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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition Activates Longest Code Blue Since 2022, Calls on Community Partners to Support Extreme Weather Response**

**Lancaster, PA — January 21, 2026 —** The **Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition (The Coalition)** has activated a **Code Blue** effective January 23 at 8:00PM and continues until at least January 30, 2026 in response to anticipated prolonged and dangerous temperatures and winter weather conditions, marking the **longest continuous Code Blue activation since 2022**. The activation is being carried out in accordance with the **Code Blue Policy FY25–26**, developed in coordination with the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition’s Steering Committee, Lancaster County Housing & Redevelopment Authorities, the Office of Homeless Coalition, and the Lancaster County Department of Public Safety Emergency Management Division.

A *Code Blue* is declared when extreme weather of low temperatures, below freezing wind chill, or snowstorms poses a serious risk to individuals experiencing homelessness. During this time, homelessness service providers across Lancaster County work collaboratively to extend services and hours to ensure people can access safe, warm, and supportive environments.

Given the duration of this weather event, the Coalition is **requesting additional support from community organizations**, including those who may be able to participate for the first time.

#### **The Coalition is calling on:**

- Faith-based organizations, nonprofits, and community groups willing to **extend hours, open warming spaces, or providing extended accommodations**
- Organizations able to support **transportation, meals, supplies, or volunteer staffing**
- Partners interested in **first-time participation** in Code Blue efforts to help meet increased community need

“Extended weather events strain the existing system and require a collective community response,” said Deb Jones, Director for the Office of the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition. “This is a critical moment for the community to come together to ensure no one is left outside in dangerous conditions.”

Throughout the Code Blue activation, **updated information on extended services, warming locations, and available resources** will be shared regularly on the **Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition’s Facebook and LinkedIn pages**. Providers are encouraged to check these platforms frequently for the most current information.

Community members who encounter someone in need of immediate shelter or support are encouraged to **call 2-1-1**, which connects callers to available homelessness and emergency services in Lancaster County. Extending a warm cup of coffee or pair of handwarmers may also be appreciated.

The Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition remains committed to coordinating a compassionate, safety-focused response throughout this prolonged weather event and thanks the community for its continued partnership and support.

If you are interested in becoming a Code Blue participating organization, please contact [homelesscoalition@lchra.com](mailto:homelesscoalition@lchra.com).

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### **About the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition**

The Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition is a collaborative network of more than 75 organizations, coordinated through The Office for the Lancaster County Homelessness Coalition, working in collaboration to make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring. Through data-driven strategies, partnerships, and community engagement, the Coalition strives to ensure every Lancaster County resident has access to safe, stable, and affordable housing. Learn more about their work at [LCHRA.com](http://LCHRA.com).