



Office of  
Mayor Jay Ruais  
**NEWS RELEASE**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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**BMA Approves Mayor Ruais' 19-Month Initiative for Homeless Shelter and Winter Warming**

**Manchester, NH** – Last night, the Board of Aldermen approved Mayor Ruais' 19-month plan to provide critical shelter services for Manchester's most medically fragile and aged homeless. Included in this plan is winter warming capacity for fatality prevention and a doubling of the transitional beds available at 1269 Café.

The plan unfolds in two phases:

- Phase One: Continues operations at the 39 Beech Street shelter through February 28, 2026, preserving its 40 emergency beds and daily services for 40-50 guests. Maintaining this facility prevents the displacement of up to 90 individuals, including many who are elderly or medically fragile. Additionally, continued operation of this site avoids an estimated \$121,000 per month in potential hotel placement costs the city is legally obligated to provide those in need.
- Phase Two: The 39 Beech Street Shelter and Engagement Center closes on February 28, and on March 1, 2026, the city will launch a new 20-bed, high-barrier shelter and winter warming site. This facility will shelter those who are homeless and have a chronic health condition, physical disabilities, or are in advanced age.

The initiative builds on the progress made at the Engagement Center at 39 Beech Street which has realized the following successes in the last year:

- Helped 60 individuals secure permanent housing
- Facilitated 49 residents in obtaining vital documents
- Supported 40 people entering detox or recovery programs
- Assisted 19 individuals in finding employment

The current shelter population includes:

- 21 people with chronic health conditions
- 20 with physical disabilities
- 8 using wheelchairs (2 due to amputations)
- 5 seniors over age 65
- 1 person with a walker and 2 reliant on oxygen 24/7

The plan's winter warming strategy is essential to protecting this vulnerable population, and the city. Without this plan, individuals would be forced onto the streets just as temperatures drop, risking hypothermia and creating logistical strain on emergency responders. Continued shelter operations also avoid decentralizing warming efforts across multiple city sites, preserving efficiency and safety. This initiative is made possible through broad community support including a collaborative funding effort.

Phase One (September 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026) preserves operations at the 39 Beech Street Shelter and Engagement Center through the winter:

Category	Cost
Staffing	\$524,100
Rent	\$175,000
Food	\$10,500
Supplies	\$10,500
Waste	\$7,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$727,100</b>

Payment Source	Amount
Hospitals Contribution	\$250,000
Mayor’s Office ARPA	\$143,492.84
City AHTF: FY26 Approved	\$50,000
Winter Warming from FY25	\$48,032
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$491,524.84</b>

As part of the agreement with funding entities, the Mayor will use the donated funds to leverage additional contributors into this initiative.

Phase Two (April 1, 2026 – March 31, 2027) launches a new high-barrier, 20 bed shelter with winter warming capacity:

Category	Cost
Staffing	\$427,080
Rent	\$72,000
Food	\$9,000
Supplies	\$6,000
Waste	\$4,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$518,580</b>

Entity	Payment
City AHTF	\$375,000
Welfare Dept. General Welfare for Temporary Housing Assistance	\$150,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$525,000</b>

Additionally, the plan provides \$50,000 in funding to 1269 Café, a nonprofit transitional housing program that will double its sober housing capacity from 12 to 24 beds. This high-barrier, no-cost program offers structure, community support, and a pathway to long-term recovery and housing stability. With last night’s approval, the necessary CIP-amending resolutions and budget authorizations will be brought to the next Board of Mayor and Aldermen meeting on September 2<sup>nd</sup> for approval.

Mayor Ruais Released the Following Statement:

“I am deeply appreciative of the Board’s approval of this plan, without which, the city would have had to address 80-90 individuals being immediately displaced onto our streets on September 1 with no long-term plan to care for those medically fragile, or a plan to conduct winter warming. This would have been devastating to our downtown community, and city writ large.

We have worked tirelessly with our community partners to create a compassionate, coordinated, and fiscally responsible plan that protects lives and builds toward lasting solutions. Manchester has seen far too many cycles of temporary fixes, and this plan marks a deliberate shift away from reactive spending and toward coordinated, sustainable care.

Our goal is to stabilize lives, reduce the strain on city services, residents and visitors, while ultimately helping people transition into permanent housing. This will allow us to meet our goal of preventing fatalities in the winter months, while caring for the most vulnerable in our community. Importantly, these centralized building locations also help prevent large scale encampments in the downtown and around our city.”