



Student Emergency Fund

COLLEGE STUDENT RESOURCE GUIDE

ALL CHICAGO

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College Planning, Financial Aid, & Scholarships

Choose Your Future

<https://chooseyourfuture.cps.edu>

Chicago Public Schools creates a scholarship guide annually.

What's Next Illinois

www.whatsnextillinois.org

What's Next Illinois is a web-based high school, college and career planning tool that most Chicago Public School students can access for free.

First Generation Student

www.firstgenerationstudent.com

This site is full of info for first-generation students, including tips on finding the perfect campus, applying for admission, making it work financially, and doing the best once you get there and after you graduate. Includes helpful overview of financial aid terminology.

I'm First

www.imfirst.org

An online community celebrating first-generation college students and supporting those who will be.

Federal Student Aid

<https://studentaid.ed.gov>

Information and videos about types of financial aid, how to qualify and apply for financial aid, and how to manage loans.

Emergency Assistance

The Emergency Fund offers immediate help to Chicago families and individuals to help prevent homelessness by intervening during a crisis. Call 311 and ask for "Short Term Help" to be connected to the Chicago Homelessness Prevention Call Center. Once connected to a participating agency, a Fund Manager assesses needs and determines eligibility for a wide array of programs and services, including the Emergency Fund's programs.

Resource Guides & Hotlines for Young People Experiencing Homelessness or Housing Instability

Homeless Youth Handbook: Illinois Legal Issues and Options Handbook

<http://homelessyouth.org/>

Chapters include:

- Foster Care
- Turning 18
- LGBT
- Options for Safety & Stability
- Education
- Employment Law
- Health Care & Medical Rights

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- Identification
- Public Benefits

Illinois Housing Empowerment Handbook

<http://www.deborahsplace.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/04/HousingEmpowermentHandbook.pdf>

Chapters include:

- Types of Housing
- Cash Assistance Programs
- Homeless Assistance Services
- Tenant Rights
- Pest Control
- Financial Planning

National Runway Safeline

1-800-RUNAWAY or live chat

www.1800runaway.org

Contact for resources and confidential support.

Undocumented Student Resources

Illinois Dream Act Undocumented Student Guide to College

<http://icirr.org/content/undocumented-students-guide-college-illinois>

This guide includes financial aid options and a list of higher education institutions in Illinois with information about how to answer the citizenship and social security information on admission applications. Chicago organizations and groups that provide support to undocumented students are included as well. A database of private scholarships available to undocumented students living in Illinois can be found here: www.ICIRR.org/Education (Immigrant Student Scholarship Guide)

Illinois Dream Act Counselor Guide to Resources for Undocumented Students

<http://icirr.org/content/counselor-guide-resources-undocumented-students>

Illinois Coalition for Immigrant & Refugee Rights

1-855-HELP-MY-FAMILY

Information, referral, and crisis hotline for families facing separation due to deportation or have already lost a family member to deportation.

Resources for Students with Disabilities

Access Living

<https://www.accessliving.org>

Access Living is committed to the independence and inclusion of people with disabilities. Check out Access Living's Information & Referral Directory, Resource Finder for Housing, Employment, Health Care, Personal Assistance and other resources.

Housing

Chicago Central Referral System

www.chicagocrs.org

This is the system by which people experiencing homelessness can apply for 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.

Direct2Housing

www.direct2housing.org

This online tool allows you to search for housing information on your own. You can click on each result to see contact information, eligibility criteria, and learn about the application process for supportive housing programs.

Resources for Renting

Metropolitan Tenant’s Organization (MTO)

Renters’ Rights Hotline: 773-292-4988 (open Monday-Friday, 1-5 PM)

MTO offers comprehensive information about landlord-tenant issues and supplies sample letters on their website at: <http://www.tenants-rights.org>

MTO designed an app that provides resources about rights as well as the ability to document and share issues between tenants and landlords in real-time. This app helps resolve issues faster with increased accountability and fewer misunderstandings. Any tenant or landlord can access the app at <http://www.squaredawaychicago.com>.

