Attachment A

NEW VISIONS
HOMELESS SERVICES

New Visions Homeless Services (NVHS) would like to occupy a building located at 1607 Avenue I to serve as a temporary warming center in Council Bluffs. A warming center is a short-term emergency shelter that operates when temperatures or a combination of precipitation, wind chill, and become dangerously inclement to human life. The purpose of the warming center is to prevent death and injury from exposure to the elements and also avoid destruction to community property as some individuals seek refuge in abandoned buildings and structures. The warming shelter would be operational during the winter months of January through the middle of April if still needed due to colder temperatures. This will be a temporary service that will be provided to the city and once warming center is closed NVHS will then resume offering all programming out the main campus located at 1435 N. 15th St., Council Bluffs, IA.

NVHS's Warming Center will center around the circumstances of persons who are unsheltered due to a personal state of homelessness and who, for one reason or another, do not utilize existing homeless shelters. There are many reasons why individuals opt not to stay at shelters be it wait lists or a variety of other of other circumstances.

The goal of NVHS's warming center is to be open and staffed from 9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. 7 days a week. The warming center will offer hot meals, showers, clothing, hygiene items and the availability to work with a case manager to help offer solutions to their homeless crisis. NVHS's will also coordinate with outside programs to help serve this population. The warming center is crucial to our community as there has been an increase of women experiencing street-level homelessness and couples living in their vehicles. When there is no availability for women at any local shelters, and we are experiencing extreme cold temperatures the warming center will be open to have local single women stay overnight. Our current women/family shelter has a capacity of 20 women a night leaving many with no options in the cold. A case manager will work daily with the women to make sure all other options are exhausted before we make the decision to stay open for the night. NVHS understands that the best option is to have women go to a local shelter to receive wrap around services, but also understands that they have capacity they observe which is different than NVHS's low barrier men's shelter that sleeps overflow men on mats in their dining hall.