

Early in the day, you can see them start to camp out at the West Avenue doors of the First Baptist church in La Crosse. They're the people lining up to get inside the warming center at the church. Some will wait for hours to be one of the first in line. Because, once they reach fifteen people, the center has to start turning people away. Which has happened a few times already this year, says center director Mary Fitzpatrick

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Fitzpatrick says she's considering asking the city after this winter to expand the number of people she's allowed to admit into the warming center. But she's not sure that the basement of the church will ever be big enough to fill the nightly demand.