



Expedited Housing Initiative

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the importance for both individual and community wellbeing as housing insecure populations are more vulnerable than ever. Many people experiencing homelessness are considered high risk for COVID-19 exposure and need access to immediate housing. To respond to this crisis, the Chicago Continuum of Care (CoC) developed the [Expedited Housing Initiative \(EHI\)](#) to support those who have been impacted by COVID-19.

Through the Expedited Housing Initiative, the Chicago CoC will:

- Minimize the health risks of COVID-19 for people experiencing homelessness;
- House 1,250 in a 12-month period;
- Reduce the average length of time it takes to complete the housing process from 80 to 30 days;
- Streamline and centralize the identification of apartments for people experiencing homelessness;
- Reduce barriers to allow housing insecure populations speedy access to housing;
- And leverage COVID-19 funding to create lasting, sustainable change in Chicago's efforts to prevent and end homelessness.



*Together we can ensure that all our neighbors have stable and secure homes.
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The EHI uses federal funding to assist individuals and families experiencing homelessness to quickly obtain housing. This funding provides financial and support services to ensure success. The initiative focuses on community engagement, collaboration, and accountability to streamline the housing process and enact lasting change. The following components of the EHI play crucial roles in the initiative's success.

Coordinated Landlord Engagement

Meeting the goals of the EHI requires engaging with landlords on a large, systematic scale. The CoC and the [City of Chicago](#) are calling on landlords and property owners across the city to participate in [Chicago Rents](#) by [providing available rental units](#) to support their fellow Chicagoans experiencing homelessness. Chicago Rents directly connects those in need of homes with service providers and landlords. The initiative facilitates rental relationships using designated funds for rental subsidies, unexpected costs, and compensation for landlords while they hold units.

Accelerated Moving Events

The EHI uses Accelerated Moving Events (AMEs) to expedite and improve the process of moving from homelessness into housing. These one-day events allow groups to complete several steps of the housing process at once. At AMEs, participants can view photos of available units, complete applications with onsite assistance, and select furniture from the [Chicago Furniture Bank](#).

System Wide Accountability

As the EHI effectively changes the way we approach homelessness and housing services, the CoC has developed several resources to manage these new programs and processes.

Collaboration for Sustainability

By partnering with case managers, CoC members, partners of the Emergency Solutions Grant, and other community members, the EHI connects participants with trained staff who provide ongoing support through the entire lease. These community partnerships lay the foundation for a positive tenant landlord relationship and streamline paths into permanent housing. The case managers also provide employment and income assistance to ensure the sustainability of the housing matches.

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