La Casa

1818 S. Paulina Street

312-880-1889

<http://lacasastudenthousing.org>

La Casa student housing is an innovative model in student housing that surrounds students with all the benefits and resources of on-campus living—plus the added advantage of an on-site Resource center. Located in Pilsen, La Casa offer housing assistance via a La Casa Student Housing Scholarship Fund.

Rapid Rehousing Program

RRHP provides a time-limited housing subsidy (usually 3 to 24 months) to individuals and families.

Chicago residents can access RRHP services by call 311.

Foreclosure Prevention

Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network

<http://keepyourhomeillinois.org>

The Illinois Foreclosure Prevention Network was created as a services to Illinois residents and includes housing counseling, legal advice, and mortgage assistance.

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Interim & Transitional Housing for Young People

These programs provide housing to young people for periods between 4 and 24+ months.

El Rescate

872-829-2494

www.elrescatechicagor.org

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

The Harbour

1440 Renaissance Drive, Suite 240, Park Ridge

847-297-8541

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

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

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

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

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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

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

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. 53rd 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

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

Tuesday: 79th & Cottage Grove, 3-7 PM.

Thursday: 63rd & Ashland Green Line, 2-6 PM.

Friday: 95th & Dan Ryan Red Line, 4-8 PM.

Also provides emergency shelter for young people 14-17 through CCBYS (provider list of locations:

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=37263>).

360 Youth Services Transitional Living Program

1305 W. Oswego Road, Naperville IL 60540

630-717-9408

www.360youthservices.org

Eligibility: Ages 18-21. Transitional living program for youth experiencing homelessness who identify as LGBTQ. Apartments in Naperville, Lisle and Aurora.

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Transitional & Permanent Supportive Housing for Adults

Many programs have transitioned their intakes to the Chicago Central Referral System.

Apply here: www.chicagocrs.org

Hilda's Place Transitional Shelter

1458 Chicago Avenue, Evanston (3 blocks north of the Dempster Purple line stop)

847-424-0945

Eligibility: 18+. 4 month maximum stay.

Housing Opportunities for Women (HOW)

1607 W. Howard Street, Second Floor

773-465-5771

www.how-inc.org

Eligibility: HOW does not accept self-referrals. Requires case managers from referring agencies to initiate the application process. Phone calls should be from the referring agency staff rather than the applicant. More about the application and housing process can be found here: <http://www.how-inc.org/referral.html>

TransLife Center

773-248-5200 x 411 (Call for location)

Eligibility: Ages 18 +, transgender individuals. Chicago House's safe and affirming housing program for transgender individuals. Apply through CRS.

Emergency Housing: The 411 on 311

Accessing Chicago's Adult Homeless Shelter system

1. Go to any hospital emergency room or police station.
2. Go to any pay phone and dial 311, or ask hospital staff to call for you.
3. Tell the hospital staff and/or the person on the phone that you are homeless, 18 years of age or older, & need shelter.
4. A Catholic Charities van will come and take you to a shelter.
5. If hospital staff forces you to leave the waiting room before the Catholic Charities van comes, be polite but assertive and ask to speak to that person's supervisor. If the supervisor also tells you to leave, please report this discrimination to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless.

Emergency Shelter for Youth, Ages 18-24

These overnight shelters for young people can be accessed each evening, 365 days a year. 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.

The Crib (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.

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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. 47th 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 (Unity Parenting & Counseling)

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

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.

Utilities

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)

<http://www.cedaorg.net>

LIHEAP helps lower-income individuals pay their utility bills. The program is means for people facing a crisis who cannot pay their utility bill.

Programs Offered by Utility Companies

Utility companies also provide assistance. You can receive funds through these programs in addition to any LIHEAP funds you may receive.

