

# Emergency Needs



## Accessing Emergency Shelter

### EHARC

1. Call 3-1-1 to request placement in a shelter. Have your household names and size ready. Remember to record the request # provided by the operator.
2. You may be asked to wait several hours or days before being placed in a shelter.

### Shelter Placement

1. Upon referral through 311, a family is placed in a shelter with available beds based on need.
2. The city's system includes emergency and interim shelters with more than 3,000 beds across 50 facilities.
3. Interim shelters are open 24 hours. Youth, families and individuals may stay up to 120 days at an interim shelter.

**Tip!** To avoid going through 311, you can also search for low-threshold or emergency shelters that offer nightly beds (Franciscan, Ujima, The Crib, etc).

**Tip!** Call 311 from a police station or hospital. You can wait here overnight while your request is processed by the city.



## Coordinated Entry System (CES)

City-wide list that serves as a front door to connect individuals and families facing homelessness to long-term housing and support.

### Eligibility:

1. Families that are living in a shelter, public place, or outside or fleeing domestic violence.
2. Youth (14-24) that are living in a shelter, outside, or doubled-up or fleeing domestic violence

### Access:

Text 773-786-9916, call 312-361-1707, or visit [www.csh.org/chicagoces](http://www.csh.org/chicagoces) for a list of CES assessment appointments and locations.



## Free Birth Certificates and State IDs

Individuals experiencing homelessness are eligible for free birth certificates and state IDs.

**Eligibility:** Individuals living doubled-up, in shelter, or outside

**Access:** Request a homeless verification letter from your case manager or STLS liaison.

**Tip!** Call the Law Project of the Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness at 1-800-940-1119 for assistance.

# Housing Assistance



## Chicago Housing Authority (CHA)

Permanent housing funded by the local and federal government. Rent is subsidized and much cheaper than normal "market-rate" rent. Housing is provided either as a voucher or as placement in CHA-managed housing. Wait list for units can range from 6 months-20 years.

**Eligibility:** Certain criminal offenses will disqualify participants. Participants must be citizens OR meet immigrant status requirements. Must meet income guidelines.

**Access:** Apply for the site-based wait list at [applyonline.thecha.org](http://applyonline.thecha.org). For better success chances, pick a wait list with the shortest estimated amount of time (ex: 6-12 months).

**Tip!** Apply for both the Project-Based Voucher (PBV) and Public Housing (PH) programs.

Check the eligibility requirements for each site (senior, disabled, etc.) to avoid disqualification.



## Chicago Low Income Trust Fund

Voucher program that matches individuals to low-income housing. The program is city-funded but units are managed by private landlords or non-profits.

**Eligibility:** Individuals falling below certain income levels.

**Access:** Review the list of 600 properties included in the trust fund. Call each management group directly to ask for vacancy and the application. View the list of properties at <https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/doh/provdrs/renters/svcs/affordable-rental-housing-resource-list.html>

You may also be matched through the CES system, although matches are rare.



 Law Center for  
Better Housing

## Legal Aid Organizations

Both Legal Aid Chicago and Law Center for Better Housing offer legal support for housing issues, such as eviction and housing discrimination.

Legal Aid Chicago can be reached by phone at (312) 341-1070 or applying online for housing legal advocacy.

**Tip!** The intake line accepts calls weekdays beginning at 8 am. Legal Aid Chicago takes a limited number of calls each day, so it is best to call early.

Law Center for Better Housing can be reached at (312) 347-7600.

# Additional Aid



## SNAP/LINK, TANF, Medicaid, and WIC Benefits

Public benefits are grants to assist families with necessities such as food, clothing, and other household goods. Medicaid offers no-cost health insurance.

**Eligibility:** Individuals falling below the federal poverty level. US Citizens or individuals with children who are US citizens.

**Access:** Apply online at [www.abe.illinois.gov](http://www.abe.illinois.gov).

**Tip!** Call the CCH Law Project at 1-800-940-1119 for assistance with application process or loss of benefits.



## Chicago Furniture Bank

The Chicago Furniture Bank allows a household to pick a home's worth of furniture from their warehouse for a low fee.

**Eligibility:** Individuals or households that are transitioning from homelessness to permanent housing.

**Access:** There is a \$100 fee for the furniture package. Contact CCH at 312-641-4140 for a referral to the furniture bank.



## FREE GED/HiSET Courses

The City Colleges of Chicago offer free in-person and online GED classes for adults.

**Access:** Apply online or in-person at any of the 6 city college locations.

# Employment Opportunities



## GreenCorp Chicago

Green job training and landscaping training  
Offers 7-9 months of employment with on-job training  
Graduates have found work in companies like Cardno, Christy Webber, Safety Kleen and AES

homepage: <https://greencorpschicago.org/>

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## Safer Foundation

Employment resources for returning citizens  
Offers job placement support, training + education, and reentry support + wellness programs

homepage: <https://saferfoundation.org/>

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## Growing Home

Englewood-based farming program  
Offers 25 hrs/wk of paid on-the-job experience and training, a 12 wk employment training program, and an 8 wk IT-training program

homepage: <https://www.growinghomeinc.org/>

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## Greater West Town Community Development project

Offers woodworking, shipping, and receiving vocational training; job placement support; and West Town Academy (an alternative high school for students between the ages of 16 and 21 not enrolled in a traditional high school or GED program who wish to return to school and obtain a high school diploma)

homepage: <https://gwtp.org/>

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## UNITEHERE! Culinary Hospitality Institute (UHCHI)

Provides culinary training for an in-demand career in hotels, banquet halls, restaurants and sports centers around Chicago. Prepares you for a career as a Chef de Partie and supports you as you take the first steps on this great career

homepage: <https://hire360chicago.com/unite-here/>

Chicago   
Coalition to end  
Homelessness

# Emergency Assistance Programs



## Homeless Prevention Funds

Up to \$2,000 in one-time emergency assistance to Chicago residents facing an economic crisis. Funds may be used for rent, security deposit, mortgage, or utilities.

Eligibility:

- Must be a Chicago resident.
- Must be able to document crisis (job loss, medical emergency, loss of public benefits etc.).
- Resident must document ability to afford rent & utilities in the future without assistance.

Call 311 or 312-744-5000 and ask for "rental assistance" or the homeless prevention program.

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## DFSS Emergency Rental Assistance

One-time assistance towards rent or rent arrears.

Eligibility:

- Chicago resident
- Must be able to document imminent eviction due to loss of income, fire/flood, order to vacate, or domestic violence.

Apply for emergency rental assistance at one of the 6 DFSS Community Service Centers.

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## Students in Temporary Living Situations (STLS)

Students in unstable living situations are eligible for benefits through the Chicago Public Schools system.

The program works to remove barriers to education such as transportation assistance, fee waivers, free uniforms, and more.

Eligibility:

- Students living doubled-up, in shelter, outside, motels, abandoned buildings, or any area not meant for habitation.

Notify your school clerk or STLS liaison that you want to be enrolled in the STLS program. Schools do not require any "proof" of homelessness. Students should be able to complete same-day enrollment.