



Our mission is to serve youth and families confronting homelessness. We provide access to stable housing and deliver comprehensive services that act as a catalyst to transform lives and communities.





More than housing...hope!

Purpose of today's meeting

La Casa Norte -- a grantee partner of the City of Chicago's Non-Congregate Shelter Acquisition Program -- is seeking a Special Use Permit at 1622 N. California Ave. in the 26th Ward. We plan to acquire the property, complete targeted updates and renovations, and transition our existing shelter program operations to the site upon completion.



The Need

Pre COVID-19, 1/3 of 3,304 shelter beds in the DFSS-funded system were in shared rooms with over 20 people and shared bathrooms. For single individuals, this number was over 80%.

Research done during the pandemic showed that non-congregate shelters (NCS) led to more positive outcomes for people experiencing homelessness.

Benefits of non-congregate shelters during the pandemic:

- Limited the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases
- High rates of engagement with service providers and exits to permanent housing
- Reduced interpersonal conflict
- Fewer calls to 911
- Improved feelings of safety, security, and optimism about the future

Additionally, non-congregate shelters will provide:

- More privacy, dignity, and safety for youth who may have experienced trauma, violence, or exploitation and reduce their risk of harm and violence
- Provide a safe and affirming environment for LGBTQ youth who may face discrimination, stigma, or violence in other shelters or on the streets

The Need

According to Chicago Public Schools, there were 576 homeless youth in the 26th Ward during the 2022-2023 school year.

School ID	School Name	# Total Homeless Students	# Unaccompanied Homeless Youth
609833	CALDWELL	0	0
609845	CARVER	77	0
609759	CLEMENTE HS	185	20
400039	ERIE	24	0
609930	FUNSTON	19	0
610040	LLOYD	66	0
609780	MARINE LEADERSHIP AT AMES HS	13	0
609968	MCAULIFFE	0	0
610076	MOOS	13	0
400054	NOBLE - PRITZKER HS	25	0
609691	NORTH-GRAND HS	49	0
610594	PATHWAYS - HUMBOLDT PARK HS	27	0
610192	STOWE	15	0
610392	WORLD LANGUAGE HS	0	0
400126	YCCS - ASSOCIATION HOUSE	21	10
400131	YCCS - CAMPOS	42	0
	TOTAL	576	30

Program Overview


In October of 2022, the City of Chicago's Department of Housing (DOH) released a Request for Proposals (RFP) to fund the acquisition of non-congregate shelters (NCS) as part of the city's Chicago Recovery Plan (CRP)

- The project is funded through the Chicago Recovery Plan (CRP), which combines federally appropriated relief funds with locally issued general obligation bonds.
- The Department of Housing selected 5 finalists for the RFP, including La Casa Norte. The funding amount is tied to the number of units the proposed property will create.
- La Casa Norte's proposal outlined the acquisition of a location with capacity for 35-45 youth to be housed in a 24/7, non-congregate setting.
- Preferred locations allow for:
 - A separate bedroom and bathroom for each client "unit"
 - Drop-in programming space
 - Kitchen/dining space
 - Laundry facilities
 - Staff offices/meeting rooms



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La Casa Norte (LCN) is one of the largest providers to youth and families experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity in Chicago.

LCN has been serving the Humboldt Park community since 2002. Last year, we served **19,188** individuals city-wide.

2022 Key Highlights:

- Provided nearly 6,000 youth with emergency shelter and drop-in stays
- Housed nearly 700 individuals
- Prepared over 10,000 meals
- Served 11,253 individuals through food access programs
- Processed 1,147 rental assistance applications



Our Service Model

La Casa Norte follows a Housing First model that offers a comprehensive continuum of housing resources and opportunities to youth and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in 61 of Chicago's 77 neighborhoods.

Housing

Our housing programs include permanent, transitional, and emergency housing options, along with rental assistance to support our clients as they work toward long-term stability and self-sufficiency.



Education

Less than 15% of unstably housed youth complete high school or college. La Casa Norte facilitates access to academic support, financial assistance, career guidance, and vocational training.



