

Temporary Shelter Expansion – Overview

Weekly Progress Update: January 20, 2025



The temporary outdoor shelter is part of the [City’s broader, ongoing strategy to address homelessness in Hamilton](#). This reflects Council’s decision to provide [additional low-barrier shelter space](#) in response to the [Mayor’s directive\(PDF, 106.68 KB\)](#) to establish a temporary outdoor shelter. This is not a standalone project but a crucial component of a larger system that includes [housing support programs, rapid re-housing, drop-in services, outreach, and emergency supports](#).

Weekly Updates – January 20, 2025:

Temporary Outdoor Shelter

<p>Construction Activities:</p>	<p>Completed Last Week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ First shipment of 10 units delivered on January 13, inspection/installation process commenced immediately. Next 20 units were delivered on the weekend. ○ Initial installation of the first units on site, as well as safety testing for units to local standards. All units on site now propped up, and hardware being installed. ○ Installation of power lines throughout the site to support unit connection. ○ Internal fence installed / privacy mesh attached on interior/exterior fencing. ○ Work on community building on site to meet operational requirements. ● Caroline St. Improvements: new Integrated Pedestrian Signal traffic signal at Barton St W and Caroline St N 	<p>Planned this week:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Construction: final 10 units to be delivered to site on January 21; continued coordination of shelter unit installation, including: unloading and transfer with crane for installation; placement of units in designated areas on site; regular safety inspections; and electrical connections for each unit installed. Hardware installation continues (i.e. doors, handles, HVAC systems, etc.) ● Interior work on community building expected to be completed this week to allow for operator set-up next week. ● Caroline St. Improvements: Temporary pavement markings placed due to cold temperatures and staff will return to install permanent pavement markings when weather permits.
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	completed and operational; new Pedestrian Crossover at Caroline St N and Stuart St completed and operational.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weekend Work: It is anticipated that construction crews will continue work throughout the weekend to maintain progress.
Operational Items:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Service Plan Coordination: Ongoing – finalizing service level policies and procedures New: 9 litter containers have been installed at intersections around the outside of the temporary outdoor shelter. Waste dumpsters for residential onsite waste will come closer to move in. Ongoing: City / Good Shepherd meeting weekly to work through and confirm site details; site visit with new Good Shepherd staff to tour the site, focusing on common building and units to continue operational preparation. 	
192 Shelter Bed Expansion - The City is addressing the urgent need for shelter services by activating 192 additional beds through strategic partnerships with community providers.		
Beds Onboarded:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total number of beds onboarded as of January 20th: 140/192 – ~73% of beds (+1%) 	
Schedule for Remaining Bed Opening: <i>(Revised, as of December 23¹)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good Shepherd Cathedral will temporarily operate as an overnight drop-in (up to 64 spaces) through December into January to accommodate additional need and capacity for overnight sheltering. 	
	Dates	New Shelter Beds
	Dec. 2 – Jan. 20	89 beds (now open) 64 Temporary Drop-In Spaces (now open)²
	January	54 beds (projected) 192/192 – 100% of beds

¹ **Note:** largest challenge to date for agencies bringing new beds online has been staffing related, however all partners continue to work diligently to ensure safe onboarding of new shelter beds into the system as soon as operationally possible.

² **Note:** 50 additional beds initially projected to come online at Cathedral have been temporarily converted to up to 64 overnight drop-in spaces to accommodate additional need and capacity for overnight sheltering. These beds will transition to full shelter beds through January.