

# Community Assistance for LGBTQ Homeless Youth

## HOTLINES/CRISIS INTERVENTION:

-National Runaway Safeline: 1-800-RUNAWAY (786-2929)  
-Statewide CCBYS Information Line (24-hour Crisis Intervention Services for homeless minors): 1-877-870-2663  
-LGBTQ Crisis Hotline: 773-871-2273  
-Trevor Project: 1-866-488-7386

## ONLINE RESOURCE GUIDES:

Chicagoland LGBTQ Services Directory:  
<http://chicagolgbtsecurities.org>  
Homeless Youth Legal Handbook: [www.homelessyouth.org](http://www.homelessyouth.org)  
Homeless Youth Resources in Chicago: <http://goo.gl/QSU3Ob>  
Direct to Food: [www.direct2food.org](http://www.direct2food.org)  
Direct to Housing: [www.direct2housing.org](http://www.direct2housing.org)

## *Emergency Services*

### **Where can I find emergency food?**

Greater Chicago Food Depository provides information on food pantries and meals in your area. Go to <http://www.chicagosfoodbank.org> and use the program finder tool. Or call 773-247-FOOD (3663). Another website to help you find food pantries, soup kitchens, and meal programs close to you is [www.direct2food.org](http://www.direct2food.org).

### **I left home due to a crisis. Where can I find a safe place to go?**

Look for restaurants, small businesses, fast-food restaurants, and community-based organizations that display the yellow and black diamond-shaped Safe Place logo. You can ask for help at one of these locations and a youth worker will be sent help you determine available options and services. If you are a teen in crisis you can also text the word "SAFE" and your current location (street address, city, and state) to 69866. You can also call the National Runaway Safeline (NRS) at 1-800-RUNAWAY (1-800-786-2929) for support and resources. NRS also has an online, live chat through its website, [www.1800runaway.org](http://www.1800runaway.org).

### **I'm under 18 and I need emergency shelter. How can I find a place to stay?**

Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services (CCBYS) provides 24-hour crisis intervention for homeless minors. CCBYS will find you a place to stay. Call 1-877-870-2663.

### **I'm 18 or older and I need emergency shelter. How can I find a place to stay?**

Dial 3-1-1 from a police station or hospital or go to 10 S. Kedzie to be placed in an overnight shelter. You can also try to secure a spot at one of the overnight youth shelters for youth, ages 18-24. Services are first come, first serve or lottery based. If accessing emergency shelters through 311, you may request youth-specific housing options during the Catholic Charities intake if beds are available.

Overnight youth shelters include:

#### **The Crib – Lakeview (The Night Ministry)**

773-318-5462 (only answered between 8 PM and 10AM, can leave a voicemail any time)

Lake View Lutheran Church, 835 W. Addison (CTA: Red Line, Addison)

**Eligibility/Services:** LGTQ affirming. Space cannot accommodate parents with children. Arrive at 8:30 PM for the lottery. Provides access to meals, supplies, showers, laundry, and transit assistance.

#### **Casa Corazón – Logan Square/Humboldt Park (La Casa Norte)**

773-276-4900 x252

2845 W. McClean (near California & Armitage, CTA Bus 72 & 73)

**Eligibility/Services:** First come, first serve. Open from 9 PM – 9 AM. All genders. Dinner, breakfast, showers, transit assistance.

#### **Casa Corazón – Back of the Yards (La Casa Norte)**

773-276-4900 x252

1736 W. 47<sup>th</sup> St. (CTA: Orange Line, Western)

**Eligibility/Services:** First come, first serve. Open from 9 PM – 9 AM. All genders. Emergency shelter for 30 youth. Dinner, breakfast, showers, and transit assistance.

#### **Ujima Village – Southside (Unity Parenting & Counseling)**

7320 S. Yale Ave. (CTA: Red Line, 69<sup>th</sup> or #29 CTA State Street Bus Stop at Lafayette Ave and 73<sup>rd</sup>)

**Eligibility/Services:** Arrive before 8 PM to participate in lottery. Open 8 PM – 9 AM. All genders. Dinner, breakfast, showers, and transit assistance.

**A Safe Haven (Youth Engagement Services)**

773-435-8440

2750 W. Roosevelt (CTA: Between Pink and Green Line, California stops; California-94 bus Roosevelt- 12)

**Eligibility/Services:** First come, first serve. Open from 7 PM – 7 AM. All genders. Dinner, breakfast, showers, and transit assistance.

**San Jose Obrero Mission (La Casa Norte)**

773-276-4900 x241

2408 S. Albany Ave. (CTA: Pink Line, Cermak)

**Eligibility/Services:** Pregnant and parenting youth. 6 PM – 8 AM. Dinner, breakfast, showers, laundry, and transit assistance. Must be referred by La Casa Norte.

