

FAQs Inn from the Cold's Emergency Family Shelter

When will the Emergency Family Shelter open?

We anticipate that the new shelter will open in late fall / early winter 2008, once the deal closes and renovations to the space are complete.

Why is Centre 110 a good location for families?

This central location is easily accessible by public transportation or walking, making it convenient for family members to get to work, school or to attend programming provided through our partner agencies. Our administrative offices are already located at Centre 110 and families / guests are familiar with this location.

How much money do you need to raise and how will you do it? Do you think you can do it?

We are confident that we can raise the \$6-million needed to purchase the shelter. As of January 2008, we already have \$3-million committed to the building. Over the next several months, we will apply for government funding and grants, meet with various corporations and ask the public for financial support.

Is the province providing any money for this?

We have applied for provincial grants to help fund the shelter and are optimistic we will receive government support.

What will happen if you don't raise the money you need?

If we are not able to raise the money, the deal on the building will not go ahead.

What will happen to the Inn volunteers? Will you still be using the churches and other organizations?

Volunteers will continue to play an important role with Inn from the Cold. We will ask them to come to the Family Shelter to provide meals and hospitality for our families. We will still need churches and other organizations to help provide temporary emergency shelter to single men and women, as well as any families who can't be accommodated at the Emergency Family Shelter. We will reduce the number of church beds as more families will be accommodated at the Shelter.

Will you be hiring more staff?

Yes. Once the Emergency Family Shelter is operational, we will need to hire more staff to work with our families to ensure they have the support they need to be successful in housing long-term. We have planned for this growth and factored it into our budget.

What will people do at the Shelter?

Family members will continue to go to work, attend school/training and participate in programming that will help them address the issues that contributed to their homelessness. School-age children will go to school. Infants and pre-schoolers will be cared for on-site. All family members will return to the Family Shelter and their own semi-private room at the end of the day.

How will the Shelter be set up?

The Shelter will provide semi-private space to families, who will follow the same rules that apply to the Inns hosted at churches and other venues (i.e. cannot be under the influence of drugs or alcohol). Families will sleep together in designated, partitioned "rooms".

How do you define "family"?

We define family as one or more adults with any number of minor children of whom they have the legal custody.



What if you don't have enough room for all the families at the shelter? How long will people stay?

The shelter will have about 80 beds. We will finalize this number once the renovation plans are complete. If the beds are full, families will receive temporary emergency shelter through our network of churches, synagogues and other venues until beds become available at the Shelter. On average, people will stay for about 28 days and during this time, they will work on addressing the issues that contributed to their homelessness. They will then move into appropriate housing as it becomes available.

Will the Inn still support single men and women? Can't organizations like the City of Calgary, the Mustard Seed and the Drop-in Centre take care of the other homeless people now?

Single men and women will access temporary emergency shelter through our network of churches, synagogues and other venues. Right now, there are more homeless people than shelter beds available throughout the city. While families are our priority, we will work with other organizations to ensure that people do not have to sleep on the street.

Why does Calgary need an Emergency Family Shelter?

Our Emergency Family Shelter is a new concept for this community and will play a key role in ending homelessness in Calgary. It is a place where families can be stabilized and prepare for appropriate housing as it becomes available. Having worked with homeless families for the past 10 years, we know that the nomadic lifestyle of being in a different place every night is very hard on families, especially children. Through an Emergency Family Shelter, these families will now have the benefit of staying at one address.

How does the Emergency Family Shelter fit with the 10-year plan to end homelessness and Housing First?

The Inn's new Emergency Family Shelter will become an important part of the Committee to End Homelessness' mandate to end homelessness in our city. We share a common goal and that is to ensure all people have a home of their own. From the Emergency Family Shelter, the majority of families will go directly into subsidized or market housing.

Will there be a chance to take a tour of the building and see the new facilities?

Yes, once the renovations are complete we will gladly provide tours to our volunteers and partners.

Is there a chance to be informed and to share volunteer feedback?

We are committed to providing our volunteers and partners with on-going progress updates throughout the next several months. We welcome your feedback and you may contact our office with any questions or concerns.

Will the Inn be actively looking for homes for families, like CUPS is?

Inn from the Cold helps families access housing through the Family Sector's Housing Locator Initiative. In addition, we also provide advocacy services and rental assistance and arrears, as well as security deposits. Under strict criteria, families may receive rent subsidies based on current income, or the Inn may help with late rental payments. All payments are made directly to the landlord.

How can I donate to the Shelter?

Simply give the Inn office a call at 263-8384 or e-mail diana@innfromthecold.org for more information.