



2020 – 2021 Interfaith Winter Shelter Program

Location: St. Mary's Cathedral, Patrons Hall

Dates: November 30, 2020 – January 31, 2021

- At present, the end date of the program is January 31, 2021 as the site's availability is contingent upon the status of the pandemic. HSH and Interfaith Winter Shelter Program Partners will continue to closely monitor the landscape of the pandemic while exploring other options to support winter shelter resources being available through the winter months.
- All guests will be notified in advance that the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program is temporary, and their stays will end with the close of the program.
- Guests will be referred to Access Points for Problem Solving and Coordinated Entry assessments during their stay to connect with additional resources available through the Homelessness Response System.

Hours

- The Interfaith Winter Shelter program is an overnight program only.
- Guests may arrive between 5:30pm-8:30pm and must depart by 7:00am the following morning.

Bed Capacity

- 67 all-gender beds
- Bed capacity was determined following SFDPH congregate shelter guidance of 6-foot spacing.
- Guests will have access to standard cots, mattresses, pillows, and heavy-duty blankets for sleeping. All bedding will be consistently laundered to ensure guests have access to clean blankets.

Length of Stay

- The Interfaith Winter Shelter will function like any other congregate shelter setting during the pandemic when it comes to length of stay with no time-limited beds.
- In alignment with public health guidance, guests will have access to their same bed for the entirety of the program if they show up consistently each evening.

Referrals

- No walk-ins are permitted.
- Referrals to the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program will be coordinated through the COVID-19 Command Center (CCC).
- The CCC works to ensure that referrals from throughout the system of care are matched with the most appropriate shelter resources. Additionally, the San Francisco Homeless Outreach Team (SFHOT) are performing extensive outreach throughout the City to identify individuals experiencing homelessness who are interested in accessing the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program.

Hygiene: A shower trailer service will be provided for guests in addition to restroom and handwashing facilities provided onsite.

Storage: Guests can bring two bags into the shelter which must stay with them in their designated bed space. Guests are required to leave the shelter with all of their belongings each day at check out.

Parking: Guests are able to park in the St. Mary's parking lot during their overnight stay but are required to leave each morning by 7am.

Transportation: HSH is exploring transportation services to support guests at this site and will share more information as it becomes available.

COVID Prevention and Mitigation

The 2020-2021 Interfaith Winter Shelter Program has been developed in partnership with SFIC, ECS and DPH to adhere to COVID prevention and mitigation strategies that must be adhered to for any congregate-style shelter during COVID-19. These considerations include but are not limited to:

- Physical distancing of ideally 6 feet between individuals during sleep and while moving throughout designated areas of shelter space
- Enhanced cleaning processes
- Access to handwashing and sanitizer stations
- Minimizing the introduction of new risk by maintaining a stable cohort whenever possible
- Enhanced food safety practices

Additionally, the following COVID-informed prevention and mitigation strategies have been implemented into the Interfaith Winter Shelter Program:

- A space layout plan has been established that ensures safe flow through the space, distanced areas for eating, and other considerations to ensure COVID safety whenever possible in partnership with DPH.
- All guests must participate in daily COVID-19 symptom screenings, including having their temperature checked.
- All guests must wear face coverings any time they are not actively eating, drinking or on their bed. Face coverings are provided to staff and guests.
- SFDPH has approved the plan for this site will continue to work closely with SFIC, ECS and HSH to ensure:
 - Guest who are symptomatic, COVID-positive or confirmed as having had a known close contact with a COVID positive individual will be referred to the City's Isolation and Quarantine (I & Q) hotels
 - Inspectors from the environmental health division of SFDPH worked with building engineers at St. Mary's cathedral to improve air circulation and filtration.