



CITY OF CHICAGO • OFFICE OF THE MAYOR



MAYOR LORI E. LIGHTFOOT

August 24, 2020

Dear Friends:

As Mayor of the City of Chicago, ending poverty and economic hardship is among my top priorities for this city. And housing insecurity is one of poverty's most pervasive symptoms, and it is on the rise in Chicago, including homelessness. Indeed, the urgency to ensure all Chicagoans have a safe and stable place to call home has never been more severe than during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The City of Chicago is committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of our most vulnerable residents by developing targeted support for people experiencing homelessness during this global health crisis. We have already taken steps to alleviate the added strain of the pandemic for our most vulnerable neighbors, including youth and families, but these efforts must be coupled with steps to ensure our fellow Chicagoans are permanently housed. It is important to remember that we all have a stake in helping our neighbors.

This is why I'm calling on landlords and property owners across Chicago to provide available rental units to support our residents experiencing homelessness. Chicago is leveraging all available federal stimulus funding to ensure that Chicagoans who are disproportionately likely to suffer dire consequences because of COVID-19 are able to shelter in long-term stable housing. We are launching a program to house more 1,250 households in the next year. By partnering with us you can receive financial incentives, free advertising, tenant case management, and timely payments, all while contributing to ending homelessness in your community. Each household receives supportive services from trained staff, laying the foundation for a positive tenant-landlord relationship. We have a high demand for studios, one-bedroom, and two-bedroom units. If you have or know someone who has vacant and available housing units, please visit All Chicago's website to learn more about the Chicago Rents program at allchicago.org/chicagorents.

We have no time to waste. Our ability to quickly move people from shelters to stable housing helps safeguard the health and well-being of all Chicagoans. The success of this program will depend on your support. I cannot emphasize enough how critical you are to these initiatives. With your help, we can support our most vulnerable residents. I ask you to join me, the City of Chicago, and our partners to ensure that every resident in our city has a place to call home.

Sincerely,

Mayor