Com Ed-Residential Special Hardship Fund

<https://www.comed.com/customer-service/assistance-programs/Pages/residential-hardship.aspx>

Peoples Gas – Share the Warmth

http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/home/share_warmth.aspx

Administered for Peoples Gas by the Community and Economic Development Association (CEDA), Share the Warmth provides heating grants to limited and fixed-income households. Eligible customers who

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make a payment toward their bills receive matching grants of up to \$200. To apply, call CEDA at 800-571-2332 or call one of the locations listed here:

http://www.peoplesgasdelivery.com/home/share_warmth.aspx#locations

Basic Needs

Direct2Food is Metro Chicago's one-stop shop for meeting the food needs of you and your family. This online resource will help you located the food pantries, soup kitchens, and meal programs closes to you. Search now: www.direct2food.org

Youth Drop In Centers

Need help with basic needs like rent, utilities, or other housing issues?

Call the Homelessness Prevention Call Center at 1-877-4-Cook-15 (1-877-426-6515) OR call 311 and ask for "Short-Term Help" and you will be transferred to the Homeless Prevention Call Center.

Broadway Youth Center (Lakeview/North Side)

773-935-3151

615 W. Wellington (Broadway & Wellington, inside Wellington Ave UCC. Near Belmont Red Line)

www.howardbrown.org/byc

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday 12–3pm

Eligibility/Services: Ages 12-24. Food, hygiene supplies, workshops, resource advocacy (also by appointment), counseling (also by appointment), medical and HIV/STI testing services (different hours), GED preparation + tutoring.

Cafe Pride (Lakeview/North Side)

Lake View Presbyterian Church, 716 W. Addison (Red Line Addison, #36 Broadway)

Hours: Every Friday night from 8pm–midnight.

Eligibility/Services: Ages 17-21. Need ID. Dinner, games, music, movies.

Neon Street Center & Dorms (Uptown/North Side)

773-433-1290

4506 N. Sheridan Road (at Sunnyside, 2 blocks north of Montrose; Red Line Wilson)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 9am–7pm

Eligibility/Services: Ages 14-24. ID required eventually, but not the first time. Employment/educational assistance, case management services, meals, laundry, showers.

Youth Lounge (Lakeview/North Side)

773-348-2670

Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway (at Buckingham, Red Line Addison or #36)

Hours: 2nd and 4th Saturdays of every month, 4–6:30pm.

Eligibility/Services: Meal, games, music. Beauty parlor 2nd Saturdays, dressing room 4th Saturdays.

Teen Living Program Drop-in (South Side)

773-355-9843

5500 S. Indiana Avenue (basement of New Life Church)

Hours: Monday–Friday, 11am–5pm (Friday by apt. only)

Eligibility/Services: Ages 18-24. Meals and snacks, hygiene supplies, computer/internet and phone access, resource advocacy (also by appointment), and rest and respite.

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C2P @ Washington Park (South Side)

773-702-5872

Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive (1 Block East of King Drive, Green Line Garfield)

Hours: Tuesdays 5:30–8:30

Eligibility/Services: Ages 12–24. Mobile health clinic, HIV/STI testing, meals and snacks, basic needs, resource advocacy (also by appointment), counseling (also by appointment).

Stand Up for Kids (Lakeview)

847-251-1622

3614 N. Ashland

Hours: Mondays, 6:30-9:30 PM

Eligibility/Services: Ages 16-24. Meals, clothing, and transportation assistance.

Casa Corazón (La Casa Norte) (Back of the Yards)

773-276-4900 ext. 250 (case manager)

1736 W 47th Street (@ Hermitage) (Bus #9, #47)

Hours: Monday 3pm-9pm, Wednesday and Friday 9am–9pm

Eligibility/Services: Youth 16-24 experiencing homelessness, couch surfing, locked out, or with no safe place to be. Meals, case management, SNAP enrollment, housing referrals, computers.

Casa Corazón (La Casa Norte) (Humboldt Park/Logan Square)

773.276.4900 ext. 241 (case manager)

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

Hours: 12–8:30pm, Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday.

Eligibility/Services: Ages 16 to 24. Meals, case management, SNAP enrollment, housing, referrals, computers.

