

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### ***Westside Neighbors Shelter Announces Temporary Pause of Regular Overnight Shelter Services; Severe Weather Shelter to Continue***

***West Seattle, WA***

***December 19, 2025***

Westside Neighbors Shelter (WSNS) is announcing a temporary pause in its overnight shelter services, effective December 31, 2025, due to funding constraints. This decision reflects the Board's responsibility to ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization and to avoid an unplanned shutdown at the end of this year.

The overnight shelter opened for the cold weather season in November, and is scheduled to run through the end of February. The shelter can accommodate 36 people per night. WSNS has partnered with community organizations, volunteers, churches, and donors to respond to the urgent needs of people experiencing homelessness. However, the cost of staffing nightly overnight shelter services outside of Severe Weather periods has exceeded available funding. Continuing regular overnight operations for the next two months without sustainable funding would place the entire organization at risk.

"Our raw operating expenses for January and February 2026 will be \$26,000 per month. So, we need to raise roughly \$50,000 by the end of this year," said Westside Neighbors Shelter operator Keith Hughes. "By making a responsible decision now, we can continue critical services like morning warm-up and Severe Weather shelter while preparing to relaunch overnight operations through February 2026 in a sustainable way."

WSNS will continue to provide morning warm-up services daily from 7 to 11 am. It will remain open during Severe Weather events, with those operations funded through the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). Severe Weather shelter will be activated in accordance with KCRHA-defined weather thresholds and will operate for the duration of those events.

### **Looking Ahead to 2026**

WSNS is actively planning for a return to expanded overnight shelter services in 2026. Our goal is to reopen with a model that is financially sustainable, operationally sound, and responsive to both guest needs and neighborhood concerns.

## How the Community Can Help

Community support has always been essential to WSNS's mission. Donations made during this pause will:

- sustain **morning warm-up services**
- support **cold weather overnight shelter operations**
- build reserves needed to **restart regular overnight shelter services through February 2026**

Contributions can be made at <https://donorbox.org/support-westside-neighbors-shelter>, and churches, organizations, and community partners interested in supporting future operations are encouraged to reach out.

"This is not the end of overnight shelter at WNS. It's a strategic pause," added Hughes. "With continued community support, we can reopen regular overnight cold-weather shelter services when the funding is in place."

WSNS extends deep gratitude to the volunteers, donors, staff, partners, and neighbors who have supported this work. We value all our neighbors, including those experiencing homelessness and drug addiction. We are committed to providing a safe space for our unhoused neighbors with dignity and respect. We look forward to continuing to serve the community during Severe Weather events and to returning with regular overnight shelter services as soon as sustainable funding allows.

### **For more information or to support the shelter:**

Keith Hughes, [keith@wsnshelter.org](mailto:keith@wsnshelter.org)

[westsideneighborsshelter.org](https://westsideneighborsshelter.org)

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