



Access to Homeless Shelters in Louisville, KY

Homelessness is an issue of poverty. In Louisville, KY, local partners and agencies served nearly 7,000 people in homeless shelters and on the streets throughout 2018, but far beyond that, 25% of Louisvillians are struggling to make ends meet and pay their rent. Unfortunately, Louisville does not have enough emergency shelter beds to serve the many people who experience homelessness within the county each year. We have a family waiting list for emergency shelter that is between 30-50 families long every single day. We also do not have enough beds for individuals seeking shelter, as our emergency shelters are frequently already full with every bed accounted for by noon daily.

Under the direction of the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Louisville/Jefferson County has implemented a centralized process through the Coalition for the Homeless for reserving a bed in the emergency shelters located in the county. This process lets people know where they are going to sleep earlier in the day, thus allowing them to work normal hours and take care of other needs during the day. It also eliminates the need to stand in long lines to get into shelter without knowing whether there will be a spot. Please see the next page for the steps to reserve a bed at an emergency shelter.

If an individual needs a bed and it is after the Single Point of Entry office is closed (after 4pm), the person can go directly to an emergency shelter and inquire if there are beds available for the night. If so, the shelter will admit the person (unless the person has been banned from the shelter). If the initial shelter has no bed, the person should go on to the next shelter and repeat the process until either a shelter has an available bed or, sadly, until they find that there are no beds available. Here are emergency shelters for individuals. Unfortunately, there are no immediate openings for families in need.

- Wayside Christian Mission (women and men): 432 E. Jefferson Street
- St. Vincent de Paul (men): 1034 S. Jackson Street
- Salvation Army (women and men): 911 South Brook Street
- ReCenter Ministries (men): 733 East Jefferson Street

Finally, please note that if the person is from outside of Jefferson County, KY, the below process still must be followed to reserve a bed. If you are responsible for a person in need of shelter, please do not drop them off at an overnight emergency shelter during the day, as they will be closed. Some day shelters are available for daytime services, though, such as St. John Center for Homeless Men (700 E. Muhammad Ali Blvd) and UP for Women & Families (425 S. Second St #100).

If you are taking an individual to a shelter after 4pm, stay with the person to confirm whether that shelter has space, rather than just dropping them off. If there are local options or family members who can help, we strongly advise pursuing those options first, to guarantee that the person can secure a comfortable place inside. We want to serve as many people as we can, but unfortunately there are not enough shelter beds available to meet the great need. Thank you.



Homeless Shelter Bed Reservation Process

During the COVID-19 pandemic, homeless shelters remain open and available to people who need emergency shelter. Please note that we request all people (including service providers) call our Single Point of Entry office to make a reservation. Please make an effort to make a reservation for shelter, as opposed to just showing up, so we can ensure a spot for all in need. Thank you.

The Single Point of Entry office is located at 1300 S. Fourth St., Suite 250, Louisville, KY 40208, at the Coalition for the Homeless. We have suspended walk-in hours for the duration of the coronavirus crisis, which means we have also suspended the creation of shelter ID cards. Emergency shelter reservations can be made by phone seven days a week from 10 am – 4 pm.

1. Call 502-637-2337 (502-637-BEDS) to reserve a bed.
2. If emergency shelter space is available, you will be asked a series of questions in order to secure a shelter bed reservation at one of the following shelters: St. Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army, Wayside Christian Mission, or ReCenter Ministries.
3. Report to your assigned shelter at check in and/or dinner time, listed below:
 - a. St. Vincent de Paul (men): Check-in at 4 pm; dinner at 5 pm
 - b. Salvation Army (women): Dinner at 4:30 pm; check-in at 5:15 pm; check-in for people aged 18-24: 9 pm
 - c. Salvation Army (men): Dinner at 5 pm dinner; check-in at 6 pm; check-in for people aged 18-24: 9 pm
 - d. Wayside Christian Mission (women): Dinner/check-in: 4 pm
 - e. Wayside Christian Mission (men): Check-in at 4 pm; dinner 5 at pm
 - f. ReCenter Ministries (men): Check-in at 7 pm; dinner not provided
4. Upon check-out, notify the shelter if you desire to keep your bed for the next night. The shelter bed can remain in your name for as long as the shelter will allow. If you reserve a bed this way, there is no need to call us back.
5. Should you miss your scheduled reservation, you need to contact SPE to re-reserve a bed.