational.

Families in need of shelter should contact the Mayor's Action Center (MAC) during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., at 317-327-4622. The MAC closes from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday afternoons. Residents who encounter someone in need of shelter are encouraged to call the Mayor's Action Center or utilize the Indy Cares app to connect individuals with resources.

Key partners such as the Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP), Wheeler Mission, HIP, and United Way of Central Indiana (UWCI) have collaborated to enhance the approach to winter contingency. Additional assistance from IPS, Aspire Indiana Health, Central Indiana Community Foundation, Home of Hope, Society of St. Vincent De Paul, and numerous family shelters further supports the delivery of these services. This year's planning efforts are the first step toward a more comprehensive, community wide approach to winter contingency, and planning efforts for future years will continue as we strive to serve individuals and families who are particularly vulnerable in the coldest months of the year.

The 2024-2025 Winter Contingency is made possible through generous financial support, including a \$750,000 grant from Lilly Endowment Inc. to UWCI, \$578,000 from the City of Indianapolis, \$50,000 from the Indianapolis Foundation, \$20,000 from UWCI, and \$21,223 from CHIP. These contributions underscore a strong community commitment to ensuring resources and support for those in need during the winter season.

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Aliya Wishner | Office of Mayor Joe Hogsett, City of Indianapolis
Cell: 317-432-0258
Email: aliya.wishner2@indy.gov