Violence Prevention

We address factors at the individual, interpersonal, and community levels to ensure that clients have a safe space to live. We adhere to a harm-reduction model that prioritizes restorative justice to ensure violence is reduced for our clients and communities.



Health & Nutrition

Youth facing hunger are more likely to be hospitalized and experience higher rates of health-related complications. We provide individuals and families with access to health care, mental health services, and nutritious food and meals.

Support Services



Our support teams meet clients' immediate needs by providing case management, food, clothing, household staples, hygiene products, and other essential items.

Emergency Shelter

In 2022 alone, La Casa Norte emergency shelters logged 3,641 unique overnight stays by unhoused Chicago youth ages 18 through 24.

Currently, La Casa Norte operates 3 congregate emergency shelters for youth ages 18-24:

- Shelter 1 (Logan Square) – 10 beds
- Shelter 2 (Logan Square) – 5 beds
- Shelter 3 (Back of the Yards) – 30 beds

Transitioning shelters from rental properties to an agency-owned facility will allow for:

- Increased quality control
- Modernized, trauma-informed design
- The implementation of an innovative non-congregate short-term housing model rooted in clients' well-being, dignity, and progress



RISE for Chicago Youth

A La Casa Norte Project

**In partnership with the City of Chicago,
La Casa Norte is Reimagining and
Innovating the
Shelter
Ecosystem for
Chicago Youth**



Projected Site

After an extensive, year-long search, La Casa Norte has identified a location that meets LCN's needs and the city's funding requirements.

The identified site is The North Hotel, located at 1622 N. California Ave. in Humboldt Park.

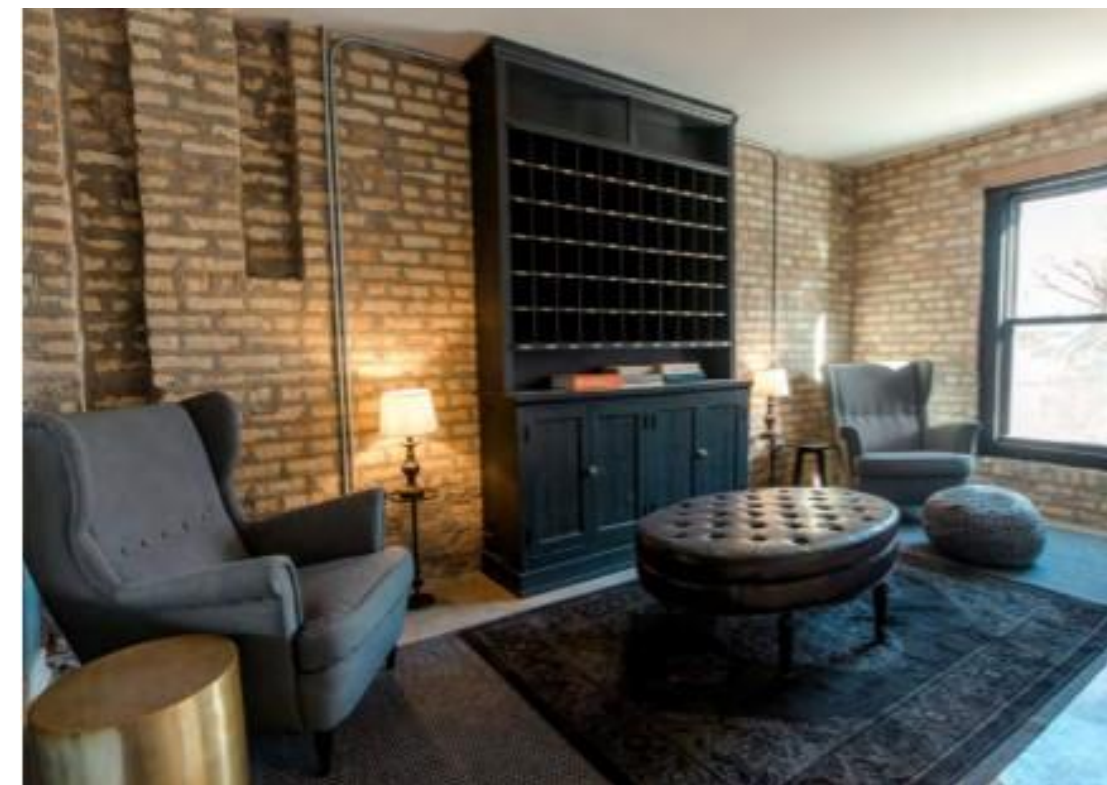
- Building is 23,100 square feet and sits on 5,000 square foot lot.
- The site is currently designated as a Single Room Occupancy site with 39 “studio” market-rate housing units and two retail storefronts.
- LCN would convert the units into short-term, non-congregate housing for youth ages 18-24 experiencing homelessness.

