

Inclement Weather Response Program Scope of Work: Supporting Unhoused Community Members

The Project: Tacoma Pierce-County Health Department (Department) seeks proposals from service providers for supporting unhoused community members during inclement weather events.

Background: The Department's Social, Economic, and Environmental Conditions for Health team works to address the underlying conditions that affect community health and the policies, systems, and environments that shape them. One condition that impacts vulnerable communities is housing instability. Housing instability can manifest itself in many ways, but at its most extreme is homelessness. The number of people experiencing extreme housing instability is growing in Pierce County. At the same time, climate change is causing an increase in the frequency and severity of inclement weather events like extreme cold, extreme heat, and wildfire smoke.

People who are unhoused are particularly vulnerable to inclement weather. Inclement weather events often require service providers to perform additional outreach and purchase extra supplies to reduce negative health outcomes for unhoused individuals. This project is designed to supplement those purchases and extended workloads to support their inclement weather operations.

Benefits of the Project: The Inclement Weather Response Program:

- empowers service providers to reduce negative health outcomes
- increases the efficacy of our homeless services system, and
- reduces emergency health care costs associated with inclement weather.

By accessing these funds, service providers will be able to enhance their operations during periods of inclement weather without depleting the resources required to maintain normal levels of operation, thus improving the stability and consistency of services being provided in Pierce County.

Vendor Responsibilities: Develop and implement a plan of action to further support individuals experiencing homelessness during inclement weather events, namely extreme cold, extreme heat, and wildfire smoke. The process shall include these steps:

Inclement Weather Action Plan: A detailed plan for implementation to include:

- General description of products or services to be provided
- If purchasing items: timeline for purchasing, plan for storing, plan for distribution
- If enhancing services: determination of thresholds for when to activate and deactivate services
- If providing new service: description of capacity to fulfill service, determination of thresholds for when to activate and deactivate services
- Strategy for communicating to respective community that these new resources are available

Attendance: Outside of inclement weather events, vendors shall attend at least 2, but not more than 3 periodically scheduled Communities of Practice meetings, hosted by the Department.

Reporting: End-of-year report summarizing actions taken as part of Inclement Weather Action Plan, lessons learned, barriers encountered, recommendations for future iterations of program and strategies to measure success.

Vendor Deliverables:

- 1. Inclement Weather Action Plan.
- 2. Satisfactory attendance in Communities of Practice.
- 3. Year-end report

Schedule of deliverables:

- Inclement Weather Action Plan completed within 45 days of contract initiation.
- Remaining work to be completed by December 31, 2023.

Schedule of meetings:

- Community of Practice Kick-Off: TBD, 1-time meeting to meet with other vendors, share ideas, and plan future meetings.
- Community of Practice meetings: TBD, 1-2 meetings outside of inclement weather events to check-in with one another, hear different perspectives, troubleshoot, etc.

What we will supply:

Data - The Department will provide public health data.

Meeting Facilitation – The Department will handle relevant coordination and facilitation of Community of Practice meetings.

Method of Evaluation & Award: Proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria. A score of 100 represents a perfect score. This award is intended to fund services to support each of three Inclement Weather events: excessive cold, excessive heat, and wildfire smoke. The total award available is \$25,000. This amount may be awarded to a sole vendor or split between 2-3 vendors if appropriate.

40 – points	Overall approach to the project. Describe the overall work your organization proposes to perform. Methodology for developing Inclement Weather Action Plan, population to be served, products or services to be provided, etc. Describe how people with lived experience of homelessness will inform the overall work.
30 - points	Racial equity and intersectionality. Describe your organization’s understanding of racial equity and its intersections with gender, sexual orientation and ability. Staff & leadership representation regarding race, gender, sexual orientation, and ability reflects the demographics of people experiencing homelessness in Pierce County.
20 - points	Organization’s capacity and experience. Describe your organization’s ability to carry out proposed work, including staffing, management support, and partnerships.
10 - points	Cost effectiveness. Describe the expected costs of the proposed work.

Due Date: Proposals must be delivered via email to areichenberger@tpchd.org by 3 pm, Friday April 21st, 2023.