

housing
FORWARD

Moving Forward
2021 Annual Report

1801



Our Values

**Compassionate
Empathy**

**Person-
Centered
Approaches**



**Engaged
Community**

**Innovative
Solutions**



**Meaningful
Impact**

**Inspired
Teamwork**

Driven by our values, we are passionately focused on one vision—ending homelessness. The progress we are making would be impossible without our community of partners and supporters. Please join us. Learn more at housingforward.org/get-involved

Dear Friends,

In 2021, homeless service providers across the country were faced with the continuing challenges of the COVID pandemic, which necessitated finding new ways to respond to individuals and families who have nowhere else to turn.

The first full year of our new crisis response system continued the dramatic transformation in how we address homelessness and housing insecurity. As a result, we reached new heights in fulfilling our vision of ending homelessness. For the first time in our 30-year history, we assisted more households in preventing homelessness at the outset and creating more pathways to housing stability, driving down the number of people experiencing literal homelessness.

We also laid the foundation for the next steps in our crisis response. Housing Forward's first new construction development, which will provide 16 permanent supportive housing apartments for individuals and families experiencing homelessness, will break ground later this year and will open its doors in late 2023.

This remarkable year of transformation was only possible through the unwavering commitment of dedicated strategic partners, community stakeholders, incredible volunteers, and generous donors. This community was instrumental in ensuring the most vulnerable community members receive vital services and support.

We are extremely grateful,

Lynda Schueler
Executive Director



Heidi Vance
President of the Board of Directors



IMPACT 2021

We impacted the lives of 2,776 individuals.
31% increase over 2020.

prevent



1,279
served

respond



471
served

stabilize



569
served

36% ↑ increase from 2020

50% ↓ decrease in chronic homelessness

27% ↑ increase in people housed from 2020

\$479,240 in assistance provided to avert homelessness

25,905 nights of shelter | 43,800 meals served

159,143 nights of housing

43% diverted from immediately entering the homelessness system

24% served in medical respite center

29% ↑ in permanent destinations for our housed clients

Our Partners



20+
service partners



40+
congregations



50+
corporations



7
AmeriCorps
members

Our Clients



51.3%
male



48.6%
female



0.1%
transgender



67
veterans



95
chronically
homeless



664
people with
disabilities



prevent

**Meet
Isaiah***

*At the request of the client, this is not his actual image

Isaiah was having car trouble. The kind of trouble that had already cost him quite a bit of money. He referred to his vehicle as a “black hole for finances.” In addition to the dollars he spent on continuing engine and transmission problems, the repairs were causing him to lose income because Isaiah needed to take time off of work to get his vehicle fixed. When he was out of time off at work, and the car acted up again, Isaiah made the decision to trade the car in. However, it cost an additional \$2,000 – more than two months’ rent – for a replacement car. That purchase took him financially off course.

Isaiah came to Housing Forward looking for help and connected with our Homelessness Prevention Program, which aims to keep people in their homes by providing assistance to cover things like rent, mortgage, transportation costs, and utility fees.

Isaiah was able to qualify for emergency rental assistance which meant he could keep his apartment. He shares that he, “appreciates the blessing and hopes to find a way to give back to the agency” in the future.

**“ I appreciate the blessing of keeping
my apartment. ”**

respond



**Meet
Jackie**

Following a surgery to remove her gallbladder, Jackie had nowhere to go to recuperate. Her doctor recommended the Medical Respite Center and Jackie is glad that he did. After getting settled in her room and in her recovery routine for a few weeks, Jackie learned that she had breast cancer and was soon hospitalized to have the breast removed.

Returning to the Center, Jackie began her plans for recovery from the second surgery. She shares, “My family thought I might die because the wound was so big. Housing Forward did a very good job taking care of me. The staff support is so important. They made sure I went to my doctor’s appointments, and they built me up when I was feeling low.”

During her healing, Jackie discovered that her chemo treatments had taken a toll on her lungs. She has now had to adjust to living with an oxygen tank, but she credits her faith in God with getting her through the remainder of her cancer treatments. Jackie is looking forward to recovering and moving into her own apartment in the Forest Park community so that her children and grandchildren (including one named after her) can visit her regularly.

“Staff support is so important. They built me up when I was feeling low.”

stabilize



**Meet
Ricardo & Lisa**

Ricardo and Lisa met while living on the street. While Lisa had a long history with homelessness, Ricardo had owned his own home before his life took a very different turn. They moved into a tent together.

When they learned that Ricardo had a serious heart condition, they reached out to Housing Forward for help so Ricardo could focus on his health. They joined our Interim Housing Program, and after undergoing heart surgery Ricardo received the recuperative care he needed until he was well enough to move into a permanent apartment.

Lisa and Ricardo have now settled into a cozy space in Elmwood Park. The couple now meets with a case manager to explore ways to maintain their new home, including looking for work. Ricardo told us that “there have been a lot of challenges and a lot of progress. We are moving forward.” Lisa added, “Once we got the apartment, we didn’t know how to pay the electric bill. Housing Forward recommended a ComEd program that could help us. We needed to get around and were offered bus passes. Ricardo needed different sized clothes after the surgery, and we were able to get help with that, too! We could not have succeeded without Housing Forward.”

