



Sojourner House Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. What is Sojourner House?** Sojourner House is a new model of housing in partnership with the Oak Park Housing Authority. Sojourner House is designed to provide short-term residency and will serve as a “bridge to housing stability” for individuals and families until a long-term housing solution is identified. The model has been created from a public-private partnership between individuals, public grants and private foundations and hospitals.
- 2. Where is Sojourner House?** Sojourner House is located at 324-326 N. Austin Ave. in Oak Park. There are two residential buildings on the property – the front building has 5 individual apartments (a combination of studios and one-bedroom units) and on the back section of the property is a one 3-bedroom coach house.
- 3. Who will stay at Sojourner House?** Sojourner House will serve a combination of individuals who require immediate and accessible shelter. For instance, an individual who has difficulty with mobility and getting around due to the nightly shelters being in various locations throughout the week. The program will also serve families with minor children in the coach house and one of the apartments. Lastly, three of the six apartments will be dedicated to a partnership with MacNeal Hospital, a Loyola Medical facility, which will use Sojourner House as a temporary place for an individual who is well enough to be discharged from the hospital, but not well enough to be discharged back to the streets or to the emergency shelter.
- 4. What does “Sojourner” mean?** Sojourner means “a temporary stay.”
- 5. What are the goals of Sojourner House?** One of the goals of Sojourner House is to provide a humane and dignified approach to recuperative and respite care for people who are homeless. Individuals who are homeless with health conditions need extended access to a safe bed in which they can rest, adequate restroom facilities, nutritious food and clean water, secure storage and/or refrigeration for medications. All of these elements are necessary for successful outcomes.
- 6. Will there be staff at Sojourner House?** Sojourner House will have a combination of clinical and non-clinical staff providing wraparound services including supportive services, care coordination and case management 7 days a week.
- 7. In addition to Interim Housing, what other services will residents of Sojourner House receive?** Sojourner House residents will have access to all of the services that other housing clients of Housing Forward receive to ensure a successful path to housing stability. Participants will work with their assigned case manager to work on a plan that focuses on both their care and on achieving a permanent housing placement. Families will be assisted with all the necessary wrap-around services needed to be stable, including assistance in applying for benefits, linkage to community resources, enrollment for school-aged children, and access to Housing Forward’s employment services.
- 8. Who are Housing Forward’s partners for this program?** We are proud to lead this endeavor and be able to offer interim housing in conjunction with our partners: Oak Park Housing Authority, MacNeal Hospital, Oak Park Residence Corporation, Village of Oak Park, Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township and Oak Park Township along with capital support from the Village of Oak Park, Cook County and Access Elevator.