

**SAFETY FOR THE UNHOUSED DURING
12-30-21 to 1-2-22 COLD WEATHER EVENT**

Wintertime 2021-22 is showing itself to be a challenging time for care and safety of the unhoused community in Sonoma County. While need is still great and some resources are available, the traditional way of providing warmth and care to persons experiencing homelessness has been upended by COVID-19 and the omicron variant. The pandemic is affecting programs this way today:

- Traditional congregate shelters are unable to accept as many clients as pre-COVID times.
- Service Providers' staffs are limited in capacity, in part because of a shortage of labor and in part because employees are affected by COVID exposures and quarantine protocols.
- Unhoused residents can be reluctant to enter congregate facilities due to personal COVID concerns.
- Even hotel room programs are limited, as each program requires a provider to ensure that the hotel stays are uneventful and managed well. Typically this involves the same providers noted above.

In anticipation of winter, in Fall 2021 the County of Sonoma (following direction of the Board of Supervisors and with teams from the Department of Health Services and the Community Development Commission) worked with a handful of providers to attempt to increase non-congregate placements for those most at risk.

This included a hotel stay program in the Sonoma Valley, the continued use of Winter 2020-2021's Project Roomkey (and later Project Homekey) programming (which today accommodates over 200 highly vulnerable individuals in six settings), and assistance to the cities such as Petaluma, Sebastopol, and Santa Rosa for expanded interim housing and safe parking opportunities that will begin early in 2022. In addition, we have reached out to service providers in West County and North County to expand small hotel stay programs in these locations.

We share the community's concern over the well-being of our unhoused population, and will continue to work into January to ensure their safety. More information specific to December 30, 2021 follows.

I - Locations to Get Warm

Santa Rosa – the City of Santa Rosa and Catholic Charities of Santa Rosa are coordinating a nighttime outdoor warming tent – this is not a sleeping location, but will be open between 8:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. (from December 30 to the morning of January 2, 2022) to help up to 40 people stay warm. Located at 610 Wilson Street in Santa Rosa.

Petaluma – the City of Petaluma, Petaluma People Services Center (PPSC), and the Salvation Army will have nighttime congregate accommodations (20 cots) and will be open 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, 12-30 through 8:00 a.m. Monday, 1-3. Located at 721 McDowell Boulevard in Petaluma. Contact PPSC at [\(707\) 765-8488](tel:7077658488) for more information.

II - Congregate Shelter Beds

NOTE: Changes can occur daily, so please check with the provider first! Spaces are available on a first-come, first-served basis, and may offer wraparound services as well.

PETALUMA

The **Mary Isaak Center** (a year-round shelter located at 900 Hopper Street in Petaluma) has a limited number of congregate shelter **beds available** as of 12-30-2021. Contact the Committee on the Shelterless (COTS) at [\(707\) 765-6530](tel:7077656530) x207 for more information.

SANTA ROSA

Sam Jones Hall in Santa Rosa (4020 Finley Ave, Santa Rosa) also has a limited number of **beds available** as of 12-30-2021. Contact Catholic Charities at 707-525-1554 for more information.

NORTH SONOMA COUNTY

The winter shelter at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (209 W. Matheson St., Healdsburg) has a limited number of **beds available**. Contact Reach for Home at 707-433-6161 for more information.

WEST SONOMA COUNTY

The existing shelter at the Guerneville Vet's building serves about 25 persons daily. While full at this time, West County Community Services (WCCS) is able to assist persons who need extra blankets, food, and other care. Contact WCCS for more information at 707-823-1640.

III - These shelters also operate during the wintertime:

REDWOOD GOSPEL MISSION – 40 BEDS

5 pm – 7 am

Intake: Daily at 1 pm in the Chapel, must have ID

For adults and families – sober shelter

Entertaining Angels Nomadic Shelter Program

101 6th St., Santa Rosa, CA

(707) 542-4817

SOCIAL ADVOCATES FOR YOUTH – 4 BEDS

7 pm – 8 am

For youth ages 18-24 years only

Dream Center Emergency Shelter

2447 Summerfield Rd., Santa Rosa, CA

Youth Crisis Line: (888) 729-0012

IV - Other Programs

Day services are available at:

CATHOLIC CHARITIES

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 6 - 11 am & 1 - 5:30 pm

Hot showers, laundry, telephone, mail service, Coordinated Entry intake
Homeless Services Center
610 Wilson St., Santa Rosa, CA – NEW ADDRESS
Coordinated Entry: (866) 542-5480

Sonoma Valley Hotel Stay Program. In December 2021, Sonoma Overnight Support (SOS) began an expanded a wintertime hotel stay program for residents of Sonoma and the Sonoma Valley. This program houses 11 persons nightly who otherwise were on the streets, and is full as of now. SOS may be reached at 707-939-6777.

V - Donations and Volunteering

In lieu of volunteers and at the suggestion of the City of Santa Rosa and Catholic Charities, the Santa Rosa warming location is seeking cold and wet weather items for distribution to unsheltered community members, including tarps, sleeping bags, rain gear, and socks. Donations may be dropped off between 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. tonight, Friday, and Saturday, to the Drop-In Warming Center at 610 Wilson Street. New items only please.

If you or friends and family members are interested in volunteering at any winter warming location or shelter, volunteers may be needed during times when regular staff for these locations can be sidelined from COVID exposures. Individuals who are interested in volunteering to help staff these resources are always welcome – you must have your COVID-19 vaccination card and/or agree to regular COVID-19 testing to do so. Please contact the service providers noted above or look at their websites for more information.