**“There have been a lot of challenges
and a lot of progress. We are moving
forward.”**

Our Thanks

We gratefully acknowledge all of the funders and donors who made the work of Housing Forward possible in fiscal year 2021. This list includes all donors who made contributions of \$100 or more between January 1 – December 31, 2021.

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\$2,500-\$4,999

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\$1,000-\$2,499

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Forest
St. John Lutheran Church
St. Mary of Celle

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\$100-\$249

Baha'i Community
Oak Park Friends Meeting

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Robert Glinke	William Holmes	Eric Kingery	Terry & Jana McIlroy	Kelly Patterson	Robert Ulicny & Nora Rowley
Galen & Marjorie Gockel	David & Suzanne Holmes	Mark Weber & Joanne Kinoy	Joseph McIntyre	Matthew & Julie Patterson	Colin Ruschel
Edmund Goedert	Cheryl & Tod Hover	Anne Kiplinger	Terri McKinnon	Libbey Paul	Lance Russell
Jackie & Ray Good	Shannon & Adam Howard	Elizabeth & Matt Kirsh	Damien McKnight	Michael Paulus	Julia & Terry Ryan
Gordon Hellwig & Amy Goodman	Gary Howell	Cynthia Klein-Banai	Joseph Mehr	George Peranteau	Janice Elkins & Bill Ryan
Ellen Gorin	Kimberly Hoyt	Laura Kliewer &	Kimberly Merchant	Steven & Susan Peters	Eileen & Chris Saam
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Grace Yi
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Amanda Young
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Ann M Bolan
Ann S Kransdorf
Anthony
Armando Smith
Art & Carole Albores
Barbara Best
Bern Wheel, Will Ksander &
Frank L Sassetti
Bill Clark & Sue Tresselt
Bob Hahn
Brian Hayes
Cara Sherrard Blech
Charlie Cahill

Chris Sullivan
Christina Loran
Christopher Oliver
Dale Nowicki
Dashiell
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Edgar & Nancy Hiestand
Emily Culbertson
Eugene
Girl Scouts GCNWI Troop 40720
Grace Iverson
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Henry Campbell
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Jane Houle
Janet Hotch
Jean Bacom
Jeff Kunkel
Jerry Daly
Jessica Greenwald O'Brien
Jessica Sime
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Jordan
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Judy Walsh
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Linda Edwards
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Lisa Rader
Liz Fischer
Lois Bonaccorsi
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for Community & Global Health
LP Biks
Lucinda Reeb
Lynda Schueler & all Housing
Forward Staff

Lynda Schueler
Marge Patner
Mark Dvorak
Mark Kuczewski & Kate Nolan
Mark Pfeiffer
Marv & Biff Vance
Mary Darnall for her birthday
Mary Lou & John Dwyer
Mary Peranteau
Merritt Kanan
Michele Wheeler
Music & Potlucks
My Family
Nana & Da
Olivia Hirsch
Housing Forward & Oak Park
Housing Authority Partnership
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Unity Temple
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Betty Bateman Hodges
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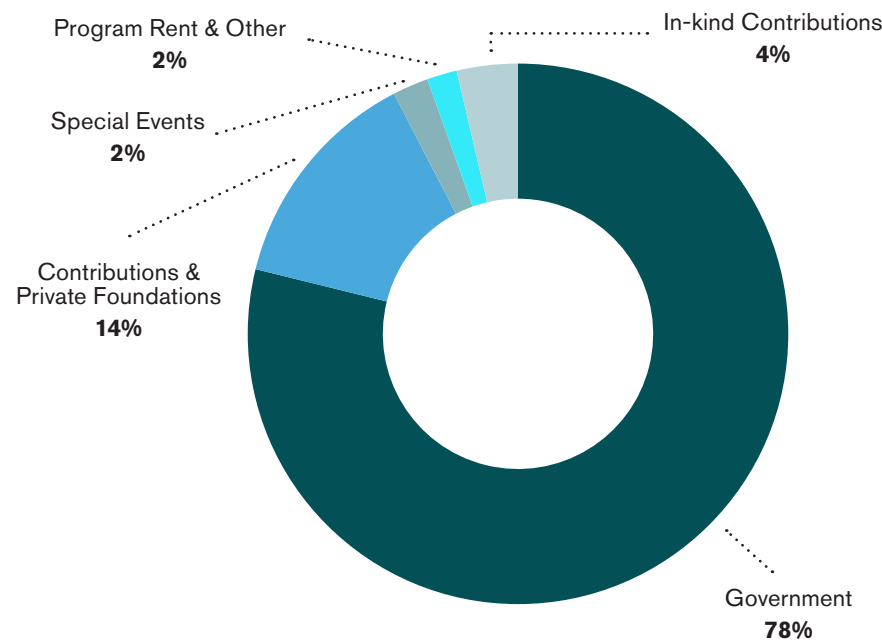
We are grateful to the hundreds of individuals, congregations, clubs & organizations, corporations & local businesses who donated in-kind gifts of shelter space, volunteer staffing & expertise, clothing, household items, and food. Combined, these gifts in 2021 were valued at more than \$472,419.

