



At the handover of goods to 10 organisations working with homeless people across the metro are representatives of four of the beneficiaries Ezra Nomdoe (The Hope Exchange), Wayne Spammer (Somerset West Night Shelter), Ricky De Reuck (Cape Flats YMCA) and Clifford Martinus (Oasis Reach for the Dream). Photo: City of Cape Town

City extends helping hand

The Somerset West Night Shelter is one of 10 shelters and organisations in the metro to receive much-needed support from the City of Cape Town's Social Development and Early Childhood Development Department.

The municipality is disbursing aid to the value of R1 429 586 to the 10 organisations that successfully applied for assistance during winter as part of its annual Winter Readiness Programme. Applicants were required to undergo a rigorous vetting process to qualify for the support.

According to Zahid Badroodien, Mayoral Committee member for Community Services and Health, the funding will enable shelters to offer temporary mattress space and more during this winter. "It also contributes towards the required groceries, toiletries and bedding," he related.

"In addition, the City is facilitating 70 work opportunities through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to provide assistance with cooking and

cleaning at the shelters."

The funding for the programme has increased from R700 000 in 2019 to more than R1,4 million this year, Badroodien said, so more people will be assisted.

A memorandum of agreement was signed between the City and the respective organisations to ensure that all parties comply with their roles and responsibilities.

The beneficiaries for this year's programme are Somerset West Night Shelter, Cape Flats YMCA, Oasis Reach for the Dream, TASP, three sites of the Haven Night Shelter, two sites of The Hope Exchange and Happy Valley Home.

In addition, the City's three Safe Spaces are currently offering an alternative to sleeping on the streets to 400 people.

Residents are urged to give responsibly by not giving hand-outs directly to street people, as this may encourage the refusal of social services. Instead, donate directly to organisations and shelters.

► For more information, visit Give Dignity at www.capetown.gov.za.