City Manager's Office

November 20, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager

Re: 2026-2027 Winter Shelter & Inclement Weather Shelter Locations and Hours

This memo provides an update on the City of Berkeley's 2026-2027 winter shelter season and the opening of the Inclement Weather Shelter.

Due to early-season cold and rain forecasted by the National Weather Service, the City of Berkeley opened the Inclement Weather Shelter two weeks early this year, on November 16, 2026, in partnership with Dorothy Day House.

In prior years, Dorothy Day House also operated the Berkeley Winter Shelter during the winter season. This season, the Berkeley Winter Shelter will not operate due to the lack of an available site and citywide budget cuts.

Inclement Weather Shelter
The shelter opens on a night-by-night basis when the forecast calls for a temperature of 45°F or below, a 50% or greater chance of overnight rain, or both. Details are as follows:

- LOCATION: Veterans Memorial Building Auditorium, 1931 Center Street.
- OPEN DATES: 11/16/26 – 4/15/27 when weather criteria are met.
- HOURS OF OPERATION: Monday-Saturday, 6pm–8am; Sunday, 3:30pm-8 am
- BED CAPACITY: 40 beds
- MEALS: Dinner served
- ACCESS: first come, first served

This year marks the fourth season that the Inclement Weather Shelter has been in the Veterans' Building Auditorium at 1931 Center Street. This location has the benefit of co-locating services at the same location as Dorothy Day House's daytime Berkeley Community Resource Center, so shelter guests can easily move downstairs when the inclement weather shelter closes in the morning for food, access to showers/laundry/bathrooms, the clothes closet, drop-in case management and services, and a warm place to be out of the elements. One of the City's locker programs is located in the Veterans Building courtyard as well.

To maximize chances that Berkeleyans get first access to the inclement weather shelter, our community agency partners and outreach teams connect with people who are unhoused living in Berkeley when the shelter is opening to offer spaces at the shelter. For more information, people can contact Dorothy Day House at 510-606-2026 or 510-705-1325.

Helping people living outside and in shelters get into long term stable housing is the goal, so people seeking shelter are also encouraged to call 211 or 510-495-0131, which connects them to our coordinated entry system and onto the path for long-term housing.

cc: David White, Deputy City Manager
Jenny Wong, City Auditor
Farimah Brown, City Attorney
Mark Numainville, City Clerk
Matthai Chakko, Assistant to the City Manager
Scott Gilman, HHCS Director
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