

Code Blue/Code Red Amendments

These are possible amendments to the Code Blue bills – A815/S1500 - that will strengthen the legislation and make it an effective tool to assist our homeless neighbors and ensure their safety during periods of extreme weather.

- 1) Ensure that local communities have the local autonomy to determine the best model for a Code Blue/Code Red program (government vs. private) in their own communities.
- 2) If a Code Blue strategy is part of communities' overall strategy for ending homelessness, they should be permitted to "call Code Blue" for the winter season regardless of the temperature.
- 3) Liability Shield for Churches/Organizations/Volunteers that open warming centers under Code Blue. Including Food Arrangements- Good Samaritan Laws.
- 4) Indemnification for County governments who declare a Code Blue/Code Red program.
- 5) The definition for Code Blue should read:
 - a) Temperature falls below 32 degrees or wind chill below 0 degrees (Fahrenheit)
 - b) Ice storms, freezing rain and/or snow greater than 6 inches
- 6) The definition of Code Red should read:
 - a) Heat index of 90 degrees within the next 24 hours as predicted by the National Weather Service
- 7) Regardless of the weather conditions, Code Blue should always be called during the annual NJCounts point-in-time count of the homeless.