



CITY OF FORT BRAGG

MENDOCINO COAST HOSPITALITY CENTER

News Release

July 10, 2019

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

EMERGENCY WEATHER SHELTER UPDATE

This last winter, the Emergency Weather Shelter (EWS) operated 73 nights from December 15, 2018 to March 31, 2019, housing more than 100 individuals. The EWS is operated by Mendocino Coast Hospitality Center (MCHC) in collaboration with the local faith-based organizations who take turns hosting the EWS by providing their facility and volunteer staffing. Even with the generous assistance of the faith-based community and other volunteers, operating the EWS and complying with state and local regulations is a challenging and expensive endeavor.

The Mendocino County funding for the EWS was reduced last fall from \$65,000 for the season to \$34,000. The County funding contract also added additional conditions on how the EWS would operate, including a change in when it would open and who could be served. Despite the additional challenges, MCHC was able to secure private donations to subsidize the EWS operations to ensure that those without shelter had a safe and warm place to stay last winter, while still working within the parameters of the County contract.

Mendocino County is unable to fund an EWS in Fort Bragg this upcoming winter weather season. In light of the funding shortfall and other operational challenges, after much consideration, MCHC has determined it is unable to continue to provide the intake, reporting, tracking and operational staffing to support the EWS in our Community. Efforts between MCHC, the faith-based community, the County and the City to provide alternative resources this winter are under way.

Questions regarding this information should be directed to Carla Harris, Executive Director, at (707) 961-0172 ext. 1160.