

# Welcome Home

**HH** Center for Housing & Health

2023 **Annual Report**



# LEADER'S LETTER

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In 2023, the Center for Housing and Health welcomed hundreds of Chicagoans home. A safe and stable home is essential to health and well-being. Once CHH participants are connected to housing, we often see other areas of life come together for them: regular health care, mental health support, employment, stability. When our participants have a home, they have fewer emergency room visits, less hospital stays, and overall reduced mortality. Our dedicated staff and network of partners, including those who provide supportive wraparound services to participants who need them, contribute immensely to these outcomes. Being welcomed to a home of your own is nothing short of transformative.

In the first year of our Strategic Plan, “**Welcome Home**,” we grew our infrastructure, partnerships, and national presence. We made strides in centering racial equity, ensuring our work is people-centered and just. This included investing in CHH staff and subcontracted partner staff to move toward paying everyone a living wage in Chicagoland.

We continued to grow to better meet the needs of the community. CHH received new harm reduction funding to provide expanded substance use counseling, overdose prevention, and provider training. We were awarded a grant to provide permanent supportive housing to our neighbors living outside. CHH also began welcoming people back who directly left prison so they would immediately have a safe home in our communities.

We have a lot to be proud of and thankful for this year. I am pleased to share with you our progress and growth over the past year chronicled in this report, and I am thankful to everyone who made it possible: our supporters, partners, staff, and most of all, our participants.



With gratitude,  
**Peter Toepfer,**  
Executive Director

# CENTERING RACIAL EQUITY

## STRATEGIC PLAN **PRIORITY 1**

### **RACE EQUITY ACTION PLAN**

#### **\$879,000 TO BLACK-LED ORGANIZATIONS | 22% INCREASE**

In 2023, CHH provided more than **\$879,000** to Black-led organizations which is a **22%** increase from FY22.

This represents **28%** of funding going out to community partners.

#### **BIPOC-IDENTIFIED STAFF | 33% INCREASE**

CHH increased the percentage of BIPOC-identified staff by **33%** through intentional recruitment efforts. Importantly, BIPOC-identified staff also now represent **56%** of leadership positions.

#### **RACIAL EQUITY BOARD COMMITTEE**

CHH Board members joined the new Racial Equity Board Committee.

#### **HOUSING POLICY POSITION**

CHH hired its first dedicated housing policy position to lead the “racism as a public health crisis” policy initiative.

#### **BRING CHICAGO HOME CAMPAIGN**

CHH provided leadership to the Bring Chicago Home Campaign, an effort to address homelessness by creating a dedicated funding stream. Through significant advocacy, Bring Chicago Home passed City Council to be added as a referendum question to the presidential primary ballot.



# STRENGTHENING ORGANIZATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

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## STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY 2

### EQUITABLE COMPENSATION

In 2023, CHH established a minimum wage of **\$50,000** for all staff and most subcontracted staff to move toward providing a living wage. In addition to significant investment in 2022, this step increased retention rates by **10%**.



# FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL



FLEXIBLE HOUSING POOL

The Flexible Housing Pool of Chicago and Cook County (FHP) is a multi-agency program that helps people experiencing homelessness who cycle through public crisis systems to find permanent housing. The FHP is different from traditional housing programs, as it focuses on reducing costs to the health care sector while improving individual health care outcomes. While housing over 1,000 people and reducing costs to crisis systems by \$1.4 million, the program demonstrated its success in many other ways, including:

## 1,000TH PERSON HOUSED

The FHP Housed its **1,000th** person in 2023.

## 1,283 INDIVIDUALS | 738 HOUSEHOLDS

The FHP provided housing and wrap-around supportive services to **1,283** individuals in **738** households. During the year, **151** new households reached housing stability through the FHP.

## 434 CHILDREN | 301 FAMILIES

In 2023, the FHP served **434** children under the age of 18 and **301** families.

## 32 DAYS

The median number of days from enrollment in FHP to housing placement was **32** days.

