



LAWNDALE CHRISTIAN
HEALTH CENTER
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MEDIA ADVISORY

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Chicago Department of Public Health Grant Funds Infection Control Measures for Traditional Shelter Residents

Lawndale Christian Health Center to host press conference on Tuesday, August 13

Chicago - Lawndale Christian Health Center (LCHC) was provided a grant for Shelter-Based Care Renovations from the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), as part of funding received from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). This \$600,000 award has allowed LCHC to purchase thousands of needed infection control supplies to ensure that unhoused neighbors staying as guests in shelters around the city are able to stay safe from the spread of infectious diseases like COVID-19, influenza, and others.

Supplies LCHC has purchased include more than 1,200 new mattresses that can be easily disinfected, air purifiers, air conditioners, window screens, new bedding and towels, PPE, cleaning supplies, toilets and sinks, and more to ensure that shelter spaces can be kept sanitary and guests can be protected from diseases.

37 shelters across the city have received or will be receiving supplies in the coming days, including Franciscan Outreach's Harrison Street shelter, where a press conference is being held Tuesday, August 13, 2024, at 10 a.m., at 2715 W. Harrison Street, Chicago. LCHC has also worked closely with Heartland Alliance Health for the shelters that Heartland serves in Chicago.

Dr. Thomas Huggett of LCHC says, "Lawndale Christian Health Center's Mobile Health Team is privileged to serve patients experiencing homelessness at 20 shelters mostly on Chicago's West Side. Every day we see patients in the shelters who will benefit from new mattresses and bedding, improved ventilation, and renovated bathroom facilities. We at Lawndale are so grateful to CDPH and 37 shelter partners throughout Chicago to be able to help with the ordering and delivery of items that the shelters identified as being important to control diseases, and we look forward to future collaborations to improve the lives of persons experiencing homelessness in Chicago."

LCHC is one of two Lead Coordinating Organizations, along with Heartland Alliance Health, assisting CDPH with providing health improvement and infection control measures in Chicago homeless shelters. LCHC is also one of several Shelter-Based Service Teams directly providing primary care and other health resources in shelters across the city. This is a major investment from the CDC and CDPH directed towards the City of Chicago's existing network of traditional shelter partners.

Franciscan Outreach CEO Robret Simpson says, "Franciscan Outreach is a leading provider of homeless services in Chicago, serving individuals who are currently experiencing or at imminent risk of homelessness. Each year, we help thousands of guests by providing for their immediate basic needs of food and shelter, along with wrap-around case management services to support their successful transition to stable, permanent housing and overall wellness.

"Our guests' journey starts with a bed to sleep on; we are deeply grateful for the 235 new mattresses for our Harrison Street Shelter, and all the items that will enhance our three shelters for our guests. For over 60 years we have been providing comprehensive care with the help of our community partners. Homelessness is a community issue and a health crisis. Navigating the health and human services system alone can be extremely challenging and we cannot do this vital work without community partners like Lawndale Christian Health Center and CDPH. Together, we can create transformative change for those who need it the most!"

Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Olusimbo Ige says, "As public health professionals we strive to ensure positive health outcomes for all Chicagoans, especially those put at greater risk by factors such as a lack of stable housing. By working with our incredible partners at Lawndale, we're able to make strides towards protecting our most vulnerable neighbors from illness."

<p>Who: Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Olusimbo Ige; Franciscan Outreach CEO Robret Simpson; Lawndale Christian Health Center CEO Dr. James Brooks; ESS Universal Mattress Dick Bauman; other city partners and elected officials</p> <p>What: Celebration of Delivery of Mattresses and Infection Control Items to Traditional Shelters in Chicago</p> <p>When: Tuesday, August 13, 2024, gather at 9:30 a.m., remarks start at 10 a.m.</p> <p>Where: Franciscan Outreach House of Mary and Joseph Shelter, 2715 W. Harrison St, Chicago, Illinois 60612</p>

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