

120-Day Interim Housing Program at Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town

"The Open Door was the first place where I felt at home."

-- Program participant, age 17

- PURPOSE:** To build relationships with runaway and homeless youth by providing interim housing, and supportive services, including customized plans for addressing housing, education and employment issues to help them achieve self-reliance.
- FOUNDED:** October 1992 in Chicago's Lake View neighborhood. In August 2006, program moved to the 2nd and 3rd floors of Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town.
- PROGRAM:** Open Door Youth Shelter is a 120-day Interim Housing Program for homeless youth, ages 14-20, who are not wards of the State, including pregnant and parenting youth and their children:
- It is open and staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides a temporary home and services for its residents.
 - Open Door provides beds for 8 young women and 8 young men and up to five of their infants/toddlers.
 - Residents may stay for a maximum of 120 days.
- RESIDENTS:** The Interim Housing Program at Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town serves approximately 200 clients a year, with the average stay being about 90 days. Homeless youth face unique problems – family problems, lack of education, inexperience with daily living skills, and social isolation. Residents receive assistance as needed after they leave Open Door Youth Shelter – West Town through our Continuing Care Program.
- SERVICES:** Upon entering our Interim Program, residents work with a case manager to develop an individualized plan designed to move them to next-step housing and independence, addressing issues such as:
- education
 - job training
 - job searching
 - medical care
 - prenatal care
 - mental health
 - substance abuse
 - family reunification (when possible)

This program is sponsored in part by a grant from the Chicago Department of Human Services.