*Health*

**Where can I go for health care services?**

The Chicagoland LGBTQ Services Directory (see Online Resource Guides below) provides health, mental health, prevention & wellness, and substance use listings. Howard Brown Health Center, located at 4025 N Sheridan Rd (773.388.1600) is the Midwest's largest LGBTQ health organization. You can find federally qualified health centers at [http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/Search\\_HCC.aspx](http://findahealthcenter.hrsa.gov/Search_HCC.aspx). Some schools also have School-Based Community Health Centers - you can ask your school's STLS Clerk or Liaison for assistance locating a health center.

**I'm not living with a parent or legal guardian. Do I need signed consent from my parent in order to see a doctor?**

Unaccompanied minors 14-18 years old can access basic healthcare without a signed parent consent form if they do not live with a parent or legal guardian, are not dependent on a parent or legal guardian for material support, and not under protective custody, temporary custody, or guardianship of DCFS. You must be identified in writing by one of the following: a school homeless (STLS) liaison or social worker, an adult relative, a representative of a homeless service agency, a social service agency providing services to at risk, homeless, or runaway youth, an Illinois attorney, or a representative of a religious organization.

**I'm not living with a parent or legal guardian. Can I apply for a medical card on my own?**

Yes. You are only required to apply for Medicaid with a parent or relative if you are living with that person. If you are a minor and living on your own, you should provide proof of that fact such as a letter from a homeless service provider, the person you are living with, or from your school. It is also a good idea to have a social service agency or legal advocate help you apply. For assistance, you can call the CPS Children and Family Benefits Unit at 773-553-KIDS or the Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless at (toll free) 1-800-940-1119.

**Are there gender identity services available in Chicago for young people under 18 and their families?**

Lurie Children's Gender and Sex Development Program provides outpatient services aimed at supporting the physical, mental and social health of patients and their families as youth progress through gender identity development. Phone: 773-303-6056. Address: 225 E. Chicago Ave.

*Drop-In Centers and Street Outreach*

**Where can I find homeless youth drop-in centers?**

Drop-in centers offer services such as food, laundry, clothing vouchers, a safe place to hang out, HIV/STD testing, medical services, counseling educational/vocational programs, and resource advocacy. The Broadway Youth Center offers programming and leadership opportunities for LGBTQ young people and/or young people experiencing homelessness and housing instability, ages 12-24. Phone: 773-935-3151. Address: 615 W Wellington (at Broadway). Full hours and programs listing:

[www.howardbrown.org/byc](http://www.howardbrown.org/byc). The Center on Halsted is an LGBTQ community center located in Chicago's Lakeview neighborhood that has various programs and support including a cyber center, after-school programming, counseling, and a youth career development center. Phone: 773-472-6469. Address: 3656 N. Halsted.

## **Where can I find people doing outreach to homeless youth?**

Street outreach programs provide youth with basic services such as access to food and hygiene supplies. The Night Ministry provides outreach at the corner of Belmont & Halsted Tu/Th 8:30pm-10:30pm. The Teen Living Program provides outreach at various times and locations on the south side— call 866-803-8336 and Press “0”.

### *Housing*

## **What are transitional housing programs and how can I access them?**

**Transitional housing** programs allow young people to stay for 4 months to 24 months.

### **El Rescate**

872-829-2494

[www.elrescatechicagor.org](http://www.elrescatechicagor.org)

**Eligibility:** Ages, 18-24. LGBTQ-affirming.

### **The Harbour**

1440 Renaissance Drive, Suite 240, Park Ridge

847-297-8541

[www.theharbour.org](http://www.theharbour.org)

**Eligibility:** On-site housing for female-identified youth 16-21 (emergency Shelter for female-identified youth 12-21); supportive housing for all youth.

### **Harmony Village (Unity Parenting & Counseling)**

7923 S. Maryland (1 block east of Cottage Grove)

773-783-9200

**Eligibility:** Ages 17-21. Call to complete a telephone intake. Supportive transitional housing for teens/young adults and their children and pregnant/parenting teens and their children experiencing homelessness.

### **Mercy Home for Boys & Girls**

1140 W. Jackson Blvd (Boys) & 11600 S. Longwood Drive 60643 (Girls)

877-24-START

**Eligibility:** Boys and young men, 11-23; Girls and young women, 11+. Call to begin application.

### **Neon Street Center & Dorms (Heartland Alliance)**

4506 N. Sheridan Road (Wilson Red Line)

773-769-3586

[www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/our-programs/directory/neon-street-programs.html](http://www.heartlandalliance.org/whatwedo/our-programs/directory/neon-street-programs.html)

**Eligibility:** Ages 18-24. Transitional living program for up to two years (or until 21 years old) for all genders. Call to schedule intake assessment. Must access drop-in center service (9a-7p) at least twice a month to stay on the waiting list.

