

SOCIAL WORK

Winter Readiness assisting shelters

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It is officially the last few days for shelters to apply to the Winter Readiness Programme, before the deadline on Friday 5 April.

The programme, a City of Cape Town initiative, was launched in 2013. It is designed to assist street people and shelters during winter.

“Funding is a very real consideration and often a challenge for many Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), so the supplies that the City provides helps them to provide a crucial service, which in turn benefits members of one of the most vulnerable groups in our society,” says Mayco member for community services and health, Zahid Badroodien.

“It eases the financial strain on shelters to provide for an increased number of clients during this time of year. For the street people who use the opportunity to seek shelter, it means protection from the elements, but also provides an opportunity to access other services.”

The resources that the City aims to provide include groceries, toiletries, mattresses, create more spaces, and provide cooking and cleaning services to the qualifying shelters through the Expanded Public Works Programme.

“We intend to increase bed space at shelters so that more street people will have access to a warm place to sleep during the winter period from 1 May to 30 September 2019 (dates may be subject to minor changes),” explains Badroodien.

The City’s Fire and Life Safety Service will be deployed to each facility that meets the criteria of the programme to ensure that population certificates are in order and requirements for additional persons are met. This arrangement is temporary however, and may not still be applicable at each shelter once the stipulated period has come to an end.

The City has confirmed that there are currently 19 shelters that receive the benefits of the programme across the metropolitan area.

Shelters that are not currently part of the programme are encouraged to apply with a copy of their current constitution and the latest annual general meeting minutes; names of board members, office bearers and management; their latest annual report and external auditors report; and should be registered as a NGO, NPO or PBO with overnight facilities; in addition to being compliant with their population certificate.

In order for all applicants’ checks to be completed in time, new applications for the Winter Readiness Programme cannot be attended to after the deadline, however all is not lost if non-qualifying shelters are in need of help thereafter.

Badroodien advises: “Should any shelters require assistance after the onset of winter, they are welcome to approach the City or the Western Cape Department of Social Development for guidance.”

► For more information on the programme and application forms, visit <https://bit.ly/2V0miTM>

