

IMPORTANT AGENCY UPDATES – MARCH 2022

On March 22, Housing Forward marked the anniversary of our two-year journey to transform our agency's crisis-response system during the COVID-19 pandemic. As an organization that responds to the crisis of homelessness, the last 24-months have included significant challenges for the men, women, and children we assist. The demand for services has not subsided and the urgency for emergency financial assistance to keep people housed, shelter beds AND housing placement is great. We remain committed to maintaining quality services with current resources, staffing, and operational resilience.

Housing Forward's response to the pandemic led to changes in some of our program models. Since this has been a period of change and growth, we are reaching out to provide information and updates about several of our programs.

OAK PARK OFFICE, 6634 W ROOSEVELT RD, WILL CLOSE APRIL 6th

- Homeless Prevention and Employment Readiness programs are being relocated to **1845 South 9th Avenue, Maywood, IL 60153** (next door to our Maywood headquarters at 1851 S. 9th Avenue)
- These programs will reopen Wednesday, April 13 at their new location
- The phone number will remain the same 708.338.1724 ext 307
- **New Hours:** Open Monday through Friday, 9:00am to 4:30pm

OTHER UPDATES

- **DIVERSION** – Diversion is an effective model for responding to the most resilient individuals and families seeking services, so they don't fall further into crisis. The program strives to find alternatives to shelter or to assist anyone unstably housed in locating safe housing options, if available. **Diversion is available Monday through Friday from 9:00am to 4:00pm at our Maywood office, 1851 South 9th Avenue. Our intake line is 708.397.4423.**
- **STREET OUTREACH** – Individuals who are unsheltered or professionals who come in contact with unsheltered individuals can call the Street Outreach team at **708.338.1724 option 6.**
- **EMERGENCY WARMING SHELTER** – A temporary emergency warming shelter is open March 1 through April 30 on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 7:00pm to 8:00am. The locations are:
 - March - Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 611 Randolph Street, Oak Park
 - April - Grace Episcopal Church, 924 Lake Street, Oak Park
- **HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION** – Resources are available to assist qualifying households impacted by COVID-19 or other economic hardship with rent, mortgage, and utility assistance. **Our Homelessness Prevention team can be reach at 708.338.1724 option 2.**