

Homeless shelter beds increase

PROVIDENCE (AP) — The number of beds available in Rhode Island's homeless shelters this winter is being boosted by 88.

Noreen Shawcross, chief of the state Office of Housing and Community Development said that shelters, churches and other non-profit agencies helped fund

the beds.

The state agency had earlier agreed to spend money on 58 winter beds in churches and shelters from Woonsocket to Westerly.

Shawcross says the Roman Catholic Diocese of Providence and United Way worked with the state to add 30 more beds "when it

became apparent that there was a shortfall as the cold weather approached."

Homeless advocates say the state's shelters are full now, and the situation will worsen this winter as more people lose their jobs and are unable to make mortgage and rent payments.

