

# The South African The City of Cape Town helps homeless people come in from the cold

*The City of Cape Town is assisting seven organisations that will be taking part in the winter readiness campaign.*

Almost half a million Rand will be provided as financial aid to seven organisations which have been approved by The City of Cape Town. The city's Social Development Directorate is not only providing the finances, but also an additional 115 bed spaces and 40 Expanded Public Works Programme jobs.

There is an expected increase in the number of people sleeping on the street who will be seeking shelter during the cold Cape winter, so the financial aid will be used to provide food, blankets, mattresses, toiletries and cleaning materials to help meet the demand.

The Expanded Public Works Programme aims to create job opportunities for those in need of financial relief and in order to facilitate work experience. The city's Social Services Member Alderman JP Smith recognizes that in providing these job opportunities, the burden on the night shelters will also be alleviated somewhat.

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*Alderman Smith says, "Winter is an especially hard time for people living on the street and often there is an additional burden on the organisations that assist them... Homeless shelters are essential in ensuring that street people are properly cared for in a safe environment."*

The organisations that are receiving aid have overnight facilities that comply with health and safety requirements and include the following: Elim Night

Shelter, Happy Valley Home, Mould, Empower, Serve, Oasis Reach for Your Dream, Somerset West Night Shelter, Tygerberg Association of Street People and Ubuntu Circle of Courage.

*He continues, "Although this is just a fraction of what is needed, it's an example of how the City works with external parties to make a difference in people's lives."*

*"This is in line with the Organisational Development and Transformation Plan which focuses on building integrated communities through partnering with non-governmental organisations and businesses."*

Smith commends the numerous workers and volunteers who give of their time to help those in need, and he encourages the public to assist via the Give Responsibly Campaign.

The public is encouraged not to give out handouts, but rather to help support shelters and organisations that are helping people longterm.

To help, please contact The City of Cape Town on 0800 872 201.