## 97% | 12 MONTHS+

**97%** of households enrolled in FHP remained stably housed for at least **12** months.

## 93% | 24 MONTHS+

**93%** of households enrolled in FHP remained stably housed for at least **24** months.



## 37% LESS MORTALITY

## 19% LESS EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS

## 33% LESS INPATIENT DAYS

## 22% LESS JAIL REGISTRATION

FHP participants experienced **37%** reductions in mortality, **19%** fewer emergency dept visits, **33%** fewer inpatient days, and **22%** less jail registration as compared to people who frequently use crisis systems and are homeless in Chicago, but were not part of the FHP.



# MEET DEWAYNE ELLIOT

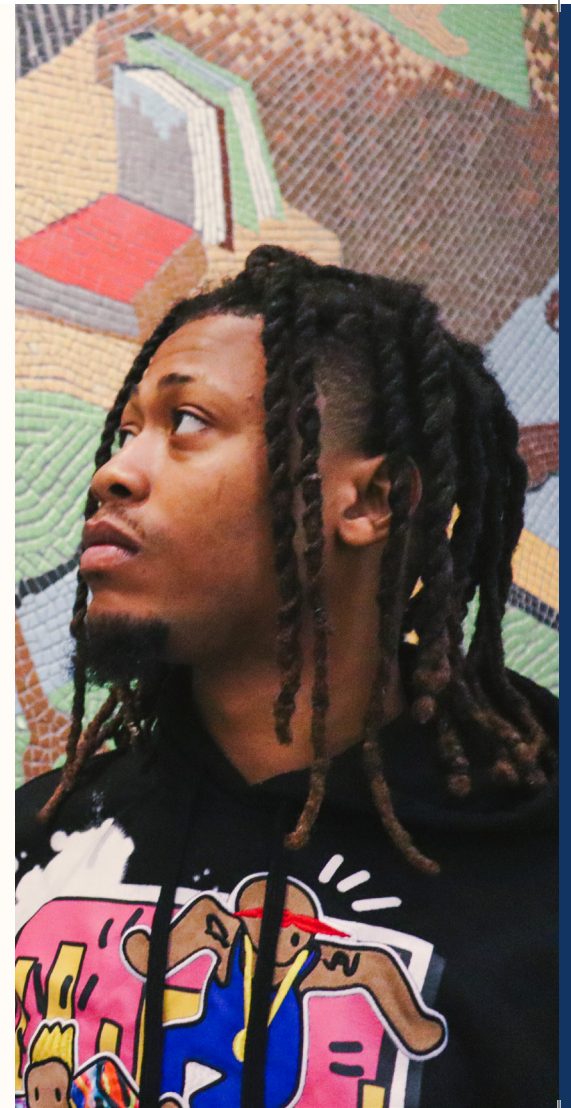
**DeWayne Elliot was connected to housing through the Flexible Housing Pool.**

**"Three years ago, I was experiencing homelessness. Since I've gotten in this program, I have done nothing but move up,"** he says.

The connections to services and resources he accessed through CHH were invaluable. **"CHH's Supportive Services gave me more ease of mind and a more level head. 'Cause then I knew that I had support. I never had somebody before on the backend who was rooting for me like, 'we got your back.'"**

Now, DeWayne is in job training and is on track to earn a full salary with benefits. **"I have a job through the Urban Efficiency Program, doing weatherization on homes, which gives me room to grow. I'll have my certification in a few months, so I not only have housing, I have a career and a job with medical benefits."**

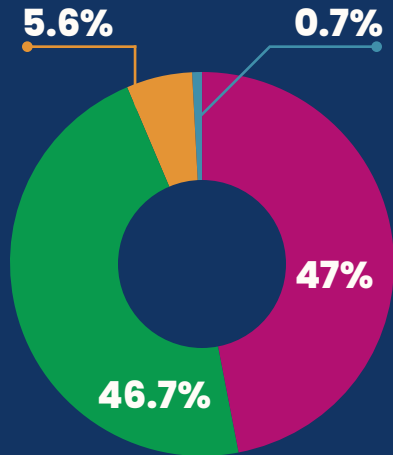
DeWayne serves on the FHP Youth Lived Experience Action Committee, where he can give insight and feedback to CHH services. He hopes to encourage other people to be optimistic about their possibilities and to get connected to housing through FHP. **"I want people to see me as a person just like them. I went through hell and high water. Life kept taking me left and I finally found a right lane. And I'm sticking with it. You can stick with it too. There are resources. You just got to learn how to navigate them. FHP does that."**



# CLIENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Demographics based on **1,720** clients in **1,036** households served across all CHH programs.