Housing Forward makes every effort to recognize the donors who supported our mission in 2021. Please accept our sincere apologies if we have made an error or omission on this list. Please contact a member of our development team so that we can correct our records.

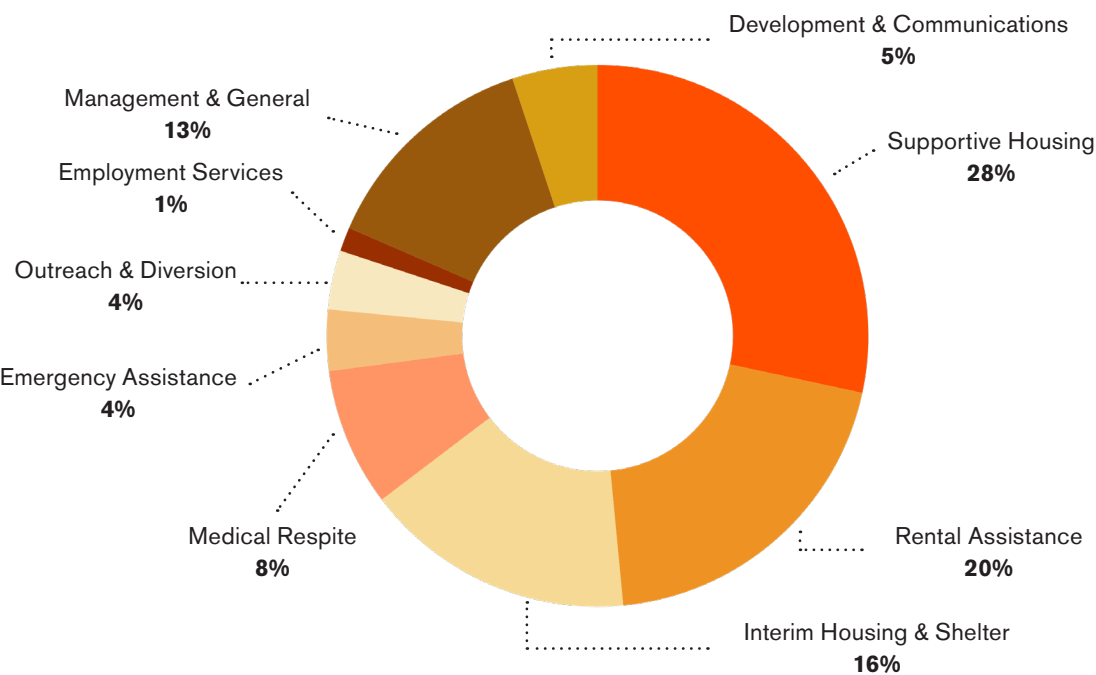
Financials

January 1–December 31, 2021 Statement of Activities

Revenue and Support \$12,935,848



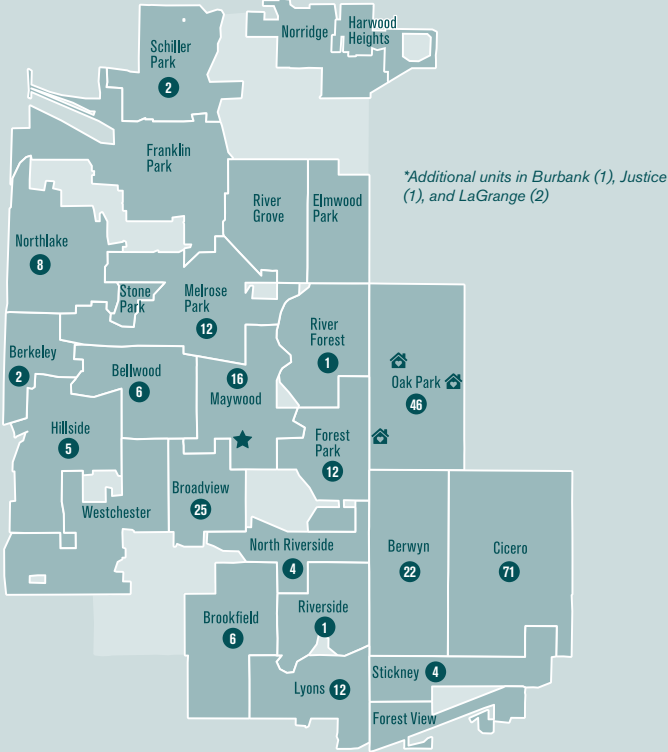
Expenses \$12,333,866



To see our full financial statements, visit housingforward.org/our-impact/financial-statements

Our Service Area

Housing Forward serves 26 communities in west suburban Cook County.





Housing Forward
Headquarters



Interim Housing
Locations



Supportive Housing
Locations*

*Additional units in Burbank (1), Justice (1), and LaGrange (2)

Housing Forward Headquarters
1851 South 9th Avenue
Maywood, IL 60153

708.338.1724 (p)
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