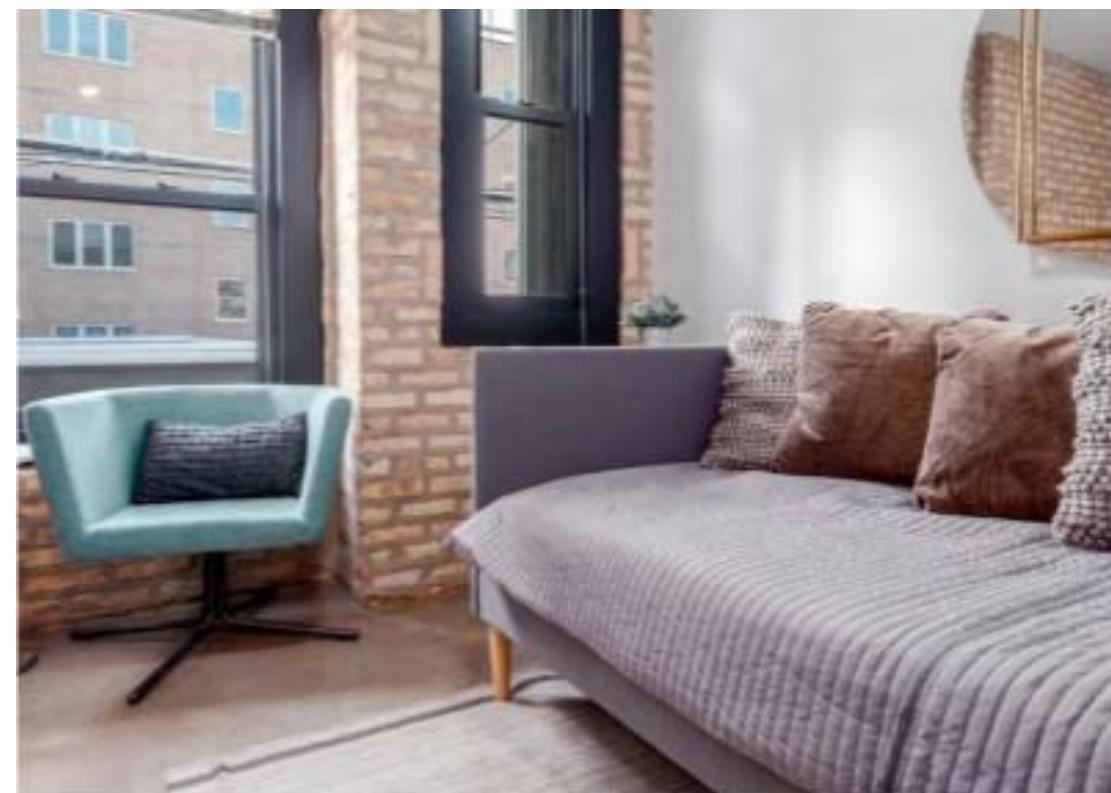
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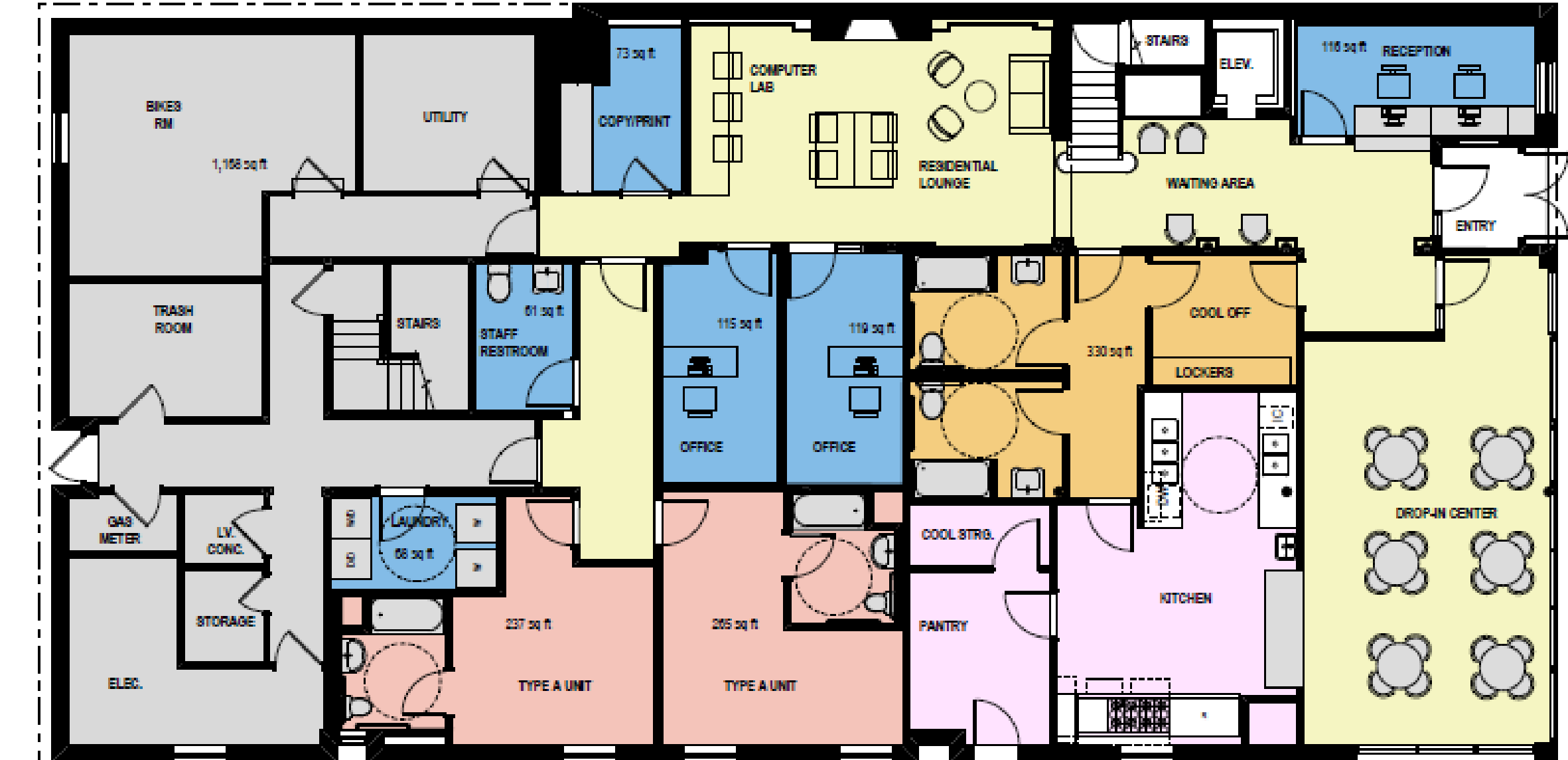
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- LCN would redesign the storefronts to create ADA-compliant housing units and support youth programming (housing, meals, life skills training, education, and workforce development) for residents and community.
- LCN would provide 24/7 staffing to support youth programming and building operations.





Initial drawing of the proposed layout of the first floor to accommodate two ADA-compliant rooms and programming space



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1ST FLOOR PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"



Question & Answer

Jose M. Muñoz
Executive Director

Larry McKay
Vice President of Finance & Operations

Salvador Cerna
Director of Community Impact & Special Projects

Support our Mission

With your support, La Casa Norte makes a difference in the lives of thousands of Chicagoland youth and families each year.

To learn more about our mission, visit LaCasaNorte.org