



COLUMBIA  
**DREAMCENTER**



## **Columbia Dream Center Shelter Information**

### **Emergency Shelter Intakes (after 3pm Monday-Friday and weekends)**

Domestic Violence victims with police escort on site. Evening staff will call administrative staff for all emergency intakes.

Code Weather (called by the county) Code blue too cold, code red too hot.

**Call 211 all other times**

### **Non-Emergency Intakes**

In an effort to protect guests, volunteers, staff, and the community, all intakes must be processed and cleared, before being admitted to the shelter.

To be added to the processing/wait list:

Individuals 18 and over who need shelter services should call **717-449-0492** and provide:

First and Last name spelled as shown on State ID

Date of Birth

Last Used Mailing address

Ability to use top bunk or have a medical requirement to use a lower bunk

**Chart assessments can be done with staff by appointment.**

**Walk-ins** may provide information at our **Restart Center weekdays 8am-3pm**. Staff will process info when available and make a call back to schedule an intake appointment or provide referral resources. Eligible Clients on the wait list without a contact phone# should return to the day center and check availability with staff.

### **Who Qualifies?**

- Residents and family members of Columbia residents and close surrounding areas.
- Individuals with a dated bed at another location may be bridged until diverted to their destination.
- Individuals with case management services who are actively working to improve their lives.
- Cleared Background checks done using the USJP of PA and Megans Law websites.

### **Who Does Not Qualify?**

- Megans law offenders will not be admitted
- Violent Felony offenders will not be admitted
- If an individual has legal concerns, they are required to follow their mandated requirements and clear warrant checks prior to intake
- Individuals from outside of Lancaster County  
(We can still provide resources through our Day Center for those from outside of the county)
- We are not currently equipped to handle some disabilities

### **Case by Case Review**

All other cases and charges are on a case-by-case staff review. We are willing to work with 2<sup>nd</sup> chance style programs by providing resources, recovery connections, job search help and more for those willing to improve. We also have community service hours available for mandated completion hours. Individuals from other areas may also be bridged for a brief period to reach their home destination.

### **Expectations**

**NO weapons or illegal items, including drug paraphernalia. If found it will result in discharge.** Respecting personal boundaries etc. Clients may not miss bed nights without staff permission and have a 9:30 pm curfew.

Clients must maintain progress towards goals they set during their intake in 4 categories:

**Health:** Physical & Mental health care upkeep, seeing doctors and other clinical connections.

**Finances:** Job searching or applying for disability (with a doctor's referral) Saving money towards car or housing goals. Continuing education, improving a low credit score, etc.

**Social / Spiritual:** Building healthy relationships, volunteering, attending faith of choice services, recovery groups. Sometimes this goal is just avoiding negative people and fixing their focus.

**Housing Prep:** Consistent income (6 months or more is what month landlords want to see), saving money, apartment searching, submitting applications, case management, furniture services, etc.

Clients meet with staff weekly to review progress.

Clients are expected to maintain respectful behavior both at the Columbia Dream Center and in the community. Clients are not allowed to sit on storefronts or private properties if not a customer or without owner permission. Evidence of disrespect in the community will result in discharge.

Non-Workers who can participate attend a weekly adopt-a-block event collecting litter on routes between the church and borough parks or do other volunteer activities until employment is secured.

**Clients have access to shelter and day center areas at separate times.**

Shelter 5pm-8am: meets a client's needs of sleeping, meals, hygiene care, and case management.

**Only currently admitted shelter clients may enter the building between 5pm-8am.**

Restart Center 8am-3pm: meets a client's needs of resume building, computer access, job search, apply for assistance, professional connections, recovery support, ID, and other resources.

**The building is closed for 2 hours on weekdays from 3pm-5pm**

**Closed on Saturday 8am-5pm.**

**Open for Sunday service 10am-11am. Closed Sunday 11am-5pm**

Non workers who are guests may receive a bus pass through volunteering to get to the mall, library, shops, parks, or other open centers in the county during our closed hours. Workers usually have bus or vehicle access.

Anyone actively being disrespectful in the community does not have the needed mindset to be admitted and thrive in the shelter and would not be permitted to stay. Discharges due to not following the rules are for a period of 30 days (about 4 and a half weeks) before someone can re-apply for services. Serious offenses are added to a do not return list.

**Evidence of community complaints suspected to be a shelter guest should be sent to [Office@columbiahas.org](mailto:Office@columbiahas.org)**

**or call to speak with shelter staff, phone 717-449-0492.**