[Programs For Trans/Gender Non-Conforming \(TGNC\) Folks](#)

TransSafe @ The TransLife Center (Edgewater/North Side)

773.248.5200 ex. 418

Location: Call for location.

Hours: Wednesdays 1–4pm

Eligibility/Services: Services for transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) individuals, 18+. Medical, legal, housing, social, employment, and other services in a TGNC-affirming environment

After Hours @ Howard Brown (Uptown)

773-388-8906

4025 N. Sheridan Road

Hours: 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 6–9pm

Eligibility/Services: 18 & up. Drop-In for TGNC folks. Food, programming, access to health care providers, hormones, insurance enrollment.

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Street Outreach-Youth

Street and Community Outreach Program (SCOPE) (Teen Living Programs)

Hours: 2:30pm–5:30pm

Location:

Mon: 55th & Indiana (Garfield Green Line stop)

Tues: 35th & State (Green Line)

Wed: 63rd & Halsted (outside Kennedy King)

Thursday: 95th and Dan Ryan (Red Line stop)

Eligibility/Services: Food, HIV testing, referrals, hygiene supplies and safer sex supplies, community.

Night Ministry Youth Outreach Van

773-784-9000 x7004

Hours: Tuesday and Thursday nights 8:30 – 10pm

Location: Halsted just south of Belmont (look for blue van)

Eligibility/Services: Food, HIV testing, referrals, hygiene supplies and safer sex supplies, community.

Employment/Job Training

Cara Program

www.thecaraprogram.org

Provides training, support and job placement services.

Inspiration Corporation

<http://www.inspirationcorp.org>

Offers Foodservice Training program, employment placement services, housing, and supportive services.

Greencorps Chicago

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdot/provdrs/conservation_outreachgreenprograms/svcs/greencorps_chicago.html

Chicago's green industry job training program for individuals with barriers to employment. Greencorps' mission is to promote environmental stewardship and improve the quality of life in Chicago by establishing, maintaining and restoring natural and public spaces.

Chicago Women in Trades

chicagowomenintrades2.org

Current programs include Technical Opportunities Program (a pre-apprenticeship program), Women in Welding Program, and more.

Chicago Public Allies

www.publicallies.org

Partners with AmeriCorps to provide a 10-month intensive program to committed leaders each year.

Year Up

www.yearup.org

Combines hands-on skill development, college credits, and corporate internships to prepare students for success in professional careers and higher education.

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Greater West Town Community Development Project

www.gwtp.edu

Provides a comprehensive array of services, including On-the-Job Training, Job Search Assistance, Direct Placement, and Empowerment Zone Programs.

North Lawndale Employment Network

www.nlen.org

NLEN assists North Lawndale residents through innovative employment initiatives, including Sweet Beginnings.

Youth Job Center of Evanston

www.youthjobcenter.org

Youth Job Center prepares youth ages 14-25 for success in the workplace by providing job-readiness, placement, and employment support in partnership with employers.

Computer/Internet Access

Connect Chicago

www.weconnectchicago.org

Connect Chicago is a loose network of more than 250 places in the city where internet and computer access, digital skills training, and online learning resources are available—for free.

City Colleges

www.ccc.edu/borrowlaptop

City Colleges of Chicago credit students (with 6 or more credit hours) who meet eligibility requirements may borrow a Windows laptop free of charge for up to four weeks. Laptops are issued on a first-come, first-served basis, and supply is limited.

Health and Wellness

Free or Low-Cost Youth Walk-In & Mobile Health Clinics

Broadway Youth Center (Northside)

773-935-3151

615 W. Wellington (at Broadway)

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 3 PM-8 PM; Wednesday: 10 AM-8 PM (no treatment after 6 PM)

Provides: Offers treatment for Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Trichomaniasis (Trich), Bacterial Vaginosis (BV), Yeast infections, HPV (warts), and HSV (herpes). Provides pregnancy tests/options, birth control options, and flu/cold season care.

