



**CITY OF PORTLAND**

**Jon P. Jennings, City Manager**

**To:** Mayor Snyder and City Council  
**From:** Jon P. Jennings, City Manager  
**Date:** October 19, 2020  
**RE:** Shelter Space Planning

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City staff have continued to work diligently to prepare for the winter season and the anticipated impact on people experiencing homelessness.

Existing resources include:

- 75 beds available at the Oxford Street Shelter;
- 75 beds available at the Portland Expo Center;
- Local area hotels providing emergency shelter through General Assistance;
- The Family Shelter (currently operating at full capacity);
- Hotel rooms provided to Family Shelter guests as overflow.

Our agreement with the Portland Expo Center expires on October 25, 2020. To ensure a smooth transition and sufficient resources during the winter season, we are close to finalizing a Memorandum of Understanding with Cumberland County for the use of the Community Corrections Center (informally known as Joyce House), located at 50 County Way in Portland.

We expect to be able to use the space from the end of October through April 30 as a shelter for up to 50 people. The shelter will be operated 24/7 by City staff. This plan is not expected to result in any additional costs to the City.

In addition, City staff are close to finalizing a contract with an area hotel to provide beds for up to 149 individuals as needed. MaineHousing has committed to funding this.

City staff convened a meeting of local social service providers on Friday, October 16 to discuss cold weather planning. Twelve agencies attended, including City, State, and nonprofit organizations, and the focus of the meeting was to collaborate in meeting the needs of our community while continuing adherence to COVID-19 restrictions.