### **New Moms Transformation Center Housing**

5317 W. Chicago Ave.

773-252-5320

[www.newmomsinc.org](http://www.newmomsinc.org)

**Eligibility:** Parents experiencing homelessness, ages 18-24, are identified through the Central Referral System.

### **Open Door Shelter-West Town (The Night Ministry)**

1110 N. Noble St. (@ Milwaukee; Division Blue Line)

773-506-4100 or Toll Free 877-286-2523

[www.thenightministry.org](http://www.thenightministry.org)

**Eligibility:** Ages 14-20, all genders. Interim Housing Program with 4 month maximum stay. Transitional Living Program available to clients in the interim program. TGNC youth and single parents with children are welcome. No wait list. Best times to call: before 9am, after 9pm. No ID required. No waitlist. The more times you call, the more chance you have of getting a bed.

### **RAPPP-Lakeview (The Night Ministry)**

3262 N. Clark St. (Belmont Red Line)

773-506-3120

[www.thenightministry.org](http://www.thenightministry.org)

**Eligibility:** Ages 14-19. 120 day interim-housing program for pregnant individuals and/or parenting youth. 8 beds, 8 cribs.

#### **Solid Ground (La Casa Norte)**

3533 W. North Ave (#72, North Avenue Bus)

773-276-4900

[www.lacasanorte.org](http://www.lacasanorte.org)

**Eligibility:** Young men, ages 16-21½, experiencing homelessness. 2 year independent living. Call to schedule an intake and assessment between 9am–7pm Monday–Friday.

#### **Stable Futures (Heartland Alliance)**

1709 East. 53<sup>rd</sup> St.

773-624-6148

**Eligibility:** 18+. Provides a rental subsidy for up to two years and participants are housed in scattered-site, market-rate apartments throughout Chicago. Must apply through the Central Referral System. Referral from another organization is preferred.

#### **Teen Living Programs, Belfort House**

3745 S. Indiana Ave. (Green Line 63rd/Ashland)

773-548-4443 or Outreach office—773-548-6780 ext. 38

[www.tlpchicago.org](http://www.tlpchicago.org)

**Eligibility:** Ages 18–21. Transitional housing program. Young people, TGNC, and pregnant youth welcome. Program cannot accommodate participants with children. You will need to meet with youth outreach staff to be added to the wait list, which can be done at an outreach site or the main office.

Check out the outreach schedule (call number above first because these change frequently):

Monday: 39<sup>th</sup> & Cumberland or 31<sup>st</sup> & Cumberland (Dunbar or Endell Phillips), 2:30-6:30 PM.

Tuesday: 79<sup>th</sup> & Cottage Grove, 3-7 PM.

Thursday: 63<sup>rd</sup> & Ashland Green Line, 2-6 PM.

Friday: 95<sup>th</sup> & Dan Ryan Red Line, 4-8 PM.

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless has a listing here: [www.chicagohomeless.org/programs-campaigns/legal-aid/law-project/resources-for-youth/](http://www.chicagohomeless.org/programs-campaigns/legal-aid/law-project/resources-for-youth/). For a directory of housing programs in Chicago visit: [www.direct2housing.org](http://www.direct2housing.org). Youth, 18+, can also add their names to the Chicago Central Referral System at [www.chicagocrs.org](http://www.chicagocrs.org) to apply for permanent supportive housing. The CRS Assessment Tool can be filled out **online** and assesses your eligibility for supportive housing. Rather than being a “first-come, first-serve” waitlist, it is based on a household’s need for housing. Not all programs use the CRS, but many do.

### *Legal*

#### **Where can I turn for legal assistance?**

The Illinois Homeless Youth Handbook at [www.homelessyouth.org](http://www.homelessyouth.org) provides legal information on topics such as safety, foster care, LGBTQ, health care and medical rights, public benefits, education, employment law, and many others. The Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois offers free, zealous, life-affirming, and gender-affirming holistic criminal legal services to low-income and street based transgender and gender non-conforming people targeted by the criminal legal system – including support to change your legal name through the Name Change Mobilization Project. Phone: 773-272-1822. Address: 4707 N. Broadway. The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless assists youth experiencing housing instability with a variety of civil legal issues including public benefits, partial emancipation, discrimination, access to youth shelter/housing, and LGBTQ resources. Call (toll free) 1-800-940-1119.

#### **Where can I find help with acquiring documentation I need, such as my birth certificate?**

The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless assists youth experiencing housing instability with access to identification documents (birth certificates, social security cards). Call (toll free) 1-800-940-1119.