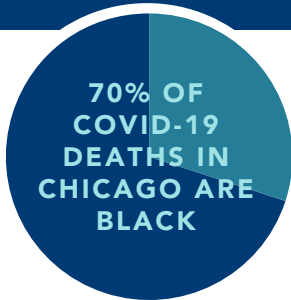


COVID-19 AND HOMELESSNESS

Outbreaks in shelters and encampments are already happening. The CARES Act included \$12 billion in housing and homelessness resources, which was an important first step. **However, if we do not immediately take the additional necessary steps to neutralize this looming threat, it will erase the progress made to slow the rate of community spread.**



COVID-19 and homelessness both disproportionately impact people of color. In Chicago, nearly 80% of people experiencing homelessness are Black or Latinx and 70% of COVID-19 deaths are black Chicagoans. Investing to end homelessness is a critical step to advance racial equity.

“Stopping an outbreak of COVID-19 among Chicago’s homeless population has absolutely been one of the most challenging aspects of this response.”

- Dr. Allison Arwady

THREE KEY SOLUTIONS

TO INCLUDE IN THE NEXT FEDERAL STIMULUS PACKAGE:

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS (ESG)

AT LEAST \$11.5 BILLION ADDITIONAL

ESG funds can be used to provide temporary housing, medical respite care, outreach, and street medicine for people experiencing homelessness. Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) has recommended that the city and state leverage these resources to increase the supply of bridge housing for people experiencing homelessness. Bridge housing is a cost-effective, strategic approach that provides a temporary, isolated unit in the community and is ultimately connected to permanent supportive housing (PSH). Through the CARES Act, Congress approved \$4 billion in ESG funds, enough to provide more bridge housing to more than 1,000 households in Illinois. This is an important first step, but substantially more resources are needed.

EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE AND EVICTION PREVENTION

\$100 BILLION

Renters across the entire country are at risk of becoming homeless due to the economic fallout of the COVID-19 epidemic. One of the best ways to address homelessness is to prevent it from occurring in the first place. This assistance can be provided through a combination of Emergency Solutions Grants, Housing Choice Vouchers, Section 521 Rural Rental Assistance, and the Disaster Housing Assistance Program.

MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS AND FORECLOSURES

Another critical tool to preventing homelessness is to issue a national, uniform moratorium on foreclosures and evictions, preventing eviction notices, filings, hearings, and orders from taking place during the moratorium period. Everyone is safer when people have a home to stay in – our collective health depends on it.



**CHICAGO COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS**

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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