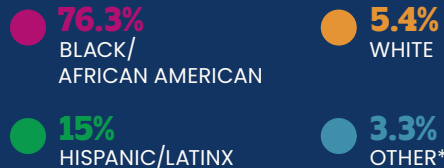
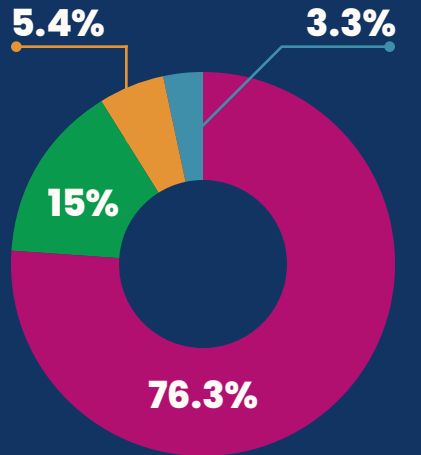
## Gender



Female and male gender categories inclusive of transgender and cisgender individuals.

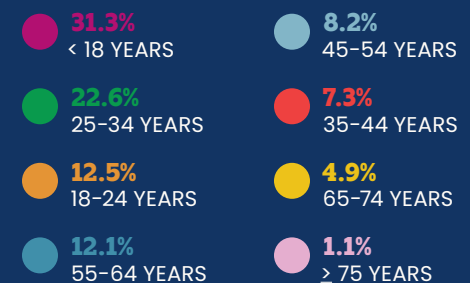
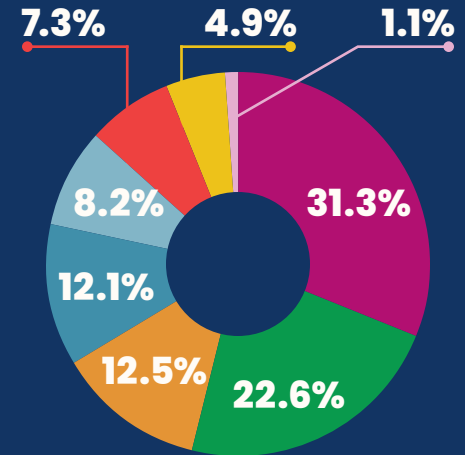
\*Gender non-binary/gender nonconforming/genderqueer

## Race and Ethnicity



\*Multi-Racial, Other, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Asian or Asian American, or American Indian or Alaska Native

## Age



# COLLABORATE THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

## STRATEGIC PLAN **PRIORITY 3**

### COORDINATED ENTRY

The Coordinated Entry System (CES) connects people who are experiencing homelessness to housing opportunities across Chicago. The CES uses a standardized housing assessment to understand the needs of households.

CHH facilitated **66** trainings for Skilled Assessors to compassionately, accurately and equitably complete these assessments for people across the city.

### PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

#### 184 HOUSEHOLDS

In 2023, **184** households received Permanent Supportive Housing.

#### 76 CHILDREN | 26 FAMILIES

Including **26** families, and **76** children under the age of 18.

#### 99% | 12 MONTHS+ 90% | 24 MONTHS+

Of the households enrolled: **99%** remained stably housed for at least 12 months; **90%** for 24 months.

## PARTNERS

Ascension  
Alexian Brothers  
Housing and  
Health Alliance

Chicago Family  
Health Center

Chicago House

Christian  
Community  
Health Center

Deborah's Place

Heartland  
Alliance Health

Heartland  
Human Care  
Services

Housing Forward

Inner Voice

La Casa Norte

North Lawndale  
Employment  
Network

Northside  
Housing and  
Supportive  
Services

Of Color, Inc.

Point Source  
Youth

Primo Center

Renaissance  
Social Services  
Inc.