C2P @ Washington Park (South Side)

773-702-5872

Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive (1 Block East of King Drive, Green Line Garfield)

Hours: Tuesdays 5:30–8:30

Eligibility/Services: Ages 12–24. Mobile health clinic, HIV/STI testing, meals and snacks, basic needs, resource advocacy (also by appointment), counseling (also by appointment).

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Free STI/HIV Testing & Treatment

Broadway Youth Center (Northside)

773-935-3151

615 W. Wellington (at Broadway)

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday: 3 PM-8 PM; Wednesday: 10 AM-6 PM

Provides: Offers treatment for Syphilis, Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, Trichomaniasis (Trich), Bacterial Vaginosis (BV), Yeast infections, HPV (warts), and HSV (herpes). Provides pregnancy tests/options, birth control options, and flu/cold season care.

C2P @ Washington Park (South Side)

773-702-5872

Washington Park Refectory, 5531 S. Russell Drive (1 Block East of King Drive, Green Line Garfield)

Hours: Tuesdays 5:30–8:30

Eligibility/Services: Ages 12–24. Mobile health clinic, HIV/STI testing, meals and snacks, basic needs, resource advocacy (also by appointment), counseling (also by appointment).

Englewood Specialty Clinic

641 W. 63rd St., Lower Level

312-747-8900

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 AM-4 PM; Tuesday, Thursday: 9 AM-5 PM

South Austin Specialty Clinic

4958 W. Madison

312-746-4871

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 AM-4 PM; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 AM-6 PM

Lakeview Specialty Clinic

2861 N. Clark, 2nd floor

312-744-5507

Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8 AM-4 PM; Tuesday and Thursday: 10 AM-6 PM

WestTown STI Specialty Clinic

2418 W. Division

312-744-4092

Hours: Fridays, 8 am - 4 pm

Low Cost STI/HIV Testing & Treatment

Howard Brown Health Center Walk-In Clinic

773-388-1600

4025 Sheridan Road, Chicago IL 60613

STI screening and treatment, \$95; Free HIV, Syphilis, Rapid Hepatitis C testing, Low-Cost Hepatitis A/B vaccination available.

Hours: Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday: 1 pm - 7 pm; Friday: 9 am - Noon and 1 pm - 4 pm; 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month: 9 am – Noon

Aris Health by Howard Brown Health Center Walk-In Clinic

773-388-1600

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3245 N. Halsted, Chicago IL 60657

Hours: 1st and 3rd Saturdays, 9 AM-12 PM

Free or Low Cost LGB and Transgender Health Clinics

Services below are walk-in or by appointment.

For Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming People, 18+

Howard Brown Health Center

After Hours

4025 N. Sheridan Road

773-388-8906

Hours: 1st and 3rd Fridays of the month, 6–9pm

Provides services to 18+. Drop-In for TGNC folks. Food, programming, access to health care providers, hormones, insurance enrollment.

For LGBT Youth

AYAC Same Gender Loving Clinic

1901 W. Harrison

3rd floor, Fantus Building

Hours: Tuesdays from 1:00-5:00pm

Appointments can be made by calling (312) 864-0200.

Clinics for Women and Transgender People

Chicago Women's Health Center

773-935-7145

<http://www.chicagowomenshealthcenter.org>

Provide gynecology, primary care, counseling, acupuncture, massage, and more.

Primary Care Health Centers

Erie Family Health

312-666-3494

<http://www.eriefamilyhealth.org>

Heartland Health Centers

<http://www.heartlandhealthcenters.org>

Access Community Health Network

1-866-882-2237

www.accesscommunityhealth.net

Provides services across 35 locations in Chicago, Cook and Dupage counties.

Sexual & Domestic Violence

Chicago Rape Crisis Hotline

888-293-2080

Operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Provides immediate support, crisis intervention and referrals.

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Chicago Domestic Violence Help Line

Toll-free: 877-863-6338

24-hour, multilingual information, options, counseling, legal and shelter services.

Rape Victim Advocates

www.rapevictimadvocates.org

312-443-9603

Provides medical and legal advocacy, free and confidential counseling, education and training.

