

North Side Housing and Support Services
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Uptown Homeless Shelter Gets Last-minute Reprieve City and Foundation Provide the Needed Funds

The 72-bed shelter for homeless men at the Peoples Church in the Uptown neighborhood of Chicago will remain open due to a large, multi-year donation from the Chicago-based Reva and David Logan foundation and renewed support from the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS).

"This eleventh-hour donation has saved the shelter from permanently closing at the end of today, December 23, as previously announced," said Richard Ducatzenzeiler, Executive Director of North Side Housing & Supportive Services.

"Support from the community during this period was overwhelming," Ducatzenzeiler said. "We hope that the interest, and financial support, remains strong so we can continue to provide these critical services to our community. We will continue the fight to end homelessness in Chicago and hope that all Chicagoans will join us."

The shelter, which operates 365 days a year, is the only emergency shelter for men in the Uptown neighborhood. In 2016, it served more than 300 men and since the agency took over operations in 2012, more than 1,000 men have been served.

"North Side Housing & Supportive Services will continue to operate the shelter with support from DFSS and is seeking additional private support to prevent future risks of closure," Ducatzenzeiler said.

Alisa Rodrigues, Deputy Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) provided the following statement:

"After months of working closely with North Side Housing and Support Services (NSHSS) on a plan to ensure continuity for their clients, we have arrived at a solution that leverages our continued funding to keep the shelter open this winter and moving forward. Our goal has always been to ensure that this shelter would remain open, and this renewed contract will support NSHSS with a new operational plan to meet their needs, while ultimately delivering quality services to meet the needs of our clients."

(more)

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Background:

The new contract leverages continued support of city funds, which will be matched by the shelter's funder. DFSS and the City will continue to work with NSHSS on their needs, including capital improvements and programming to assist in serving our homeless population on the north side.

The city will work with NSHSS to ensure there will be no interruption in service, and that the shelter is able to once again resume service to the 72 capacity they were once operating at. When DFSS learned earlier this year that this shelter would close permanently by the end of the year, we acted quickly to ensure a smooth transition for all impacted clients.

Expanding and maintaining a strong network of shelter options is a key component of our citywide homeless strategy, which Mayor Emanuel had made a top priority throughout his administration.