

For immediate release
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CALGARY LAUNCHES 2025-26 EXTREME WEATHER RESPONSE AS PART OF CITYWIDE HOMELESSNESS STRATEGY

Calgary, AB — Calgary Homeless Foundation (CHF), The City of Calgary, and more than 20 partner organizations are launching the 2025-26 Extreme Weather Response, a coordinated citywide initiative designed to protect individuals experiencing homelessness from the dangers of extreme cold and connect them to essential services.

Now in its fourth year, Extreme Weather Response provides seasonal day spaces, overnight transportation to emergency shelters, and critical winter supplies. Last winter, the program responded to 20 days below -20°C, including three days that plunged below -28°C, and supported:

- 37,180 visits to seasonal day spaces
- 2,227 overnight shuttle transports to emergency shelters
- Distribution of 102,440 essential items, including 80,657 hand warmers and 3,090 emergency blankets

“Thousands of times last winter, Calgarians relied on seasonal day spaces, shuttles to emergency shelters, and outreach teams to make it through the cold,” said Bo Masterson, Vice President, Stakeholder Engagement at Calgary Homeless Foundation. “Heading into our fourth year, we’re confident in the strategic partnerships and coordination that make this program a vital part of the homeless serving sector. The lessons we’ve learned over the last three years mean we’re better equipped for an impactful season.

“The strength of the Extreme Weather Response lies not only in its immediate impact, but in its role within a broader system of care. It fills a critical gap for those experiencing homelessness while they wait for permanent housing. All orders of government are committed to creating more housing, but it takes time. While permanent housing capacity increases, programs like Extreme Weather Response remain an essential piece.”

According to [The City of Calgary's 2023 Housing Needs Assessment](#), about 85,000 households meet the criteria for housing need, which The City defines as spending 30 per cent or more of pre-tax income on housing while earning less than 65 per cent of Calgary's median household income. To address this, The City's *Home is Here* housing strategy aims to enable delivery of 3,000 new non-market housing units annually.

Currently, more than 2,500 individuals are on Calgary's supportive housing wait list through CHF's Coordinated Access and Assessment system. Many of the individuals accessing day spaces are already actively engaging in a housing journey, and the majority spend their nights in shelter.

“Seasonal day spaces also play a vital role in building trust,” said Masterson. “Seasonal day spaces are not an end destination, but a trauma-informed, low-barrier entry point where people can rest, connect with services, and begin or continue their housing journey. It often takes multiple engagements with a service before someone feels ready to move forward. Programming for seasonal day spaces are focused to meet people where they are and offer consistent, compassionate support.”

This year's program will run from December 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026 and again be delivered in partnership with City services and frontline agencies including Alpha House, The Mustard Seed, Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary, The Salvation Army, Calgary Drop-In Centre, Woods Homes, Distress Centre Calgary, and Journey Church. The program will operate with expanded seasonal day spaces, improved shuttle coordination, and a new *Need Help* page on Calgary Homeless Foundation's website, accessible via QR codes on transit ads. For those without mobile access, printed resource booklets will be distributed across the city.

“The Extreme Weather Response is a lifeline,” said Kay Choi, Director, Partnerships at The City of Calgary. “In addition to shelter, it’s about safety, dignity, and connection. We’re proud to stand with our partners to make sure these services are available when they’re needed most.”

Calgarians can learn more about the Extreme Weather Response at calgaryhomeless.com.

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About Calgary Homeless Foundation:

Calgary Homeless Foundation guides the fight against homelessness.

Working in alignment with governments and collaboratively with service providers and community partners, we help translate complex system needs into coordinated, efficient ground-level action that maximizes the impact of every resource and creates lasting pathways out of homelessness. We are uniquely positioned to observe the many challenges facing our city and strengthen the entire sector through strategic leadership, forward-thinking capacity development, and hands-on, day-to-day support.

Our comprehensive data warehouse reveals the full picture of homelessness in our community, enabling us to anticipate challenges and identify effective solutions. And we unite diverse stakeholders around shared goals and help address complex situations that no single agency can solve alone. Our collective approach and focus on learning and evaluation equip us to address homelessness across our city while keeping the people experiencing it at the heart of our work.

When the system works better together, more people find their way home. Learn more at calgaryhomeless.com