Mental Health/Wellness

Center on Halsted

<http://www.centeronhalsted.org>

773-472-6469

Services are provided on a sliding scale basis. They also accept a number of insurance plans, including Blue Cross Blue Shield PPO.

Chicago Women's Health Center

<http://www.chicagowomenshealthcenter.org>

773-935-7145

Provide gynecology, primary care, counseling, acupuncture, massage, and more.

Youth Outreach Services

773-777-7112

<http://www.yos.org>

Community Counseling Centers of Chicago (C4)

773-769-0205

<http://www.c4chicago.org>

Legal Assistance

First Defense Legal Aid

1-800-LAWREP4

<http://www.first-defense.org>

If you or someone you know is being held by the Chicago Police Department, call 1-800-LAWREP4 for a free lawyer, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Legal Assistance Foundation

312-341-1070

<https://www.lafchicago.org>

Provides legal services in five main areas of law: children and families, consumer, housing, immigrants and workers' rights, and public benefits. Also hosts free legal clinics and help desks.

Transformative Justice Law Project

773-272-1822

<http://tjlp.org>

Provides free, criminal legal services to low-income and street based transgender and gender non-conforming people targeted by the criminal legal system.

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Juvenile Expungement Help Desk

312-229-6359

<https://www.facebook.com/JuvenileExpungementHelpDesk>

Provides information and assistance to help you expunge your juvenile arrests and findings of delinquency from law enforcement and court records. To expunge your record, you must be 18 or older and have no open juvenile cases (including probation).

The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

1-800-940-1119

www.chicagohomeless.org

Provides free legal services to families and youth experiencing housing instability in Chicago.

Public Benefits

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

SNAP (also referred to as Food Stamps or Link Card) can help pay for food. Use the Application for Benefits Eligibility (ABE) to apply:

<https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

There are many different types of cash assistance. If you are pregnant and/or have dependent children, you may qualify for TANF (also referred to as public aid). You may also be able to receive other services, including child care. To apply: <https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>

Medical Assistance/CountyCare

If your income is less than \$1,321 each month, you may be eligible for Medicaid. To apply:

<https://abe.illinois.gov/abe/access/>

For those new to the web-based application portal for Medicaid, SNAP, and cash benefits, please review this introductory guide:

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=67366>

Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI)

Social Security provides financial benefits to people who cannot work because they have a medical condition and/or disability. To learn about the process and apply: www.socialsecurity.gov

Social Security Income (SSI)

SSI is similar to SSDI. However, SSDI requires a person to pay into the disability insurance program. SSI provides a minimum payment to persons who have not paid any or enough money into the Social Security programs. To learn about the process and apply online: www.socialsecurity.gov

Identification Replacement & Name Changes

Identification is the key to housing programs, employment, education, and a million other things. This guide will provide a step-by-step process for individuals seeking to obtain and/or replace state identification, social security cards, and/or birth certificates.

What happens if I don't have anything? For example, I lost my state identification, I don't have a birth certificate, and I don't have a social security card.

Step 1: Birth Verification/Birth Certificate

What do I do if I have no identification and was born in Cook County? With permission, lawyers may replace birth certificates for individuals over the age of 18 who were born in Cook County at the County Clerk's Office.

The Cook County Clerk's Office is located at:

The Daley Center

50 W. Washington, East Concourse (Lower) Level -25

Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 603-7790

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

<http://www.cookcountyclerk.com>

Some organizations offer a free legal clinic to assist with birth record replacement. Many of these legal clinics will order and pay for Cook County birth certificates at no charge. The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless also assists with birth certificate replacement. To contact the Law Project for legal help, call toll-free at (800) 940-1119.

Where you ever a student in Chicago Public Schools?

If the answer is "yes," go get your **Certification of Birth Verification**

*No identification is needed!

