



Good  
Morning &  
Thank You!

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An Introduction to The Night Ministry

# Homelessness in Chicago



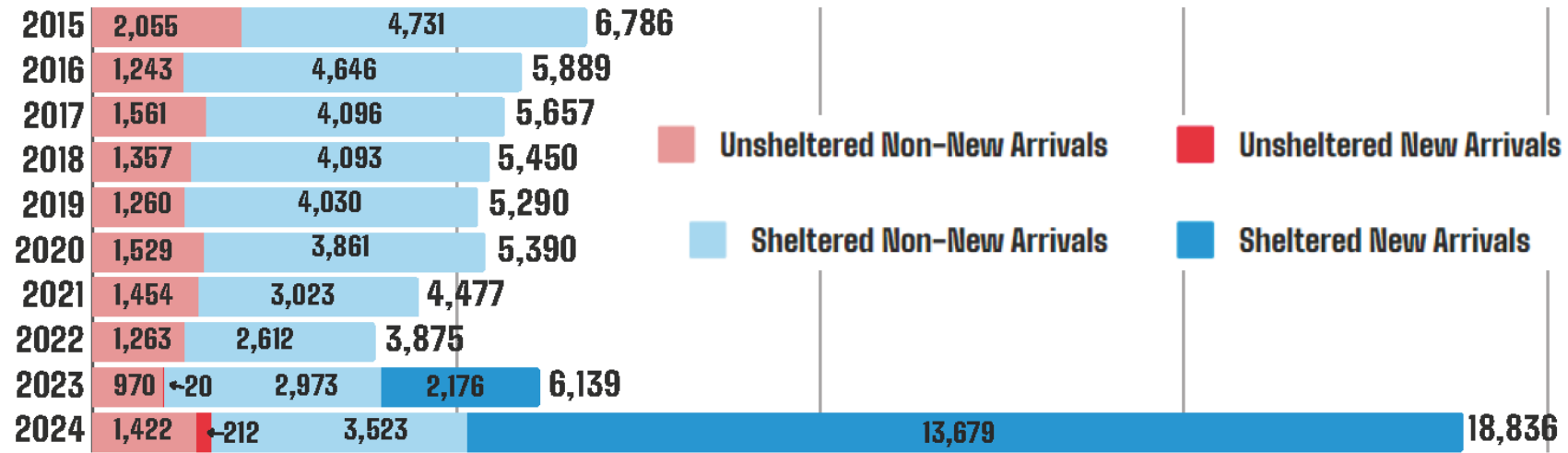
Samuel Paler-Ponce, Julie Dworkin (July 2023). Estimate of People Experiencing Homelessness in Chicago, IL (2023). Chicago Coalition to End Homelessness. Available at [www.chicagohomeless.org/estimate](http://www.chicagohomeless.org/estimate).

- 24K people live on the street or in a shelter (+7,985 from previous year)
- 44K couch surf or live doubled-up (-5,156 from previous year)
- 68,440 Chicagoans could be considered homeless
- Increase of 2,829 people from previous year
- **This is almost 2.5% of our population**

# Homelessness in Chicago

- 18,836 residents experiencing homelessness on night of PIT
  - 17,202 residing in shelter; 1,634 unsheltered (65% increase)
  - 13,679 of sheltered population were new arrivals; 212 of unsheltered population were new arrivals
- While just under 1/3 of Chicago residents identify as Black, 72% of non-new arrivals experiencing homelessness identify as Black

# PIT COUNT: TOTAL ESTIMATE OF PEOPLE COUNTED, 2015-2024



The Night Ministry provides human connection, housing support, and health care to members of our community who are unhoused or experiencing poverty.


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# Our History

- We were founded in 1976 by a diverse group of faith congregations who wanted to address individuals struggling with homelessness, isolation, and despair.
- Our first employee, Reverend Tom Behrens, met with these individuals at night providing a ministry of presence, what we now refer to as **human connection**.





# Who We Are Today

- Health Care
- Housing Support
- Human Connection

# HEALTH CARE

## Outreach and Health Ministry (OHM)



# Service Delivery Methods

**Health  
Outreach  
Bus**

**Street  
Medicine**

**CTA  
Outreach**

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A  
Multidisciplinary  
Approach

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**Nurse Practitioners**

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**Case Managers**

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**Outreach Professionals**

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**Substance Use Advocate**

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# Health Outreach Bus



- Operates from 3pm to 7:30pm, Sunday through Thursday
- 2 stops each night
- Currently serving South Shore, Pilsen, New City, Garfield Park and Northside Encampments
- Most clients report moderately stable housing and food is the most-accessed service

# Street Medicine Team



- Operates Monday - Saturday, most days with 2 shifts
- During FY24, 55 unique service locations
- 90% of clients access medical services and 80% access case management
- 65% of clients report not having consistent access to harm reduction supplies outside of the Street Medicine Team

# CTA Outreach

- The Night Ministry first began outreach on the CTA as a pilot program in 2020 and has since expanded to provide over 15,000 outreach contacts in 2024.
- Our staff can be found on Wednesday night at the Howard Red Line station & Thursday night at the Forest Park Blue Line.
- Medical providers, case managers, outreach staff, and substance use specialists are all present on-site.
- The CTA program averaged 148 clients a night last year.





