



KCRHA

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

Severe Weather Response: Sheltering our Unhoused Neighbors

King County Regional Homelessness Authority

2023-2024 Winter Weather Season

Mission & Theory of Change

Our mission is to significantly decrease homelessness throughout King County, using equity and social justice principles.

If we create a homeless response system that centers the voices of people with lived experience, then we will be able to meet needs and eliminate inequities, in order to end homelessness for all.



Role of KCRHA in Severe Weather

To provide an emergency system of services, including opening safe, short-term emergency day and nighttime shelters, and coordinating outreach to unsheltered people.



Key Partnerships

- City of Seattle
- Public Health-Seattle & King County
- National Weather Service-Seattle Office
- King County Emergency Ops
- Harborview Hospital
- University of Washington



Stages of Response

- Monitoring: *daily automated summary 7-day forecast*
- Pre-Activation
- Activation
- De-Activation
- Post Event



Where People Go

- Existing Emergency Shelters with Drop-In
- Existing Emergency Shelters with Expanded Capacity
- Stand-Up Severe Weather Shelters
- Stand-Up Warming Centers
- King County Library Locations
- Family Shelter Intake Line



Winter Weather Response Tiers

Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temps 45 or below for 3 days Real Feel (wind, rain) conditions predict dangerous situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temperatures predicted at 40 degrees or below for 3 days OR daily low temperatures predicted at 35 degrees or below for 3 days OR snow/ rain accumulation greater than 2 inches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily high temperatures predicted at 35 degrees or below for a single day OR daily low temperatures predicted at 30 degrees or below for a single day OR snow/rain accumulation greater than 4 inches
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Increased Outreach and Survival Supplies Opening of Temporary Emergency Shelters Expanded transportation, storage, warming centers, hotel stays



Tier 2 Activation Response

Activated Shelters in 2024

- **Seattle:** Salvation Army SoDo Bay A
- **North KC:** Urban League @ St. Dunstan's (*Shoreline, Lake Forest Park, Kenmore, Bothell, Woodinville, & King County*)
- **East/SnoValley:** Reclaim
- **South & Southeast:** City efforts
- **Family Intake Line:** Serves entire County

Pre-Activation

- Alert cities, shelter operators, day centers of upcoming activation
- Resource distribution and coordination; Activate Family Intake Line

Activation

- Daily emails to community reporting updates or changes. Sharing flyers, website, and resources.

Post-Activation

- Collecting utilization numbers from severe weather shelters
- Process reimbursement requests submitted by contracted year-round providers
- After Action Debrief



Tier 3 Activation Response

Activated Shelters in 2024

- **Seattle:** Salvation Army SoDo Bay A
- **North KC:** Urban League @ St. Dunstan's
- **East/SnoValley:** Reclaim
- **South & Southeast:** City efforts
- **Family Intake Line:** Serves entire County

Pre-Activation

- Alert government agencies, cities, providers, community
- Request expansion of shelters and day center hours
- Coordination of resources, transportation, logistics

Activation

- Opening public buildings; Ongoing resource distribution and coordination
- Daily huddles with core Severe Weather Stakeholders.
- Daily emails to community. Flyers, website, resources

Post-Activation

- Utilization data from shelters & reporting to boards/media
- Closing down public buildings
- Feedback & After Action debrief



By the Numbers

Seattle 2022-23 Winter Weather Activation

- Nov 6-12: 6 nights; 63 people
- Nov 17-20: 3 nights
- Nov 28-Dec 12: 13 nights; 544 people
- Dec 14-24: 10 nights; 1,084 people
- Jan 28-Feb 2: 5 nights; 180 people
- Feb 13-16: 3 nights; 116 people
- Feb 21-March 9: 16 nights; 1,259 people

Longest: 16 nights

Shortest: 3 nights

Average: 8 nights

56 out of 151 nights = 37%

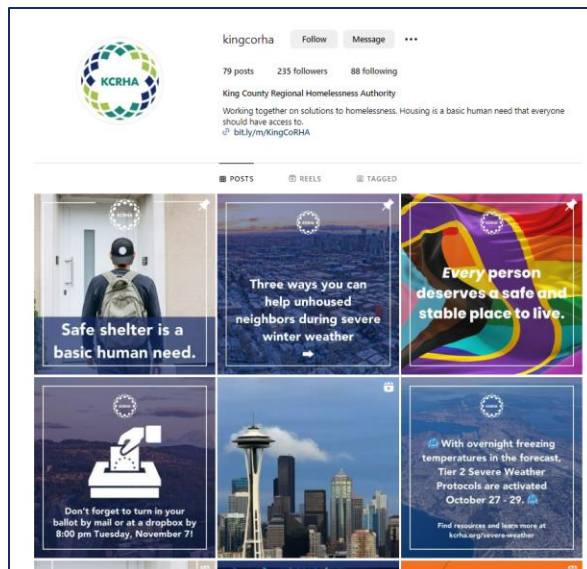
(November 1st to March 31st)



General Public Comms

Information about severe weather activations is shared widely:

- KCRHA Website and Social Media
- Emails to providers, outreach teams, libraries, and other system partners



KCRHA's Severe Weather Response Protocols are not currently active.

This page was last updated on Monday, October 30 at 11:30 am.

Across all seasons, Public Health of Seattle-King County has advice on [being prepared for hot weather](#), and [being prepared for wildfire smoke](#), and, in the case of extreme cold, [how to prevent and treat hypothermia](#).

Learn more about [thresholds for cold weather activation](#) or review our full [Severe Weather Policy](#).

Use the links below to find forecast information and year-round resources.

National Weather
Service
Seattle Briefings

Year-Round
Regional Services
Database

Current
Seattle
Forecast

Shareable Graphics & Fliers

Seattle

North King County

South King County

East King County

Snoqualmie Valley

Ways the Community Can Help

Improving our Response

- Five-Year Plan Severe Weather Activities:
 - Expand number of Severe Weather Shelter Beds
 - Coordinate & Centralize the Severe Weather Response Countywide
 - Expand Outreach During Severe Weather Events
 - Incorporate Severe Weather Funding into Existing Contracts
 - Improve Guests Connections to Services During & After Activation
- Potential shift to seasonal shelters
- Shore up funding and reimbursement processes
- Explore opportunities to engage community-based volunteers



Recognition from NOAA-NWS

In 2023, KCRHA received the Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador of Excellence. This award elevated our work to:

- Inspire others to take action and become ready, responsive, and resilient
- Create innovative ways to engage their community, their workforce, and/or their social network
- Form unique collaborations with NOAA and/or other ambassador organizations to achieve goals they alone could not meet
- Embrace building “a Weather-Ready Nation for All” by addressing vulnerable populations’ needs