The first copy is FREE! (Additional copies \$4 money order)

Get online and go to http://www.cps.edu/ABOUT_CPS/DEPARTMENTS/Pages/StudentRecords.aspx

And download the online form or apply online: <https://secure.cps.edu/StudentRecords/>

If you were in school from 1989 to the present, please fax the form to: 773-553-2341

Or mail to:

Chicago Public Schools

Office of Compliance

125 S. Clark Street, 11th Floor

Chicago, IL 60603

*Turnaround time is 2-3 business days from time we receive your request /Allow extra time to receive via US mail

If you were in school before 1989, please fax to: 773-535-5894

Or Mail to:

Chicago Public Schools

Student Records Services

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3532 W. 47th Place, 1st Floor
Chicago, IL 60632

*Turnaround time is 5-7 business days from time we receive your request / Allow extra time to receive via US mail

On the form, you can ask Chicago Public Schools to mail your birth verification to the organization or project that you are working with or to another address.

What do I do if I have no identification and never attended Chicago Public Schools?

What county were you born in? It is often easier to get a Birth Certificate from non-urban Illinois counties. Sometimes, you actually have to go back to that county to get one. Otherwise, a case manager can call, write to the county, and get it through the mail for a fee.

Were you born in a U.S. state besides Illinois?

Check out www.vitalrec.com for more information about birth record replacement in other U.S. states. Read the order forms carefully—as some of these forms request a copy of state-issued picture identification and a money order or check. Some states require picture identification—although some counties do not require copies of picture identification (and sometimes the county prices are less expensive). Make sure you read all of the fine print!

It's best to do a google search for the county of birth + "birth record" to locate county-specific forms. Sometimes, ordering birth certificate online with a credit card is another way to bypass the picture identification requirement.

Step 2: Birth Certificate

There are a few different ways to get a birth certificate. The Cook County Clerk's office keeps official records of births that occur in Chicago and suburban Cook County. If you were born in Cook County, go downtown to the City Hall Building—on the County side of the building in the basement. The cost is \$15 (additional copies of the same record cost \$4 each).

The Cook County Clerk's Office is located at:

The Daley Center

50 W. Washington, East Concourse Level

Chicago, IL 60602

(312) 603-7790

Hours: 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday

One form of ID is required if submitting one of the following IDs:

- State driver's license
- State identification
- U.S. passport
- U.S. naturalization certificate
- U.S. Armed Forces identification card
- U.S. Selective Service card
- U.S. immigration card (resident alien)
- Public Aid Card WITH medical card

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- OR -

Two of these forms of ID are required:

- Social Security card
- Voter registration card (issued within past 90 days)
- W-2 form (most recent tax year)
- Bank statement (issued within past 90 days)
- Utility bill (issued within past 60 days)
- Vehicle registration card
- Life insurance policy (at least 1 year old)
- Checkbook or savings book
- Work identification card with photo
- Traffic ticket (prior to court hearing)
- School identification card with photo
- Foreign passport
- V.A. (Veterans Affairs) medical card
- U.S. issued consulate identification card

Though this is not on their list, they have also been known to take marriage licenses, divorce decrees, postmarked envelopes, and the Chicago Public Schools record of birth (see Step #1).

You can also request a birth certificate through the mail:

Cook County Clerk David Orr
Bureau of Vital Statistics
P.O. Box 642570
Chicago, IL 60664-2570

Include the following items:

- A completed Birth Certificate Request Form ([http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/DocumentLibrary/Birth%20Request%20Form%20\(English\).pdf](http://www.cookcountyclerk.com/vitalrecords/DocumentLibrary/Birth%20Request%20Form%20(English).pdf))
- A photocopy of your photo identification (e.g. driver's license, state issued identification, etc.)
- A check or money order payable to the Cook County Clerk
- A self-addressed stamped envelope

You can also go to any **currency exchange** as well—but prices range from \$10 to \$20 depending on the currency exchange. However, most currency exchanges will accept primary forms of identification—and may be less likely to take inferior pieces of ID like items on the “two of the following” list above. Call (847) 759-8905 for Currency Exchange hours and locations in the Chicago area or visit www.mycurrencyexchange.com.

