



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

2025–2026 Cold-Weather Shelter or Warming Center: Facility Use and Operational Services

Issued: Friday, September 26, 2025

The following questions were received in response to the City of Gastonia’s Request for Proposals (RFP) for the 2025–2026 Cold Weather Shelter or Warming Center: Facility Use and Operational Services, which was **released on Friday, September 12, 2025**. All **questions were due by Friday, September 26, 2025, at 2:00 p.m.** Responses provided below are intended to clarify the RFP and assist potential proposers in preparing their submissions.

QUESTION 1: ELIGIBLE PARTICIPANTS

Is it mandatory that the responding firm be a not for profit or faith based?

Question Source: ☒ Question Portal ☐ Pre-Proposal Conference

QUESTION 1 RESPONSE

There is no mandatory requirement that respondents be nonprofit or faith-based organizations. The City of Gastonia welcomes proposals from all qualified organizations, including for-profit entities, provided the entity can meet the scope and requirements outlined in the RFP. The City of Gastonia encourages any entity type to submit a proposal, and appreciates the commitment to serving the community.

QUESTION 2: ZONING REQUIREMENTS

I understand that some buildings are zoned for overnight or congregate shelter use. Are there specific zoning requirements for operating an overnight shelter, and could this pose a challenge?

Question Source: ☐ Question Portal ☒ Pre-Proposal Conference

QUESTION 2 RESPONSE

There are not any anticipated zoning challenges with this initiative. Because the shelter is City-sponsored and intended as a temporary emergency response, similar to responses for natural disasters, it is exempt from standard zoning restrictions. All facilities must comply with applicable North Carolina Fire Code requirements.

QUESTION 3: CITY FACILITIES AND ADULT RECREATION CENTER (ARC) USE

I understand the City had considered using the Adult Recreation Center (ARC). Would the City be willing to provide a facility if an organization submitted a proposal to operate the shelter? Does the City currently have a facility, such as the ARC, available to serve as a cold weather shelter?

Question Source: ☐ Question Portal ☒ Pre-Proposal Conference



QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)

2025–2026 Cold-Weather Shelter or Warming Center: Facility Use and Operational Services

Issued: Friday, September 26, 2025

QUESTION 3 RESPONSE

No. The purpose of the RFP is to identify an organization that has an available facility and the ability to manage shelter operations. The City of Gastonia does not have a facility available nor is any of its facilities equipped to serve as a cold weather shelter.

QUESTION 4: FUNDING CLARIFICATION

Can you clarify the total funding amount of \$47,000 and the City's contribution of \$26,000? Is the \$47,000 inclusive of all services?

Question Source: ☐ Question Portal ☒ Pre-Proposal Conference

QUESTION 4 RESPONSE

Yes. The total funding available is \$47,000, which includes the City of Gastonia's contribution of \$26,000. The City partially funds police services in coordination with Gaston County, fully funds janitorial services, and contributes to the cost of a program support staff member—also in partnership with Gaston County. All services are covered within the \$47,000 total.

QUESTION 5: ALTERNATIVE CITY FACILITIES

If the Adult Recreation Center is not available, would the City consider offering another facility for shelter operations, or is that option off the table?

Question Source: ☐ Question Portal ☒ Pre-Proposal Conference

QUESTION 5 RESPONSE

At this time, the use of any City facility for shelter operations is not an option. The RFP specifically calls for organizations to provide use of their own facility.

QUESTION 6: CONTINGENCY PLANNING

If no organization is identified through the proposal process, how would the City of Gastonia manage the operation of a cold weather shelter? What are the next steps if no proposals are received?

Question Source: ☐ Question Portal ☒ Pre-Proposal Conference

QUESTION 6 RESPONSE

If no qualified proposals are received, the City of Gastonia will evaluate available options and explore alternative solutions for the best approach to address cold weather shelter needs.

-END-