Our Responses to COVID-19

To our Connections for the Homeless community,

The health and safety of participants, staff, volunteers, and community members is our top priority. Like each of you, we have been taking proactive measures to address this rapidly evolving health concern. We know that even small modifications can lead to inconvenience and hardship for program participants. However, after thoughtful consideration and discussions, we ultimately decided that these changes provided the best protection to participants, especially those living at our men’s shelter and housing programs, to reduce the risk of transmission of infectious diseases, especially COVID-19.

Our current actions in response to COVID-19:

- Effective Tuesday, March 24, we are implementing a different staffing pattern. Most staff will work from remotely from home with limited staff on site to maintain operations with support from limited volunteers.
- Effective Tuesday, March 24, all drop-in services will be consolidated at our 2121 Dewey Ave. location. Our Chicago Ave. drop-in will not be open during the day except for the psychiatric clinic on Tuesdays. We will continue to provide lunches, showers, food pantry, mail, and limited case management (by appointment only) from Dewey Ave. We cannot accept walk-ins for case management. Please encourage individuals in need of case management to call 847.475.7070.
- Our men’s shelter, Hilda’s Place and Our House, young adult housing operations will continue as usual.
- Every person is required to use hand sanitizer upon entry and to wash their hands throughout their stay at every facility.
- Additional signage related to hand washing and limiting the spread of germs is posted throughout facilities.
- We increased the cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces, door handles, phones, chairs, bathrooms, and other high-touch areas.
- We are not serving or accepting communal food (unsealed items, platters, cakes, loose fruit, etc.)
- We are asking volunteers that have recently travelled or are feeling unwell to stay home. We have altered our meal service to encourage social distancing.

The Center for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations are continuously changing. We are carefully monitoring updates, communicating regularly with other service providers, the department of health, and health care institutions, and making the necessary adjustments to best maintain health and safety in our community.

Please contact us with any questions, concerns, or feedback. Thank you for your understanding and support in keeping our community healthy.

In gratitude,