SGA Youth and  
Family Services

Spanish  
Coalition for  
Housing

The Boulevard of  
Chicago

The Night  
Ministry

Thresholds

Unity Parenting  
and Counseling

Universal Family  
Connections

Westside Health  
Authority

Wholistic  
Alliance



# ENHANCE NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

## STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY 4

### REENTRY PROGRAM

To reduce arrest, recidivism and incarceration rates for people experiencing homelessness, CHH launched the Reentry Program in 2023 with funding from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority. With these funds, CHH and the Illinois Department of Corrections developed a process to directly transport individuals released from correctional institutions to move into their permanent home the same day. **15** people reached permanent supportive housing through this project so far with the goal of at least **50** total.

### CONFERENCES & COLLABORATIVES

CHH presented at **5** national and statewide conferences in 2023.

CHH led a regional Youth homelessness learning collaborative in partnership with national leader Point Source Youth to promote best practices in the field.

### CONNECTION TO HARM REDUCTION

**25** formerly homeless participants received ongoing in-home substance use counseling services.

**19** harm reduction trainings for **436** service providers.

**1,356** Narcan overdose prevention kits distributed.

### NARCAN NEWSSTANDS

The Connection to Harm Reduction (C2HR) program debuted a free Narcan Newsstand located just outside of AFC offices on the southwest corner of Monroe and Wells in the Loop. In its first two months of operation, the newsstand provided over **300** Narcan kits to the public.

# LOOKING AHEAD

## HEALTHY FUTURES

In 2024, CHH will begin Healthy Futures, a permanent supportive housing project that will focus exclusively on people living outdoors under bridges, in parks, encampments and on the CTA. These participants will be able to directly move into apartments from their experience of homelessness. Building on CHH's existing relationships with the healthcare system, all **100** participants will be frequent users of the region's healthcare systems.

"STABLE HOUSING PUT ME ON THE ROAD TO A CAREER THAT I CAN USE AS A STEPPING-STONE — BECAUSE THERE'S SO MUCH MORE THAT I WANT TO DO."

— DeWayne Elliot



## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE	FY23
Government Grants	\$13,923,281
Flexible Housing Pool	\$17,800,612
Contributions	\$159,216
Other	\$9,951
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$31,893,060</b>
EXPENSES	
Direct Client Support	\$24,290,148
Subcontractor Costs	\$3,021,583
Program Services	\$3,527,222
General & Administrative	\$933,609
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$31,772,562</b>
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	
Unrestricted	\$242,026
Temporarily Restricted	(\$121,528)
<b>Total Change in Net Assets</b>	<b>\$120,498</b>
<b>NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR</b>	<b>\$3,023,897</b>

## FUNDERS

Advocate Aurora Health	Michael Reese Health Trust
All Chicago Anonymous	Polk Bros. Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Illinois Foundation	Prince Charitable Trust
Chicago Department of Family & Supportive Services	Pritzker Family Foundation
Chicago Housing Authority	Service Coordination and Navigation (SCAN)
Cook County Health Corporation for Supportive Housing	South Side Health Communities Organization
CountyCare	The Chicago Community Trust
Elizabeth Morse Genius Charitable Trust	The City of Chicago
Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority (ICIJA)	The Crown Family Philanthropies
Illinois Department of Corrections	The Northern Trust Foundation
Illinois Department of Human Services	University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System
Medical Home Network	US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
Meridian Health Plan of Illinois	Wellness West

## BOARD MEMBERS

<b>Kuliva Wilburn</b> Chair
<b>Joanna Trotter</b> Vice-Chair
<b>Chad Thompson</b> Treasurer
<b>Stephanie Altman</b> Secretary
<b>Simone Koehlinger</b> Member (ex-officio)
<b>Chris O'Hara</b> Member
<b>Christy Prah</b> Member
<b>Alejandro Segura</b> Member
<b>Dr. Paviella Foster</b> Member

# Mission

CHH honors every person's right to a home and health care, by bridging the housing and health care systems, to improve the lives of Chicagoans experiencing homelessness.

# Vision

Every person has a place to call home that helps them reach their full potential.



Center for Housing & Health

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**HOUSINGFORHEALTH.ORG**