Cooling Center Checklist

Existing locations may be designated as Cooling Centers, such as community centers, senior centers, libraries, local government buildings, or public locations such as malls. As designated Cooling Centers, these locations may extend their services to support the community throughout the heat season as well as during periods of high temperatures (e.g., by staying open later, opening earlier, or opening on weekends), or may only be available during their standard business hours. Locations may also be designated as temporary Cooling Centers that are activated only when temperatures are exceptionally high.

When designating a location as a Cooling Center, the financial cost and staffing or volunteer needs to operate the location as a Cooling Center should be considered carefully. Faith-based and non-profit organizations may be able to assist with identifying and operating potential Cooling Center sites and may already be doing so.

## Recommended Activation Thresholds

Cooling centers in [jurisdiction] should be activated when [insert local criteria for activation, such as when the NWS issues a heat alert, or when certain temperature or heat index thresholds are forecasted to be met].

## Recommendations and Suggestions for Cooling Center Locations

Following is a list of recommendations and suggestions for locations that are being considered for Cooling Centers.

**Recommended:**

* Air conditioning or equivalent (temperature maintained at 79°F)
* Accessible to people with disabilities or ADA compliant
* Ample seating
* Public restrooms that are accessible to people with disabilities
* Access to potable water (e.g., a drinking fountain, single-use bottled water)
* Parking access
* Proximity to public transit
* Access to 911 services (e.g., phone, payphone)
* Publicly advertised

**Suggested:**

* 24-7 operation
* Backup generators or alternative power sources
* On-site security
* Communications (e.g., phone, internet access, sign-language interpreters)
* Medical personnel such as nurses or aides
* Personal assistance services for people with disabilities and those with access or functional needs
* Transportation for those lacking their own, including wheelchair-accessible services
* Child-friendly and has materials for children to play with while at the center (e.g., books, blocks)
* Available entertainment (e.g., television, books, games)
* An area for pets
* Veterinary resources available if needed

***This list was adapted from:***

* [***Marin County Extreme Temperature Emergency Annex***](https://www.marinsheriff.org/assets/downloads/OES/Extreme-Temp-Annex_July-2010_final-approved.pdf)***, Appendix C: Extreme Temperature Center Criteria.***
* ***[Ventura County Contingency Plan for Heat/Cold Weather Events](https://s29710.pcdn.co/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Contingency-Plan-for-Heat-Cold-Event-2020.pdf), Appendix H: Cooling Center Checklist***