

Beds will be made available in partnership with A Place Called Home, a local emergency shelter and organization that provides homeless outreach and support programs. Beds will be available nightly when temperatures hit -10 or below, on a first-come, first-serve basis until March 31 and can be accessed by contacting the organization at [705-928-2543](tel:705-928-2543). Additional motel beds will be made available to meet added demand.

Some of funds have also been allocated to provide food and laundry services, as well as transportation for people that access the winter response beds.

“These are the hardest months of the year for the homeless, this year more than ever with the added stress of COVID-19,” stated Kawartha Lakes manager of housing services Hope Lee. “This funding couldn’t be more needed right now and we can’t thank United Way Simcoe Muskoka enough for making it available, as well as A Place Called Home for providing beds.”

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Kawartha Lakes and A Place Called Home are taking all necessary precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and to operate within the guidelines of the province-wide shut down and stay-at-home order. The program should also help alleviate the risk of COVID-19, as all beds are single occupancy.

Reaching Home aligns with Kawartha Lakes’ housing and homelessness programs, which are guided by the City’s 10 year housing and homelessness plan that outlines priorities for services.

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