

Mission

Porchlight strives to reduce homelessness in Dane County by collaborating with the community to provide shelter, affordable housing, and supportive services that eliminate barriers and empower the individuals and families we serve.

Intake Hours

5:00pm – 8:30pm

*Guests with jobs who cannot arrive during intake hours must receive prior approval for late entry by calling shelter staff at **(608) 416-1446** before 8:00pm on each day of late entry.

Hours of Operation

5:00pm – 8:00am, nightly

Weather Nights

Porchlight coordinates with Salvation Army to determine when inclement “weather nights” go into effect. On a weather night, guests currently under suspension may access shelter that night. See the HSC website for more information:

[www.danecountyhomeless.org/
inclementweatherinformation](http://www.danecountyhomeless.org/inclementweatherinformation)

Shelter Guidelines

All guests are expected to adhere to the following shelter guidelines:

1. Guests will help create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone.
2. Guests are responsible for their personal belongings.
3. Guests may not vandalize any shelter or City property.
4. Guests may not bring weapons onto shelter property.
5. Inappropriate sexual or intimate contact is not allowed in shelter. No sexual harassment toward guests or staff.
6. Guests may not bring drugs or alcohol to shelter.

What has changed?

- **If you have used substances today, you can still come inside.**
You still cannot use substances inside the shelter, nor bring substances in with you, but you will not be turned away for using before you arrive.
- **If you have used up your 90 days, you can still come inside.**
We are not enforcing the 90-day limit during the pandemic, so you cannot run out of days.
- **We are taking COVID precautions seriously, for everyone’s safety.**
Staff supplies all guests with masks, and refers anyone with symptoms to medical respite until they are cleared to return.

Porchlight First Street Shelter

Emergency shelter for male-identified individuals experiencing homelessness



**200 North First Street
Madison, WI 53704**

[on the corner of First and Johnson,
right by the railroad tracks]





COVID Precautions

Porchlight has worked with community partners since March to make sure that our procedures keep shelter guests and staff as safe as possible.

Mask Requirement: All guests and staff must wear masks while in shelter, except when sleeping. Staff have extra masks to hand out.

Hand Hygiene: The shelter has hand sanitizer dispensers throughout, and sinks in each of the trailers (above) for guests to wash their hands.

Laundry, Custodial, Food Vendors: Porchlight has contracted with vendors to ensure linens are washed daily, the facility is cleaned daily, and all food is single-serve.

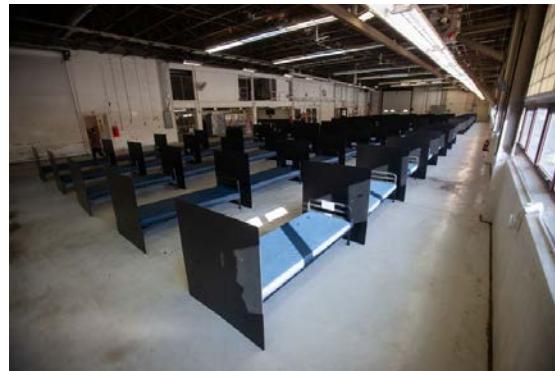
Physical Distancing: The First Street Shelter has a capacity of 250, with all beds spaced 6 feet apart, and guests sleeping head to toe.

Health Assessments: Porchlight works with nurse volunteers to screen everyone each night. Anyone who has symptoms, tests positive, or is identified as a contact to a positive case is referred to the medical respite hotel.

What is new/different?

If you have been to shelter in the past, you may be resistant to trying shelter again. Here are a few things that you can expect at First Street:

- **All bottom bunks:** No more jockeying for a bottom bunk. All of the beds are the same, with barriers at the head of each bed for safety and privacy (see picture below).
- **Fresh linens:** Everyone gets a clean sheet, blanket, and towel when they arrive.
- **Upgraded bathrooms:** No more communal showers or endless lines for the bathroom. There is a trailer with a row of toilet stalls and sinks, and another with individual shower stalls (see picture on left). We also have an accessible bathroom.
- **Places to sit:** You can choose to eat on your bunk, or sit at a table while remaining physically distanced (see picture on right).
- **Support services:** Porchlight has hired for several new positions to ensure that you can connect with a staff person who you trust, and who can help you work toward housing.



Transportation/Parking

The City of Madison is continuing to provide direct **shuttle** transportation from The Beacon (615 E Washington Ave) to First Street Shelter at 4:45pm and from First Street Shelter back to The Beacon at 7:30am each day.

First Street Shelter is also near several bus lines, including the **#6** from downtown.

Guests with cars may park at the shelter on any night that they are accessing shelter, but may not sleep in their cars overnight.

Guest parking is accessible from the second driveway on the First St side of the building. Turn right into the driveway, and drive straight into the fenced-in parking area. The shelter entrance is on the Johnson St side.



Contact Us

Porchlight First Street Shelter
200 N First St
Madison, WI 53704

P: (608) 416-1446

Visit us on the Web:

www.porchlightinc.org/mens-emergency-shelter/