



**Detroit Wayne  
Mental Health Authority**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Detroit Wayne is Warming up Winter Nights with Coats for the Homeless**

**DETROIT, MI – January 24, 2019** – The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA), is helping hundreds of homeless people stay warm by purchasing 200 Empowerment Plan’s EMPWR coats, in preparation for the Unsheltered Point in Time (PIT) Count organized by the Homeless Action Network of Detroit (HAND) on Wednesday, January 30th.

For the 4th year, DWMHA has arranged for coats to be distributed by its local Providers. Neighborhood Service Organization (NSO), Southwest Solutions(SWCS) and Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency (WMCAA) will distribute these coats which also double as a sleeping bag.

The PIT Count is an assessment of people who are experiencing homelessness. The count uses a system to determine the need within the community by interviewing individuals who are not in a shelter that night. Data and interviews will present a better picture of how many homeless people need assistance and help gauge how to better allocate resources.

The Empowerment Plan is a Detroit based non-profit organization focused on permanently elevating families from the generational cycle of homelessness. The organization developed and manufactures the EMPWR Coat that converts into a sleeping bag or an over-the shoulder-bag for easy transport when not in use.

DWMHA works to help the homeless population in Detroit and Wayne County through several programs and services offered by its network of Providers. Its system of care serves as a primary source of help for people battling homelessness or living with severe mental illness, developmental disabilities or substance use disorder. For 24/7 help, contact the helpline at 800-241-4949.

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**EDITORS NOTE:** For video and photo opportunity – NSO, SWCS and WMCAA will pick up from the Empowerment Plan distribution center located at **7640 Kercheval Avenue, Detroit, MI 48214** on **January 24 at 3:30 PM.**

*The Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority (DWMHA) is the largest and most diverse CMH system in Michigan. We are committed to being consumer and community focused, data driven and evidence based. Through programs and services that utilize promising best practices we hope to promote a community that is supportive and embraces individuals with mental illness, developmental disabilities and substance use disorder. We offer supports in Infant Mental Health, Integrated Healthcare, Supportive Housing, and Recovery to support self-determination and improving the health and quality of life for nearly 80,000 consumers and their families.*