Encampment Strategy Plan
October 16, 2019
CoC Board Presentation
Encampment Plan Overview

The plan was based on DFSS engagement best practices, as well as San Francisco’s engagement efforts. San Francisco used a model where they were onsite at an encampment 24/7 for 30 days.

Chicago’s Plan:
• Provides guidance for City departments, City sister agencies, and delegate agencies

• Protect the legal rights of homeless persons, while protecting their health and safety and that of the community at large

• Work in coordination with:
  – the Taskforce Member Departments,
  – the Mayor’s Office,
  – the Chicago Continuum of Care,
  – NFP delegates
Why Resolve Encampments

**PROBLEM**

- Increase in public safety concerns in and around encampments
- Higher levels of substance abuse and communicable disease in large encampments
- Waiting until encampments are large in size makes the City’s ability to address homelessness more challenging

**GOAL**

- Assist as many people as possible by connecting them to shelter and support services
- Change culture on streets to permanently eliminate large, long term encampments
- Focus on effectiveness, legality and compassion while not redirecting entire service delivery system
**DFSS Encampment Model**

**The Model Includes:**

- A dedicated Encampment Mobile Response Team led by Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)
- DFSS’ existing Homeless Outreach Program (HOP) Manager, who manages the Encampment Mobile Response Team in collaboration with the Taskforce stakeholders

**Key Tasks Are:**

- Identify a targeted encampment to pinpoint factors such as location, overall condition of the area, number of people, etc.
- Assess the needs of that particular population
- Organize resources to continuously engage with the members of the population repeatedly and consistently
- Have a pool of flexible referral sources to incentivize transportation to shelter
- Ensure that there are shelter beds for each individual living in an encampment that is engaged
Response Levels

Depending on the number of residents at an encampment site, the encampment response is assigned a level:

**Level One** is categorized as an immediate need for high-level social services by all partner and city agencies, and requires an emergency response to persons in the encampment site.

**Level Two** is categorized as an active need for normal outreach social services by the delegate agency assigned to the area and city agencies.

**Level Three** is categorized as a standard need for normal crisis response level for social services by Catholic Charities and city agencies, and requires a standard response.

DFSS or a designated delegate agency conducts a scan to see how many individuals reside at the encampment and check the City’s shelter capacity for those individuals. In accordance with the Homeless Bill of Rights, the encampment plan will not be activated without there being shelter beds for each individual living in the encampment.
Level One Response

- **Indicators:** 10 people or more

- **Activated by:** DFSS Commissioner

- **Length on site:** Two weeks or more (evaluate after 10 days)

- **Hours:** 10am-2pm, 4 hours daily for partner/city agencies, 5 days per week; 8pm–1am, 4 hours nightly for Featherfist, 5 days per week

- **Assessment:** Full triage-mode

- **Services:** All partner/city agencies will be made available to provide services as directed by the HOP Manager
Level One Response

• Provide shelter referrals - Partnership with DFSS shelter programs and other shelters

• Have the mobile unit on site with a nurse on board to assess and triage clients with medical needs

• The following services will be available on the encampment site:
  • Skilled Coordinated Entry System assessors to input clients on the One List
  • Transportation to shelters
  • Information on local food pantries, drop in centers

• Provide snacks

• Clean area in collaboration with Streets and Sanitation

• Provide resources such as medical assistance, access to showering facilities, etc.
City Agency Support

Chicago Police Department
• Police need to remain on site at all times
• Provide Enforcement
• Ensure safety of staff, homeless, and the community

Chicago Streets and Sanitation
• Present when DFSS is on site
• Ensure Posting of the area
• Cleanup the requested area
• Remove abandoned property and trash

Chicago Department of Public Health
• Provide immediate medical attention for vulnerable clients
• Medical screenings
• Write prescriptions
• Administer Hepatitis A vaccinations

Chicago Park District
• Participate as needed on park district land or when park district land is nearby

Metropolitan Water Reclamation District
• Participate as needed on special projects to support access to Chicago River embankments

Illinois Department of Transportation
• Cleanup and assist with special projects on state property
Delegate Agency Support Partners

- Catholic Charities
  - Provide transportation
  - Provide shelter placement

- Featherfist
  - Conduct overnight scans
  - Conduct Coordinated Entry assessments

- Haymarket
  - Conduct Coordinated Entry assessments
  - Place clients into substance abuse programs

- The Salvation Army
  - Conduct Coordinated Entry assessments

- Thresholds
  - Provide mental health services
  - Make involuntary commitments when necessary
  - Conduct Coordinated Entry assessments

- Other Shelter Partners
  - Accept shelter referrals

- Polish American Association
  - Provide outreach/translation services

- Shelter System
  - 12 shelters across the city will participate

*The partner agencies may change depending on the communities and level of response activated*
Navigation Center
Low Barrier Shelter

• 40 bed program
• No curfew, clients can come and go as they please
• Flexible and allows for couples, pets and belongings

SUPPORT SERVICES
• Dedicated Case Manager
• A personal mailing address
• Showers
• Clothing
• Personal hygiene products
• Access to specialized services includes:
  – Mental health services
  – Medical assistance
  – Substance use disorder treatment
  – Legal assistance
  – Job opportunities/training
  – Housing programs
## LEVEL 1 ENCAMPMENTS
### COMPLETED TO DATE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dates</th>
<th>Locations</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 7 – 18 (2018)</td>
<td>200 N. Columbus Dr.</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29 – November 9 (2018)</td>
<td>515 S Washtenaw</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 25 – March 09 (2019)</td>
<td>Taylor and Desplaines</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 13-24 (2019)</td>
<td>CTA Redline (Howard St. and 95th St. Terminal)</td>
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<tr>
<td>August 26-30 (2019)</td>
<td>50th Ward Along River Banks</td>
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2019 RESULTS YTD

- Number of clients engaged: **460**
- CES assessments completed: **177**
- Shelter placements: **101**
- Medical services provided: **154**
- Substance abuse treatment: **17**
- Hygiene kits: **82**
- Bus cards: **15**
- Meals served: **750**
- Permanent Housing: **9** are pending housing placement
- Permanent Housing: **7** clients moved into permanent housing
Upcoming 2019 Encampment Level 1

Upcoming Dates
• October 15 – Couber 25

Locations
Belmont/Kedzie
2019 Level 2 Encampment Sites
On-going

• Douglas Park
  October 15-17, 2019
• LSD – Division to Foster, viaducts
  October 22-24, 2019
• 200 N Columbus Dr.
  November 12-14, 2019
• I-90/94, North Ave. to Irving Park, viaducts
  December 10-12, 2019
• Archer / Canal
  TBD
HUD Unsheltered Initiative Technical Assistance

- **Background:** Chicago selected as a part of a cohort of communities with high rates of unsheltered homelessness, high costs of housing, and low vacancy rates.

- **Goal:** Build the evidence base for the most effective practices and strategies for reaching, engaging, and linking people experiencing unsheltered homelessness to options for shelter and to permanent housing opportunities.

- **Local TA Plan:** Test “problem solving” strategies with individuals presenting at Featherfist Coordinated Entry access point who:
  - 1) report being unsheltered and
  - 2) are not yet assessed for Coordinated Entry.