

Effective 3/14/17 the Emergency Measures for the Homeless During Inclement Winter Weather policy which was due to expire on 3/15/17 has been extended for an additional 60 days. The extension keeps the original emergency regulations in place which are as follows:

- A. Inclement Winter Weather is defined as air temperatures at or below 32 degrees Fahrenheit, including National Weather Service calculations for wind chill.
- B. In order to mitigate the effects of inclement winter weather and the resulting impacts of such weather on individuals experiencing homelessness, each social service district shall:
 1. Work with police agencies, including the New York State Police, and state agencies to take all necessary steps to identify individuals reasonably believed to be homeless and unwilling or unable to find the shelter necessary for safety and health in inclement winter weather, and to direct and offer to move such individuals to the appropriate sheltered facilities;
 2. Take all necessary steps to extend, or to have providers extend, shelter hours, to allow individuals experiencing homelessness to remain indoors;
 3. Instruct homeless service outreach workers to work with other relevant personnel and to work with local police in relation to the involuntary transport of (at risk) individuals who refuse to go inside and who appear to be mentally ill and at-risk for cold-related injuries to appropriate facilities for assessment consistent with the provisions of section 9.41 of the Mental Hygiene Law;
 4. Work in coordination with the State Police and all police agencies to ensure that individuals facing homelessness receive assistance as needed to protect their health and safety; and
 5. Ensure that all facilities used to shelter homeless individuals during periods of inclement winter weather are safe, clean, and well-maintained and supervised, as required by state and local laws, regulations, administrative directives, and guidelines including local building and fire codes.

The Chautauqua County Department of Health & Human services will continue to guarantee payment for individuals who are experiencing homelessness during Inclement Winter Weather.

During normal business hours (Monday – Friday 8:30 a.m. -4:30 p.m.), those in need of emergency shelter from inclement winter weather should report to either the Dunkirk or Jamestown DHHS offices where they will receive emergency assistance.

After business hours all law enforcement departments in Chautauqua County and the following agencies have been designated by the Chautauqua County Department of Health & Human Services to guarantee payment to approved hotels/motels for homeless individuals per Social Services Law 304.1:

- Chautauqua County Department of Mental Hygiene
- WCA Hospital
- Brooks Hospital
- Chautauqua Opportunities, Inc. – Mobile Crisis Team

These agencies have been provided with a guarantee of payment form which lists the approved hotels/motels that can be utilized.