



Referral Guidelines

We are a network of churches serving the homeless of Douglas County by providing a temporary safe shelter to receive rest, meals and connection during the winter months.

1. The Winter Shelter Network operates nightly from November 1 until March 31; regardless of the weather conditions.
2. Because we can not provide a secure site, applicants in an active domestic violence situation will be referred to the Crisis Center for assistance.
3. The WSN provides shelter for women and single mothers with children. We do not have the capacity to serve males 18 and older.
4. Due to the lack of qualified staff, applicants with an untreated mental health condition will be referred to other resources for appropriate care.
5. Applicants will be asked about their ability to pass a drug and alcohol test. There will be no tolerance for guests to arrive at the shelter under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.
6. The WSN only has the capacity to provide basic care. Applicants will be asked to disclose current health conditions as well as serious medical conditions. To prevent the spread of illness, applicants may be referred to other resources until a medical condition is resolved.
7. All applicants 15 and older will undergo a wants and warrants check to identify open warrants and registered sex offenders.
8. The WSN can admit up to 40 guests per night. Space is reserved on a first come-first served basis.
9. Care management and goal setting are made available to WSN guests. Guests who are not willing to engage in this process may not be able to extend their reservation past 31 days if the shelter is at capacity. Additional lengths of stay will be based on availability and are not guaranteed.
10. While the WSN is a faith-based initiative, guests are not discriminated by their religious beliefs. Guests enter the shelter with the understanding that they will be staying in facilities that may have religious objects and themes.