



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**RELIEF FOR HOMELESS NEEDED AS TEMPERATURES RISE**

*Homeless providers and street outreach teams report need  
for supplies as heat becomes dangerous*

INDIANAPOLIS –The Coalition for Homelessness Intervention and Prevention (CHIP) has issued an urgent request of supplies to help individuals experiencing homelessness to survive during the harsh summer season.

The 2010 homeless count found nearly 1,500 individuals on the street or in shelters. Between 200 and 300 of these individuals are without shelter on any given night, and are seeking to escape the extreme temperatures of recent weeks.

As temperatures reach life threatening levels, outreach workers from several organizations work hard to bring people out of the heat and into services. Despite these efforts, there are still many people who sleep on the street; including women, unattached youth, and individuals suffering from mental illness or addictions.

“The extreme heat can put lives in danger of those who are living on the streets. Together, as a community, we can help to make sure those individuals and families are safe,” said Timothy Joyce, Executive Director of CHIP. “Social service providers who do street outreach are in desperate need for donations of water to maintain hydration for those living out in the intense heat.”

The public is asked to donate water to social service providers who engage the homeless. There is also a need for insect repellent, deodorant, men’s underwear, socks, sun block, and single serving, easy-to-open, nonperishable food items such as sports drinks, juice boxes, vienna sausages, beef sticks, puddings, fruit cups, peanut butter crackers, breakfast bars, instant coffee and individual servings of chips and nuts.

Donations will be made available to Indy Dream Center, Homeless Initiative Program, HVAF of Indiana, Inc., Horizon House, Midtown Mental Health Homeless Resource Team, Outreach Inc., and The PourHouse, Inc. to support outreach efforts. Wheeler Mission Ministries has agreed to accept and store these items in one central location for these service providers. Donations should be made at Wheeler Mission, 245 N. Delaware St. and should specify the donation/contribution is for the 2010 Summer Relief for the Homeless.

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The Indianapolis-Marion County Emergency Management Division and its community partners have established a Heat and Cold Extremes Temperature Contingency Plan to be put in place if emergencies occur. During times of extreme heat, water recreation activities are available through the Operation Cool Down program coordinated through Indy Parks. In the event of extreme conditions, cooling centers will be open extended hours or 24 hours if citizen demand warrants it. Good communication and timely activation of appropriate resources are essential components of the plan.

The challenges of helping and ending homelessness are significant, including extreme weather, but they are being addressed by the action being taken under the *Blueprint to End Homelessness*, Indianapolis' ten year plan to end homelessness, and is being addressed at the national level. On Tuesday, June 22, the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness unveiled a national strategic plan to end homelessness entitled *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*. Federal agencies will utilize the plan as a guide in developing programs and policies to reduce and end homelessness.

The *Opening Doors: The Federal Strategic Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness* is available at [www.usich.gov](http://www.usich.gov). The Heat and Cold Extremes Temperature Contingency Plan is available at [www.chipindy.org/OtherRsc.php](http://www.chipindy.org/OtherRsc.php).

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