

■ CHARITY

Help shelter the needy this winter

REGISTERED non-profit organisations have until April 5 to submit applications for the City's winter readiness programme.

The programme, which runs from May to September each year, sees the City supporting organisations that provide shelter for the homeless by supplementing their available resources to enable more indigent people to benefit from their services.

R700 000 has been allocated for this purpose this year.

Organisations which are able to provide temporary mattress space during the winter period and who meet the stipulated criteria, will receive food parcels, toiletries, mattresses and bedding as well as Expanded Public Works Programme workers to assist with cooking and cleaning.

Mayco member for community services and health Zahid Badroodien said: "Shelters do feel the pinch in winter when more street people seek respite from the elements. So this programme is designed to build capacity and to create the extra space and resources needed. I encourage organisations who want to apply to make sure that they meet all of the criteria and have all the relevant documentation to ensure that their application is successful."

Application forms are available at: <http://resource.capetown.gov.za/documentcentre/Documents/Forms,%20notices,%20tariffs%20and%20lists/Winter%20Readiness%20Application%20Form%202019.pdf>

Plans are also in place to get the City's Safe Space through its first win-

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Zahid Badroodien

Mayco: community services and health

ter. The City's Social Development and Early Childhood Development Department has ordered extra blankets and waterproof sleeping bags and has requested the cleaning of culverts along the Culemborg Bridge to minimise leaks. Increased waterproofing of the fence will also be done.

It is also hoped to finalise the installation of a geyser for hot showers, although this is dependent on procurement processes.

"The City's Safe Space is not a shelter in the traditional sense, but rather a transitional overnight facility that provides an alternative to sleeping on the streets.

"We have had numerous successes since the facility opened its gates and we hope to build on this solid foundation that has been laid. The first full winter is going to be new territory for us but we are committed to working closely with our clients and partners to ensure their well-being over the colder months," said Badroodien.

In its first nine months, the Safe Space hosted 450 people. Currently, there are 211 people on site. Of the people who have used the space:

- 48 are working part-time.
- Seven are working full-time.
- 12 have been relocated to their areas of origin outside of Cape Town.
- 18 have been reunified with their families.
- Nine have been placed in care facilities or shelters.
- 72 have attended developmental programmes.

The Sea Point, Fresnaye and Bantry Bay Ratepayers Association is assisting with securing identity documents for clients who need them and 27 NGOs are assisting with developmental opportunities, pop-up kitchens and donations.

City-wide, the Street People Programme facilitated assistance to 1 796 individuals between July and December last year and attended to just more than 5 000 complaints.

In addition, the programme is facilitating 600 work opportunities for street people through the Expanded Public Works Programme until the end of June. | **Supplied**