**STAFF REPORT**

**DATE:** October 20, 2026

**TO:** City Council

**FROM:** Dana Bailey, Director Social Services and Housing

**SUBJECT:** FY 2026-27 Emergency Winter Shelter Program Planning Update

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## Recommendation

Receive an informational update on planning for the FY 2026-27 Emergency Winter Shelter program, tentatively scheduled to operate December 7, 2026 through March 31, 2027.

## Fiscal Impact

The FY 2026-27 Emergency Winter Shelter approved budget is $50,000, which is funded through the General Fund. This provides for non-congregate sheltering provisions.

Congregate shelter at Paul's Place will be provided by Davis Community Meals and Housing (DCMH) using its year-round Flex Beds, supported by DCMH's separate General Fund contract of $267,000 annually. This arrangement allows the congregate component to continue independent of the winter shelter budget.

## Council Goal(s)

These efforts address Council's goal of Housing and Social Services for the Vulnerable.

## Commission Input

The Social Services Commission received an informational update at its October 19, 2026 meeting.

## Background and Analysis

The Emergency Winter Shelter was established by Council to provide temporary shelter to people experiencing homelessness during the season when they are most at risk from exposure to the elements. The program continues to use a two-site model: a congregate site (communal living space) and a non-congregate site (individual hotel rooms).

For FY 2026-27, DCMH will operate the congregate site at Paul's Place. The City's Davis Homeless Outreach Team and the Davis Daytime Respite Center will operate the non-congregate site at Hi Wheel Flats. HEART of Davis plans to continue its practice of providing meals to both sites, which has been a valued contribution to the guest experience and to site operations.

The program's capacity has been contingent on available funding. In FY 2023-24, the program sheltered people in 10 congregate beds and 10 non-congregate hotel rooms. As federal grant funding was exhausted, capacity was adjusted to eight congregate beds and eight hotel rooms in FY 2024-25, and to eight congregate beds and four non-congregate hotel rooms in FY 2025-26. In FY 2025-26, St. Vincent de Paul generously funded two additional rooms, for a total of six hotel rooms. Staff does not yet know whether St. Vincent de Paul will be able to provide this support again.

Staff is working with partners to identify additional options to support the program. The City recently contracted with the Fourth & Hope year-round shelter to reserve five beds with wrap-around services, increasing the City's non-congregate availability.

**Extreme Weather.** Anticipated El Niño conditions this winter may bring heavier rainfall and a greater likelihood of storm events and periods of dangerous cold. Extreme weather is when demand for shelter is greatest. Staff will continue to coordinate with local and regional partners on contingency planning, and explore additional back-up capacity to strengthen the program's ability to respond.

## Next Steps

Staff will finalize operating protocols with the participating organizations, confirm room availability and partner contributions, and publicize the program ahead of the December 7, 2026 opening. Staff will provide a debrief following the close of the season.