

Contact: Janelle Crumpton, Emergency Response Coordinator, j.crumpton@jfswm.org

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Shelter State of Emergency - Community Asks:

We are reaching out to you with an emergency request related to the latest news that shelters are at [capacity](#) and families will be on waiting lists and truly unhoused until shelter space is available. We are looking for help to support these families in five critical ways:

1. **Provide urgent and temporary shelter for 3-7 days:** We are seeking communities who are willing to open their spaces (church, synagogue, gym or empty residential space) to families in need. By offering your group's space to individuals for less than a week, you can provide a safe and warm place for these families to stay while we find other housing options. There are grants available facilitated by the United Way for those willing to take this on, find more information [here](#).
2. **Provide 2-4 weeks of shelter to one family:** We are seeking families who can take in a family while they wait for emergency shelter placement or while we look for a permanent housing solution for them. Hosts can define a period of time or family makeup that would be a good fit. This would provide stability and consistency for a family and time for JFSWM to secure appropriate housing and support.
3. **Secure emergency food:** Coordinate with local food providers, provide meals directly, arrange transportation, and ensure that a family or families at a temporary shelter have nourishing meals.
4. **Coordinate clothing and essentials:** These families often lack basic essentials such as clothing and personal items. Your support in coordinating the distribution of clothes and other necessities from our agency and other community partners can ensure families are warm and have the necessities they need as they navigate through other numerous challenges.
5. **Purchase items on our [Amazon wish list](#):** We created a new list specifically for families arriving who will not have immediate access to the emergency shelter system. These donations will be distributed as kits for walk-ins to our office and will go to families in temporary shelters and will be critical to their well-being during the time prior to entering formal shelter support.

Every small effort counts and your contribution can impact these families directly during an unprecedented housing challenge in the Commonwealth. All families either have children under 18, or have babies on the way. We need your help as we make sure they have food, clothing and shelter as we help them navigate next steps.

If you are interested in helping in any of the ways above and have questions or would like to know next steps, please contact JFS Emergency Response Coordinator, Janelle Crumpton at j.crumpton@jfswm.org.

JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE OF WESTERN MASSACHUSETTS

Serving Hampden, Hampshire, Franklin and Berkshire Counties

| info@jfswm.org | www.jfswm.org

Main Office: 15 Lenox Street, Springfield, MA 01108 (413) 737-2601

Jewish Family Service of Western Massachusetts is a beneficiary agency of the Jewish Federation of Western MA.