

What Makes a Good Shelter?

MUST HAVES:

- Large open areas such as multi-purpose rooms and gyms for dorm space and possibly entire operation, including dorm, feeding, DHS, DMH, etc..
 - Question: what if there is only one large room to use for the shelter (excl. bathrooms)?
 - Answer: Assume a 60-40 split for dorming vs. non-dorming space.
 - Note: minimum dorming capacity should be 20 or more.
- Restrooms: near the dorm space & wheelchair accessible.
 - *Note, if there are no wheelchair accessible restroom stalls the shelter may still be added to the roster, but only used in a very narrow set of scenarios, such as small apartment fires with no clients that require a wheelchair accessible bathroom stall.*
- Accessible: located near major streets with plenty of parking with handicap parking stalls

NICE TO HAVE, BUT NOT REQUIRED

- Showers on-site...we can usually arrange for showers at a nearby gym.
- Extra rooms to support DHS, DMH, Client Casework, shelter admin & shelter worker break space.
- Separate room for feeding.
- Kitchen is a bonus for staging and storing food, but the ARC usually does not cook onsite.