Introduction:

The Dakota County Emergency Hotel program administered by The Salvation Army is designed to assist homeless single and partnered adults (not households with children) with a disabling condition who are currently living outside or in some other location not fit for human habitation (e.g. car, abandoned building, garage), AND who are unable to access other emergency shelter due to health and safety concerns or lack of shelter space. Individuals currently residing in Emergency Shelter are not eligible unless exiting the shelter due to health and safety concerns or reaching the maximum time limit.

Qualifying individuals will receive hotel assistance and case management support on an ongoing weekly basis while in the hotel program during cold weather months or until other shelter or housing is found. Individuals will not need a housing plan in place, as this program is intended to get people out of the cold weather. The case manager and individual will work together on looking for and securing more permanent shelter or housing.

Referral Process:

Call (952) 898-9367 press Option 2 and leave a voicemail with the name and phone number where the individual can be reached. A Salvation Army case manager will contact the individual within 24 hours.

Referrals accepted from multiple sources including: community agencies, police, case managers, outreach workers, shelters, mental health/medical professionals, and self-referrals.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Single adult (18+) or couple (not households with children)
- Homeless and living outside or residing in a place not fit for human habitation
- Unable to stay in other emergency shelter due to health and safety concerns or no space available at Dakota County emergency shelters
- Currently residing in Dakota County
- One member of the household must have a verifiable disabling condition. Documentation can include verification from a qualified professional, award letter from SSI/SSDI, or Professional Statement of Need
Screening Process and Guidelines:

The Salvation Army case manager will conduct a screening to gather demographic information and determine if the participant qualifies for the hotel assistance. Participants will be referred to a hotel and met there by the case manager to sign releases and get them into their room and establish a connection. Salvation Army and the hotel will administer all billing. Participants will be responsible for any damage expenses incurred. Normal use wear and tear are excluded. There is no smoking allowed on the hotel premises.

Support

A Salvation Army case manager will work closely with participants on securing a hotel room and assessing housing needs. The Salvation Army tries to adhere to a Housing First approach as much as possible. Participants will be expected to meet regularly with their case manager and work on plans to secure and stabilize housing. The case manager will ensure that participants have access to food and basic needs. This may include assistance with grocery cards and food shelf access, and transportation support in the form of gas cards or bus tokens.

For any questions about the program please contact Patrick Morley, Social Services Coordinator 3, Salvation Army at (952) 898-9301 or e-mail at Patrick.morley@usc.salvationarmy.org