

Report and Final Public Hearing

City of Burlington

07110-IG-2020-Burlington C-41

Daytime Warming Center

The City solicited input to prioritize housing and community development needs when seeking CDBG-CV funds from the State of Vermont's non-entitlement round 3 CDBG funding. The proposed uses submitted in Burlington's application for funding to the State were [posted](#) for public access and comment on Monday, October 19th 2020 and the proposal was discussed at a public hearing and meeting of the Community Development and Neighborhood Revitalization Committee on October 21st, 2020. The City welcomed community feedback on the proposed funding request presented to the State of Vermont. The City solicited input from the Chittenden County/Burlington Continuum of Care on its application. The CoC includes members of the community with lived experience in its structure and workings.

The City of Burlington received \$160,500 from the State of Vermont for a grant under the Vermont Community Development Program, COVID relief funds.

In January 2021, the City of Burlington launched the Daytime Warming Center (DWC) Project to establish and operate a temporary daytime winter warming shelter for individuals experiencing homelessness, in order to provide temporary relief from the winter weather and connect unsheltered homeless individuals with additional sheltering services to further prevent the spread of COVID-19. The project operated seven days per week, with staff providing a safe and warm environment with access to hot food and drink, telephone, internet and computer access, and referral to homeless, housing, and other essential service and supports.

The City of Burlington contracted with Champlain Valley of Economic Office Opportunity to operate and provide services at the Daytime Warming Center, following a [Request for Proposals](#) process.

The site for the Daytime Warming Center was selected, following a [Request for Proposals](#) process, to be located at the VFW, 176 S Winooski Ave, Burlington, VT 05401.

The Daytime Warming Center opened to guests on January 19th, 2021 and operated through the winter, until April 25th, 2021.

The Daytime Warming Center welcomed 621 unduplicated individuals during its time of operation, recording some 2742 daily visits. All service users were low/moderate income. In the application for funding the estimated need was put at 50 individuals. A total of 44 individuals were assisted to enter the Homeless Management Information System, used in Chittenden County to access the Coordinated Entry system for permanent housing. Referrals to Shelter services or overnight accommodation were made on 121 occasions. Referrals to other services, including Safe Harbor medical clinic, tax preparation assistance, housing advocacy, access to identity documents, and legal advice were given to 272 individuals.

The Daytime Warming Center operations were developed in consultation with Vermont Dept of Health to ensure that it functioned in a COVID safe manner, to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The Daytime Warming Center provided regular onsite access for COVID - 19 testing and also vaccination clinics through a partnership with Safe Harbor Clinic, a trusted partner of community members experiencing homelessness.

The staff of the Daytime Warming Center provided exemplary service to the community of people experiencing homelessness. The DWC provided essential, safe, warming on various occasions to individuals under exclusion from all other community emergency shelter programs, including to individuals presenting at the DWC with frostbite from being unsheltered overnight.

Final Cumulative Data Report – Daytime Warming Center

	Unduplicated Number Served	Daily Sign In	Entered in HMIS	Meals	Referrals to other services	Referrals to Shelter Services
January 2021	104	235	0	120	50	7
February 2021	188	680	40	1050	50	42
March 2021	203	991	1	1500	75	42
April 2021	126	836	3	1257	62	30
TOTAL	621	2742	44	3927	237	121

Anonymized comments from project participants on the value of services provided at the Daytime Warming Center:

“It’s a place that I feel safe. It helped me a lot... It helped me so much, every day, just to come here, get coffee, feel clean.... You knew that if you were cold, there was a place to go. And people were so nice. That’s what it was for me. I wish it didn’t end.”

“It’s been wonderful. You could come here, use the computers, get food, clothes... It really helped a lot of people. And I hope the city finds some way to keep this going for everyone. Especially the computers because they’ve been really popular.”

“The warming station is really important because it can offer all of those things (Wi-Fi, bathrooms, phone access, computer access, clothes, food, etc.) to people who are homeless or marginally housed, or getting evicted, or they had their phone service cut of while they’re getting evicted and then they lost their job and they have no food. We need a place for people to reorient and get their daily needs met. “

“I’ve never seen any place like the Warming Shelter. That would help people to use the phones, to use the computers, to get personal hygiene products and clothes in the winter time, and then some assistance from these professionals who help people with either IDs, or housing, or whatever it is that people are requiring assistance with.”