

North Lawndale Student Housing Initiative

Student Housing Instability in Chicago

- There are more than **18,000 registered students** in temporary living situations (i.e. homeless) in Chicago Public Schools (2014-15).
 - Experts in youth homelessness estimate many students experiencing homeless are *not* included in this count and the actual number is much higher.
- North Lawndale College Preparatory High School (NLCP) **estimates that 8-10% of their student body** (~100 students) are experiencing housing instability, affecting their ability to stay in school and achieve their educational goals.

Overview NLCP has recognized for years that many of their students are experiencing housing instability and have offered short terms solutions such as providing temporary host homes and referring youth to services. In 2014, Old St Patrick's Church and NLCP initiated collaboration with Youth Outreach Services and The Night Ministry to address the issue of youth homelessness.

The North Lawndale Student Housing Initiative aims to improve educational outcomes for youth; one way of doing this is by addressing housing instability. The initiative plans to develop comprehensive programs and services to address the often complicated factors that lead to youth homelessness. One intervention will be the development of a youth transitional housing program for students called Phoenix Hall. This program will provide a caring and compassionate home environment for high school students experiencing housing instability, while working to strengthen families and the greater North Lawndale community overall.

Organizations Involved

- North Lawndale Kinship Initiative is a collaboration between the people of Old St. Patrick's Church and those who live in and work on behalf of the North Lawndale Community of Chicago's west side.
- Empower to Succeed Board will oversee fundraising and connecting resources for program development.
- The Night Ministry is a Chicago-based organization that works to provide housing, health care and human connection to those struggling with poverty and homelessness.
- Youth Outreach Services (YOS) promotes the strengths and abilities of youth and families by providing community-based services that empower and enrich each to face life's challenges with confidence, competence and dignity.
- North Lawndale College Preparatory High School (NLCP) aims to prepare young people from under-resourced Chicago communities with the academic skills and personal resilience needed to successfully complete college.

Current Work

Providing case management services for NLCP students

- Case Managers working with students experiencing housing instability, to connect them with resources and support
- Collecting data from Youth Outreach Services staff in the school - data will inform the development of the program

Program Development

- Hiring staff and developing program guidelines and activities
- Identifying goals and benchmarks to measure impact

Build and maintain relationships in the North Lawndale community

- Partnering with existing programs and services
- Engaging with community leaders, political representatives, city officials, service providers and residents

Renovations

- Construction at Phoenix Hall to meet program requirements

Phoenix Hall Description

- Safe and secure housing for up to 8 students
- Students will ideally have their own bedrooms, with shared living and kitchen space
- Staff with professionals trained in positive youth development and trauma-informed care, focusing on helping students achieve their educational goals
- Individualized case management and life skills development, which will include job readiness training, educational support and other social and emotional supportive services
- Linkages to community resources - such as health services, recreation and counseling
- Located in close proximity to the NLCP campuses, as well as public transportation

Anticipated Program Impact

