



## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

December 28, 2017

### **Media Contacts:**

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## **County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing Announces Second Inclement Weather Episode for Season**

*Additional shelter beds available starting Sunday evening December 31<sup>st</sup> to Wednesday morning January 3<sup>rd</sup>*

**SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CALIF.** – The County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing (OSH) announced this winter season's second Inclement Weather Episode starting Sunday evening, December 31 to Wednesday morning, January 3, 2018, due to a forecast of low temperatures and precipitation that fall within the threshold for a declaration.

During declared Inclement Weather Episodes, up to 192 additional beds will be available at: Bill Wilson Center, City Team Ministries, HomeFirst's Boccardo Reception Center, the Gilroy Armory, LifeMoves Georgia Travis House, Montgomery Street Inn and Project WeHOPE.

For a printable PDF of warming centers and shelters click here: <http://bit.ly/WarmCenters>. For more information on shelter locations and warming centers around Santa Clara County, visit the County of Santa Clara Office of Supportive Housing at <http://bit.ly/SCCshelters>.

### **Hotlines are available to direct people to services:**

- **Call 2-1-1:** for health and human services in Santa Clara County
- **Homeless Helpline:** Call the County Office of Supportive Housing at (408) 793-0550 to ask for assistance or report a homeless person in need in Santa Clara County (excluding San Jose),
- **HomeFirst Homeless Helpline:** Call (408) 510-7600 or e-mail [Home First Helpline](#). HomeFirst's Outreach team provides access to emergency shelter, showers, laundry, meals, medical services, case management, employment training, and more.

Homeless individuals can register to receive text messages about services as follows:

- Simply address a text message to: 888777
- Type HOMELESS in the message
- Send the message

### **ABOUT INCLEMENT WEATHER EPISODES**

During extreme cold temperatures that warrant a declaration of inclement weather, the County's Office of Supportive Housing implements the Inclement Weather Plan which supplements the regular, ongoing cold weather shelter program. In December 2017, the County's Office of Supportive Housing raised by several degrees the trigger temperatures for an inclement weather episode from previous seasons.

The current trigger conditions are as follows:

- There is a forecasted overnight low of 40 degrees (previously 38 degrees) or lower with a probability of rain of less than 50%; or,
- There is a forecasted overnight low of 45 degrees (previously 42 degrees) or lower with a probability of rain of 50% or greater.

These conditions are less severe than conditions that would trigger the State to declare a state of emergency; however, they can present significant risk to unsheltered homeless persons, especially those who are ill or injured.

#### **ABOUT THE COUNTY OF SANTA CLARA**

The County of Santa Clara government serves a diverse, multi-cultural population of 1.9 million residents in Santa Clara County, the fifth largest county in California. With a \$6.5 billion budget and more than 70 agencies/departments and 20,000 employees, the County of Santa Clara plans for the needs of a dynamic community, provides quality services, and promotes a healthy, safe and prosperous community for all. The County provides essential services including public health protection, environmental protection, medical services through Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC), child and adult protection services, homelessness prevention and solutions, roads, park services, libraries, emergency response to disasters, protection of minority communities and those under threat, access to a fair criminal justice system, and scores of other services, particularly for those members of our community in the greatest need.