Lastly, you contact **Vital Chek** and charge your order to any major credit card for an additional fee. You may also request documents shipped overnight. Visit www.vitalchek.com or call (312) 603-7799 to place an order.

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Step 3: Proof of residence

It's important to have mail with your address on it. If you are experiencing homelessness, you can sometimes use an organization's address to receive mail. Eventually, you will use this at the Social Security Office and the Secretary of State to prove your residence.

Step 4: Picture Identification

School identification can be useful for replacing legal documents, like birth certificates. Sometimes, other social service agencies make photo IDs, too. But the social security office requires state-issued photo identification.

Step 5: Social Security Card

Without a state-issued photo ID, it is recommended that you bring 2-3 of the following:

- Birth certificate or birth verification record from Chicago Public Schools
- Voter registration card
- School transcripts (with your full name and date of birth)
- Verification of identity letter from a case manager or social worker
- Medical records with full name, date of birth, and social security number

You can pick up a **free** print out of your social security number if you go to the office and request a **print out**. At that time, they will also give you a letter verifying that they will be sending you a social security card in the mail in 2-3 weeks. If you don't have an address, use the organization's address.

Downtown Social Security Office
77 W. Jackson Blvd, Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60604

Step 6: State Identification or Driver's License

For first time applicants, you will need to prove *signature, birthday, social security number, and residency*. The cost is \$30 for a driver's license and \$20 for a state identification card.

State identification fees can be waived with a Homeless Status Certification voucher. This form can be downloaded here and needs to be completed by an agency or religious organization that can verify your housing status. Form link:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_a230.pdf

Illinois Secretary of State Document requirements to obtain a Driver's License/State ID Card:

http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com/publications/pdf_publications/dsd_x173.pdf

To prove **signature**: signed social security card, out of state Driver's License

To prove **birth**: Birth Certificate/official school transcript/passport

To prove **social security number**: social security card with signature

To prove **residency**: Mail addressed to ID applicant/apartment lease/utility bill

To obtain a duplicate or corrected license:

If your license has been lost, stolen or destroyed, you may apply for another license. You will be required to show acceptable forms of identification that prove your identity. The fee is waived if you bring a police report that documents the theft.

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The Secretary of State's office is located at several locations. For a full listing of locations, visit <http://www.ilsos.gov/facilityfinder/facility> and verify that the location closest to you provides State ID Card First Time Issuance or State ID Card Renewal.

Location that offers *both*:

Thompson Center

100 W. Randolph
Concourse level
312-793-1010
M-F 8 AM-5 PM

Step 7: Voter Registration

It is easier than ever to register with the [Illinois Online Voter Application \(www.ova.elections.il.gov\)](http://www.ova.elections.il.gov). Not sure if you need to register? Did you move? Change your name? Turn 18? [Find your voter registration status here.](#)

You can still register by mail by completing the Chicago resident voter registration application ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)) or the Statewide voter registration application ([English](#)) ([Spanish](#)).

Get more information on [important election dates](#) and [Illinois voter registration requirements](#) as well as answers to [frequently asked questions](#) about elections in Illinois.

Name Change Resources

Name Change Mobilization (Transformative Justice Law Project of Illinois)

www.tjlp.org

About: Attorneys and trained volunteers assist transgender and gender non-conforming folks file petitions to change their names legally at the Daley Center in downtown Chicago. Volunteers provide follow-up support services by accompanying folks to their court dates and helping them navigate the subsequent name change processes at the Department of Motor Vehicles, Social Security Office, **Department of Vital Records, etc.**

Hours: Last Friday of every month, 9:00am – 3:00 pm in room 1202 of the Daley Center, located at 50. W. Washington, Chicago, IL 60602.

Eligibility: To read about eligibility requirements, costs, and the name change procedure in Cook County, IL, please see our [Name Change 101](#) document.

Guide to Name and Gender Marker Changes (Equality Illinois)

Full link to Toolkit: <http://www.equalityillinois.us/wp-content/uploads/2013/12/Equality-Illinois-Names-Change-Toolkit.pdf>