

Planning Timeline & Contract Lifecycle Guide

January 2026 → December 31, 2027

Crestline's contract lifecycle is designed to align with how real preparedness decisions unfold over time—rather than forcing facilities into reactive or mid-season decisions. The timeline below explains how planning, enrollment, and coverage naturally progress from early-year preparation through peak hurricane risk and into the following year.

January – March 2026

Foundational Planning Period

This is the lowest-pressure window of the year.

- Facilities review preparedness materials, transportation assumptions, and internal staffing realities.
- Coverage decisions made during this period provide full-year continuity without urgency.
- Early alignment ensures priority continuity during surge events and supports system-wide readiness.

Facilities that engage during this period benefit from the greatest flexibility and the clearest planning horizon.

April – June 2026

System Readiness & Finalization Window

As hurricane season approaches, planning transitions into execution readiness.

- Transportation models become locked in across the system.
- Vendor capacity, routing assumptions, and mutual aid coordination are finalized.
- Facilities under contract are fully integrated into peak-season readiness planning.

This period marks the transition from optional planning to operational dependency.

July – September 2026

Active Hurricane Season

This is a period of heightened operational risk.

- Priority continuity is reserved for facilities with active annual coverage.
- Late onboarding becomes increasingly limited as surge demand escalates.
- The value of early alignment becomes most visible during this phase.

Facilities without coverage often discover that options narrow significantly during this window.

October 15, 2026

Lifecycle Transition Point

October 15 marks the formal transition into the next contract year lifecycle.

- Open enrollment begins for **2027 contracts**.
- The 2026 contract year is no longer offered as a standalone term.
- Enrollment decisions now determine whether coverage bridges the end of hurricane season or begins the following year.

This transition point exists specifically to avoid contracts expiring during hurricane season.

October 15 – December 31, 2026

Late-Season Bridge Window

Facilities enrolling during this window may:

- **Activate immediate coverage through December 31, 2026** by enrolling in the **2027 contract**, with late-season coverage added at a flat rate equal to **one-third (1/3) of the 2027 annual contract rate**. This structure bridges coverage through the end of the 2026 hurricane season and continues uninterrupted through **December 31, 2027**.
- Elect to begin coverage January 1, 2027.

Either path avoids a mid-season contract expiration and preserves structural continuity.

January – December 2027

Full-Year Continuity

Facilities under the 2027 contract experience:

- Predictable, uninterrupted coverage
- No mid-season renewal decisions
- Full integration into annual readiness planning and surge prioritization

The system operates as intended when contracts align with the calendar year and hurricane risk cycle.

Why This Structure Creates Value

This lifecycle approach:

- Reduces decision fatigue by aligning choices with natural planning phases
- Prevents contracts from expiring during peak hurricane risk
- Preserves equitable access during surge events
- Rewards early, thoughtful planning without penalizing caution
- Keeps the same facilities covered year over year, strengthening continuity

Rather than forcing urgency, our approach quietly **removes risk by design**.

Understanding Enrollment Timing & Readiness Alignment

Transportation readiness value is not evenly distributed across the year.

While coverage exists year-round, the **primary operational value** of evacuation readiness in storm prone regions is concentrated during hurricane season. The remainder of the year supports preparation, coordination, verification, and system positioning that make hurricane-season execution reliable.

Facilities enrolling earlier benefit from:

- Full participation in advance planning cycles
- Early vendor positioning
- **Priority continuity during surge events** — Reliable contingency coverage is not accidental; it is intentionally designed and reserved. During peak-demand periods, facilities without full-year coverage may be unable to activate service late in the season, as priority access is allocated to those maintaining continuous annual coverage. Full-year participation not only supports system readiness for surge conditions, but also ensures uninterrupted coverage for the same facilities throughout the entire year.

Facilities enrolling later still receive full operational protection, but enter a readiness system that has already been built and maintained in advance of their arrival.

For this reason, enrollment timing affects **planning leverage**, not coverage integrity.

This structure ensures:

- No lapse during hurricane season
- No mid-season renewal pressure (All contracts expire on December 31st, which is why open enrollment for 2027 becomes available on October 15th, 2026, for the 2027 calendar year contract. No degradation of system reliability)

Late-Season Enrollment Options (Effective October 15) — Beginning October 15, facilities may enroll in one of two ways:

1. Immediate Coverage Add-On

Facilities seeking coverage during the remainder of the current year (October 15 through December 31) may activate service immediately by enrolling in the upcoming calendar-year contract. This initial coverage period is issued as a flat-rate add-on equal to one-third of the annual contract cost and bridges coverage through the end of the current hurricane season. The full contract term then continues uninterrupted through the end of the 2027 year, avoiding any contract expiration during hurricane season.

2. Future-Year Start

Facilities may alternatively enroll during open enrollment and elect to begin coverage on January 1 of the upcoming year at the standard annual contract rate, with no current-year activation.

Short-term, discounted, or standalone contracts for the final portion of the current year are not offered. This structure is designed to maintain continuity, system readiness, and equitable access during peak seasonal demand.