



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS 2022

YEAR IN REVIEW
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YEAR IN REVIEW CALENDAR YEAR 2022

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) organizes and advocates to prevent and end homelessness, because we believe housing is a human right in a just society.

By combining community organizing, policy advocacy, and legal aid, CCH strives to center the expertise of people with lived experience to build power and make change.

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Artwork by: Karianne Canfield



COMMUNITY ORGANIZING ORGANIZING ORGANIZING

CCH organizers and legal staff provide community outreach to students, youth, families, and adults experiencing homelessness. Through outreach, CCH educates people on their rights and options, connects them to resources and legal aid, and engages those interested in advocacy.

Organizers develop and train people with lived experience of homelessness to become grassroots leaders. CCH leaders guide strategy, speak to the media, provide testimony to elected officials, and serve on leadership committees overseeing CCH's many initiatives.

COMMUNITY ORGANIZING

BY THE NUMBERS

IN 2022...

- **3,500+** people experiencing homelessness reached by our community organizers and legal aid attorneys.
- The Speakers Bureau reached an **audience of 1,764** during **45 events**.
- **12 people** participated in the Horizons creative writing program.
- The Edrika Fulford Mutual Aid Fund distributed **\$108,000+** in cash grants to **216 Illinoisans experiencing or at risk of homelessness**.
- The CCH Scholarship Program distributed **\$83,000+** in financial assistance to **20 undergraduate students and 4 graduate students**.



BRING CHICAGO HOME

To Mayor Lori Lightfoot,

We invited you to meet us at 110 N. Wacker on November 3, 2022 at 9:30AM to demonstrate how \$25 million from the recent sale of this building could have been used to fund nearly 200 units of affordable housing with supportive services for persons experiencing homelessness.

We know that Chicagoans think addressing homelessness is a top concern. The Bring Chicago Home

***"I KNOW THAT IF I'M AT THE TABLE
WITH CCH, MY VOICE, MY STORY,
WHAT I HAVE TO SAY – IT MEANS
SOMETHING.
IT MATTERS."***



MAXICA WILLIAMS
CCH GRASSROOTS LEADER
VICE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ADVOCACY ADVOCACY ADVOCACY



CCH's Policy and Organizing Departments, along with our grassroots leaders, advocate in Springfield and City Hall for legislation and funding to remove barriers for people experiencing homelessness.

CCH is also a lead partner of the Bring Chicago Home (BCH) campaign, which unites a broad coalition of policy advocates, elected officials, and community groups to push for significant dedicated funding for housing and homeless services in Chicago.

"IT'S REFRESHING TO SEE THAT THERE'S A SHIFT HAPPENING - ACKNOWLEDGING THE POWERFUL PRESENCE OF PEOPLE WITH LIVED EXPERIENCE, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE RACIAL DISPARITIES OF PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS. BUT WE CLEARLY HAVE A LOT OF WORK TO DO."

- Lorna Bennett, CCH Grassroots Leader and Outreach Assistant

STATEWIDE VICTORIES

CCH STAFF, LEADERS, AND PARTNERS PASSED THE FOLLOWING BILLS INTO LAW DURING THE 2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION:

FEES

HB5265: Financial Equity in Education for Students (FEES) requires charter schools to waive fees and fines for low-income and families experiencing homelessness, creating parity with public institutions where these waivers are already in place.

HB2775: Expanding Housing Protections for All Illinoisans makes it illegal to deny housing based solely on an applicant's source of income.
(With the Illinois Coalition for Fair Housing)

SOI

DCFS

HB4242/SB3747: Extend automatic eligibility to the Child Care Assistance Program for families involved in the child welfare system ensures access to childcare for expectant or parenting youth in the care of the Department of Children and Family Services.
(With Start Early, Children's Home and Aid, and Illinois Action for Children)

CCH helped secure increases to the **Homeless Youth and Homelessness Prevention** line-items in the FY23 state budget. The General Assembly also allocated \$150 million in pandemic relief monies to provide additional funds to supportive housing, reentry housing, and other housing-related programs.
(With the Responsible Budget Coalition)

BUDGET WINS

BRING CHICAGO HOME

IN 2022...

- The BCH coalition's **direct actions and media presence elevated the issues of homelessness** in the 2023 municipal elections, making "Bring Chicago Home" a **citywide chant**.
- Increased aldermanic co-sponsors of the BCH ordinance from **nine to 20**.
- Hosted 4 town halls on housing and homelessness with **over 400 community members** in attendance.
- A series of BCH-101 events brought **100+ new supporters** to the campaign.
- Secured a **\$200,000 grant** to support the efforts of four BCH steering committee member organizations.
- **Grew BCH's online audience by 102%** from 2021 across Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook.
- BCH's social media posts were viewed nearly **270,000 times**.



THE



Our Law Project is the only legal aid program in Illinois dedicated to working with people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. The Law Project runs Youth Futures, a mobile legal aid clinic serving students and unaccompanied youth through age 24.

Legal staff represent clients with pressing legal needs: access to public schools and supportive services, access to housing or emergency shelter, and access to medical care, public benefits, or the birth and ID records that allow them to apply for jobs and housing. The Law Project also assists clients with sealing/expungement and family law.

IN 2022...

- **381 legal cases** closed for 319 clients.
- **77% of clients** were students or youth aged **24 or younger**.
- **1,346 students/youth** reached via Youth Futures mobile legal clinic.
- **43,538 pieces** of educational outreach materials distributed.
- **1,366 service providers, educators, and attorneys** trained at **32 sessions**.
- With pro-bono support, co-counseled **three impact litigation cases** covering consumer rights, disability rights, and unlawful arrest.
- Published the **third version** of the **Homeless Youth Handbook**, an online legal resource for young people ages 14 – 24.
 - Available at homelessyouth.org/Illinois.



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We are grateful for the strong coalition of people with lived experience, community members, direct-service and advocacy organizations, institutional partners, donors, and volunteers who are working every single day to prevent and end homelessness.

CCH is proud of what we have accomplished together and recognizes that much work remains. Knowing we stand stronger together, **thank you for being a partner in our shared mission of making housing a human right.**

**CHICAGO COALITION
FOR THE HOMELESS**

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