



## OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

**NEWS  
RELEASE**

12/ 20/ 2022

# El Paso Collaborates with El Paso ISD to Identify Temporary Shelter Facilities for Humanitarian Crisis

**EL PASO, Texas**—The El Paso Office of Emergency Management (OEM) in collaboration with the City of El Paso and the El Paso Independent School District have identified two vacant schools to serve as temporary sheltering facilities for migrants.

“OEM is extremely grateful to City Manager Tommy Gonzalez and El Paso ISD Superintendent Diana Sayavedra for working together to address this growing humanitarian crisis and be able to welcome the migrants in a safe and humane manner,” said Emergency Management Coordinator Jorge Rodriguez. “We want to stress to the community that safety is of the utmost importance, and we will provide heightened security measures to care for migrants, staff, and the community.”

OEM will be preparing the former Bassett Middle School, in Central El Paso, and the former Morehead Middle School, in West El Paso, for priority use for women, children, and families.

“All eyes are on El Paso and for this reason, we must show the world the compassion our community is known for and illustrate the resilience and strength of our region,” said City Manager Tommy Gonzalez. “El Paso ISD has been a phenomenal partner to help us stand up this shelter with amazing timeliness.”

“In times of crisis it is important for the community to work collaboratively to assist those in need,” said El Paso ISD Superintendent Diana Sayavedra. “In collaboration with the City of El Paso and other entities, the district will provide facilities for sheltering purposes to support the city’s efforts. Be assured that the safety and security of our students, staff, and community is the district’s top priority.”

### **ROVING TEAMS AND ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

The City and OEM continue sending roving teams to the various areas where migrants are congregating to provide transportation services and/or temporary shelter. The City has initiated the use of three (3) hotels to use as emergency shelter hotels to ensure individuals and families are able to get off the streets and out of the freezing temperatures.

The City and OEM are also preparing the use of the El Paso Convention Center to expand shelter services later this week.

OEM is working with various agencies including the American Red Cross, United Way, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank, Salvation Army, and others to provide essential services such as food, bathrooms, showers, toiletries, and clothes.

For more information about the communities response to the humanitarian crisis including the City’s Migrant Situational Awareness Dashboard, visit [www.EIPasoTexas.gov/Migrant-Crisis](http://www.EIPasoTexas.gov/Migrant-Crisis).

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