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# IMPACT in FY24

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- **912** ER visits prevented, saving **\$1.7m**
- **2,800+** health assessments conducted
- More than **3,000** case management visits
- **105** clients housed, **296** tents distributed
- **66k** meals, **19,500** hygiene kits

# New Arrivals

- **47,580 new arrivals** have been welcomed in Chicago since August 2022.
- The Night Ministry has remained committed to providing services to all those in our community experiencing homelessness, including the new arrivals.
- When new arrivals were being housed in temporary staging areas (e.g., police stations, airports), our medical staff consistently provided care and treatment for a variety of conditions to the folks sheltering there.
- One System Initiative underway.



# Youth Programs

*Safe & Stable Housing, Well-being,  
Permanent Connections, Education &  
Employment*

In FY2024, The Night Ministry served **553** young adults and **132** of their children



# Youth Programs

- Housing programs that range from overnight shelter to long-term residential programs
- Supportive services, like case management
- Housing programs include: The Crib, Interim, Parenting with Purpose, Pathways, and the Flexible Housing Pool

Services for Youth

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**Case Managers**

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**Connections to Outside Services**

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**Program Activities**

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**Aftercare**





**Youth Outreach Team:**  
First point-of-contact for many young people



## **The Crib:**

Emergency overnight shelter

Ages 18-24

1st floor of our Bucktown offices



**Interim Housing:**  
Short-term shelter  
Ages 14 through 20  
West Town neighborhood



**Parenting with Purpose:**

Pregnant and parenting youth with their children

Up to 2 years of transitional housing

Ages 16 through 21

West Town neighborhood

# Parenting with Purpose Renovations



- The move to West Town addressed challenges such as no elevator and no private bathrooms.
- Worked with Humble Design to transform the rooms for our clients.



**Pathways:**

2 years of transitional housing

Ages 18-24

North Lawndale\*





# Flexible Housing Pool:

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- Supports 95 households in their own apartments
- Housing Case Managers provide support with moving costs, apartment fees, landlord communications, navigating federal assistance programs, and more.
- 98% of clients remained housed last year, 37% of clients were employed each month

# Youth 4 Truth

# Youth Program Highlights

## Clients Housed

Youth programs transitioned **155** clients to safe and stable housing in FY2024.

## Mental Health Services

The team connected **73** clients to mental health services. \*

## Permanent Connections

The team assisted **165** clients to make a permanent connection while enrolled in a youth program.

## Employment

The youth programs team assisted **97** clients with finding or keeping a job.

## Education

A total of **64** clients enrolled in school while staying with us.

## Case Management

A total of **226** clients completed a goal while working with The Night Ministry.



# How Can You Help?

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# Volunteer Opportunities

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## Direct Service

- Provide hospitality to guests at our Health Outreach Bus
- Packing and distributing sack suppers and hygiene kits
- Holiday Celebration

## Service Events

- Service Saturday
- Serve & Learns

## Administrative Volunteering

- Lend your skills to help with mailings, research and other projects
- Help process and sort in-kind donations

# Advocacy

- Runaway and Homeless Youth Trafficking Prevention Act (S.B. 3125 / H.R. 6041)
  - Durbin (Democratic Chief Co-Sponsor), Duckworth, Quigley, Schakowsky
  - Policy Brief: <https://nn4youth.org/wp-content/uploads/2024-RHYA-Policy-Brief.pdf>
- Housing for Homeless Students Act (H.R. 7278)
  - Danny Davis
  - Allows full-time college students who have experienced homelessness to access rental housing funded by the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (exceptions exist for others)
- Homeless Children & Youth Act (H.R. 5221)
  - Ramirez
  - Aligns the federal definitions of homelessness

# In-Kind Donations

- New men's athletic socks (L-XL), underwear (dark colors preferred), t-shirts (L-XL-XXL)
- New Sweatpants and Hoodies
- New Long Underwear
- New Sturdy Gloves, Hats
- Hand/Foot Warmers
- Tents, sleeping bags (laundered, no holes/stains/odors, functional zippers)
- Gift cards (Dunkin Donuts & McDonalds -- \$5/\$10, Target/Wal-Mart/Jewel/Aldi -- \$20)
- Venra cards
  
- Full List: <https://www.thenightministry.org/wish-list>

# QUESTIONS?

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