

Publication: People's Post Constantia-Wynberg - Main
Title: City's Winter Readiness Programme for shelters
Publish date: 13 May 2025
Page: 4

Reach: 20000
AVE: R 28668.55
Author: Staff Reporter

City's Winter Readiness Programme for shelters

The City of Cape Town has launched its annual Winter Readiness Programme, allocating R1 million to assist qualifying shelters with essential supplies and operational support as demand for shelter services increases during the colder months.

The initiative, which runs until Thursday 30 October, provides blankets, mattresses, food items, hygiene products, and cleaning aids to shelters across the metro.

It was launched on Thursday last week, 8 May. An additional R230 000 has been allocated through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) to support temporary staffing and administrative needs at the shelters.

"Winter places enormous strain on shelters as demand for warm beds and basic care increases, especially during storms," said Mayco member for community services and health, Francine Higham.

"By working with our NGO partners on a comprehensive response, the City's contribu-

tion reduces pressure on shelters while helping more people off the streets and into care."

Shelters benefiting from the programme include: The Haven's facilities in Kensington, Kraaifontein, Woodstock, Green Point and Retreat; Oasis – Reach For Your Dreams; MES; El Theos; TASP; and U-Turn Ministries.

These organisations were selected based on strict eligibility criteria, including non-profit or public benefit registration, health and safety compliance, capacity to deliver developmental programmes, and willingness to undergo site inspections by the City's Fire and Rescue Service and Environmental Health Department.

In addition to providing immediate relief, the supported shelters also offer longer-term interventions to help individuals transition off the street permanently.

Residents who encounter homeless individuals in distress or those seeking support can call the City's dedicated call centre at 0800 872 201 for assistance.



Representatives from various shelters attended the launch of the Winter Readiness Programme.