



Thank you for supporting the
**CHICAGO COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS**

YOUR GENEROSITY makes the work of the community organizers, policy experts, and legal aid attorneys at the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless possible. Together, we can break the cycle of extreme poverty and homelessness in Chicago and across the state of Illinois.

Our work empowers people discouraged by poverty and homelessness, and engages them in advocacy to preserve a shelter safety net, develop affordable rental housing, and protect access to schools, fair wage jobs, and basic human services.

**JOIN
TODAY!**





BRING CHICAGO HOME

More than 86,000 Chicagoans are grappling with homelessness – this includes military veterans, survivors of domestic abuse, and more than 18,000 public school students. This year, the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless assembled a broad coalition of policy advocates, elected officials, and community groups to launch a campaign to combat the problem, Bring Chicago Home. Together, we introduced a proposal to raise the one-time Real Estate Transfer Tax (RETT) on the sale of high-end properties valued at \$1 million or more.

Homelessness in Chicago is starkly visible on the streets, but the majority of people experiencing homelessness in Chicago are not living on the street or in shelters - more than 70,000 people each year live “doubled-up” with friends or relatives, often in over-crowded situations, because they can’t afford housing of their own.

The proposal would help tens of thousands of people escape the hardships of homelessness over its first decade, fueled by **as much as \$100 million in new revenue each year** that would begin to compensate for the minimal funds the city currently spends on homelessness programs. The revenue generated from the tax increase would be legally dedicated to those programs, precluding any future designs on diverting the resources for other uses.

Chicago’s current \$15.5 million yearly allocation for homelessness relief represents a small fraction of what other major cities commit to the same effort. Compared to the number of Chicagoan’s experiencing homelessness, Chicago spends only \$732.55 per person experiencing homelessness, a ratio that nine other cities – many of them less than half of Chicago’s size – exceed by exponential margins.

More than three-fourths of likely voters believe the city needs to redouble its efforts to combat homelessness, and two-thirds favor a one-time tax on properties sold for \$1 million or more to do it, according to a CCH poll.



“Homelessness in Chicago is not an inevitability, but a reflection of where we, as a community, place our priorities. We can dramatically reduce homelessness if our policies match the resolve of our people.”

- Alderman Walter Burnett,
27th Ward



SPRINGFIELD ADVOCACY

During this successful state legislative session, CCH's policy and organizing departments, along with our leaders, worked on various initiatives to remove barriers for people experiencing homelessness. CCH brought 170 leaders and students to Springfield for 16 lobby days this past session.

Advocacy by a group of homeless service providers assembled by CCH, led to increased funding in the state budget bill for the Homelessness Prevention Program **by an additional \$5 million, bringing the total to \$9 million annually.** The Homelessness Prevention Program saves the state thousands of dollars per household in homeless service spending by ensuring families remain housed. Funding for the program has been decimated over the last decade. Funding to homeless youth programs also received a \$1 million increase.

Our advocacy team ushered six bills through the General Assembly that will bolster financial supports and food security for people experiencing severe poverty, find ways to better support youth leaving the foster care system, strengthen the Homeless Prevention Program, and remove barriers to housing for people who have come in contact with the criminal justice system. All six bills are awaiting signature by Gov. Pritzker.

One of these bills, the Prepared Meals for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) recipients (House Bill 3343), will allow people who are elderly, experiencing homelessness, or have a disability to purchase prepared meals with their SNAP benefits. This bill will permit these populations, many of whom do not have access to a kitchen or are unable to use their kitchen safely, to go to restaurants and grocery stores with hot bars to purchase prepared meals.

CCH also worked with partners to advocate for the increase to the minimum wage, and testified in support of the Fair Tax Constitutional Amendment (SJRC1) resolution. This resolution will permit the inclusion of a question on the November 2020 ballot on whether Illinois should shift from a flat income tax to a graduated income tax. And, along with its housing partners, CCH advocated for the inclusion of funds in the state's first capital bill in 10 years. The \$200 million in funding for affordable housing has the **potential to create 2,000 additional housing units across the state.** This is also an increase from \$145 million included in the 2009 capital bill.





LAW PROJECT SETTLEMENT

The CCH Law Project reached a favorable settlement in the lawsuit *Smith v. City of Chicago* on behalf of two clients who lived on Lower Wacker Drive while experiencing homelessness. The law firm Hughes, Socol, Piers, Resnick & Dym, Ltd. co-counseled the case with the Law Project.

Our clients, Shawn Moore and Amie Smith, experienced a pattern of harassment by Chicago Police officers over the course of a year and a half. The officers repeatedly threw away Shawn and Amie's tent and other property, belittled them because of their homelessness, and forced them to move repeatedly. They also threatened to arrest the homeless couple for arbitrary reasons. On one occasion, an officer threatened "to lock [Shawn] up for trespassing or whatever," seeming to express that he would find a charge on which to arrest Shawn just because he was outside in a place the city didn't want him to be.

Since 2015, this is the third settlement CCH has reached with the city of Chicago over its mistreatment of homeless people who live on the street, violating the Illinois Homeless Bill of Rights. All three cases were co-counseled by CCH and Hughes Socol.

YOUR MEMBERSHIP MAKES A DIFFERENCE

COMMUNITY
ORGANIZERS
REACH MORE THAN

3,000
HOMELESS
INDIVIDUALS
EACH YEAR

YOUTH
ATTORNEYS
REACHED

2,418
YOUTH
LAST YEAR

THE LAW
PROJECT
SERVED

533
CLIENTS
LAST YEAR

THE
SPEAKERS
BUREAU
REACHED

3,250
PEOPLE
AT 63 VENUES.

RENEW
TODAY!

78%
OF LAW PROJECT
CLIENTS WERE
STUDENTS OR
YOUTH

ATTORNEYS
CONDUCTED
284
OUTREACH
SESSIONS
LAST YEAR

CCH
ATTORNEYS
HELPED
297
CLIENTS OBTAIN BIRTH
RECORDS THIS YEAR.

CCH HAS
AWARDED
\$425,000
IN SCHOLARSHIPS SINCE
2004.