

Facing Forward 
to end homelessness

2025 ANNUAL REPORT

**JULY 1, 2024 –
JUNE 30, 2025**



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Dear Facing Forward Community,

This year we witnessed the transformative power of fresh starts for more of our neighbors than ever. Together, we served nearly 5,000 Chicagoans with stable housing, critical resources, and wraparound support – remaining a steady foundation in an uncertain time.

We know that before anyone can imagine a new beginning, they need their basic needs met. That's why long-term housing services are the bedrock of our mission, providing safety and stability to over 500 Chicagoans. Our innovative Two-Generation model for families with children, guided by our Family Empowerment Team, provides tailored support – empowering both parents and their youth. This year, we also stepped forward during a challenging moment for our sector, taking on a resident transfer initiative to keep even more Chicagoans safely housed. We're proud that in a moment of risk, we embraced our values – and deepened our commitment to our mission.

At the same time, our Housing Resource Specialists expanded their reach as well, helping more than 4,000 individuals take their first steps toward a fresh start – more than doubling the impact from previous years.

We celebrate these successes with you – without whom the critical work we've undertaken over 40 years, just would not be possible.

While we remain focused on delivering exceptional services, we are also intentionally strengthening Facing Forward as an exceptional organization, ensuring ethical and transparent use of every donor dollar. By investing in our people, infrastructure, and processes, we're building a more sustainable organization – one that is prepared for the future.

As we look ahead, we are deeply grateful to our compassionate community of donors, partners, and supporters. Your incredible, unwavering commitment to empowering families to end their experience of homelessness fuels our purpose. Thank you for standing by us as we navigate change – and we invite you to deepen your impact in the coming year. Your support helps expand what's possible – as we face forward together!

With gratitude and hope,



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Douglas W. Bradshaw".

**Rev. Douglas W.
Bradshaw**

Executive Director



A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Harish Venkitaramanan".

**Harish
Venkitaramanan**

Board Chair

OUR MISSION

Facing Forward ends homelessness for families and individuals by offering hope, help, and housing.

Facing Forward provides permanent housing, education, advocacy, and social services.



OUR APPROACH



HOUSING FIRST

Housing First is a research-proven solution for ending homelessness. It stems from the fact that individuals must have basic needs, such as food and shelter, met before they can build stability in other areas of their lives. By prioritizing housing as the first step in our client journey, we establish a solid foundation for individuals to overcome challenges and take full advantage of the wraparound supports we offer.



TWO-GENERATION MODEL

Facing Forward embraces a family-wide approach. Using specialized services tailored for infants, school-age children, young adults, parents, and elders, we address the impacts of homelessness and prevent its recurrence across generations. Our programs and services promote stability, personal growth, and empowerment for all members of the families we serve.



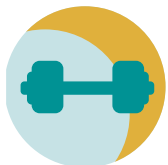
HARM REDUCTION

Harm Reduction is a compassionate approach to minimizing the negative impact of high-risk behaviors such as substance use. We “meet clients where they are” by building trust and creating an environment free from judgment or preconditions for support. We know that change takes time, so we celebrate and encourage every success, big and small. Reducing harm is our first and most essential goal.



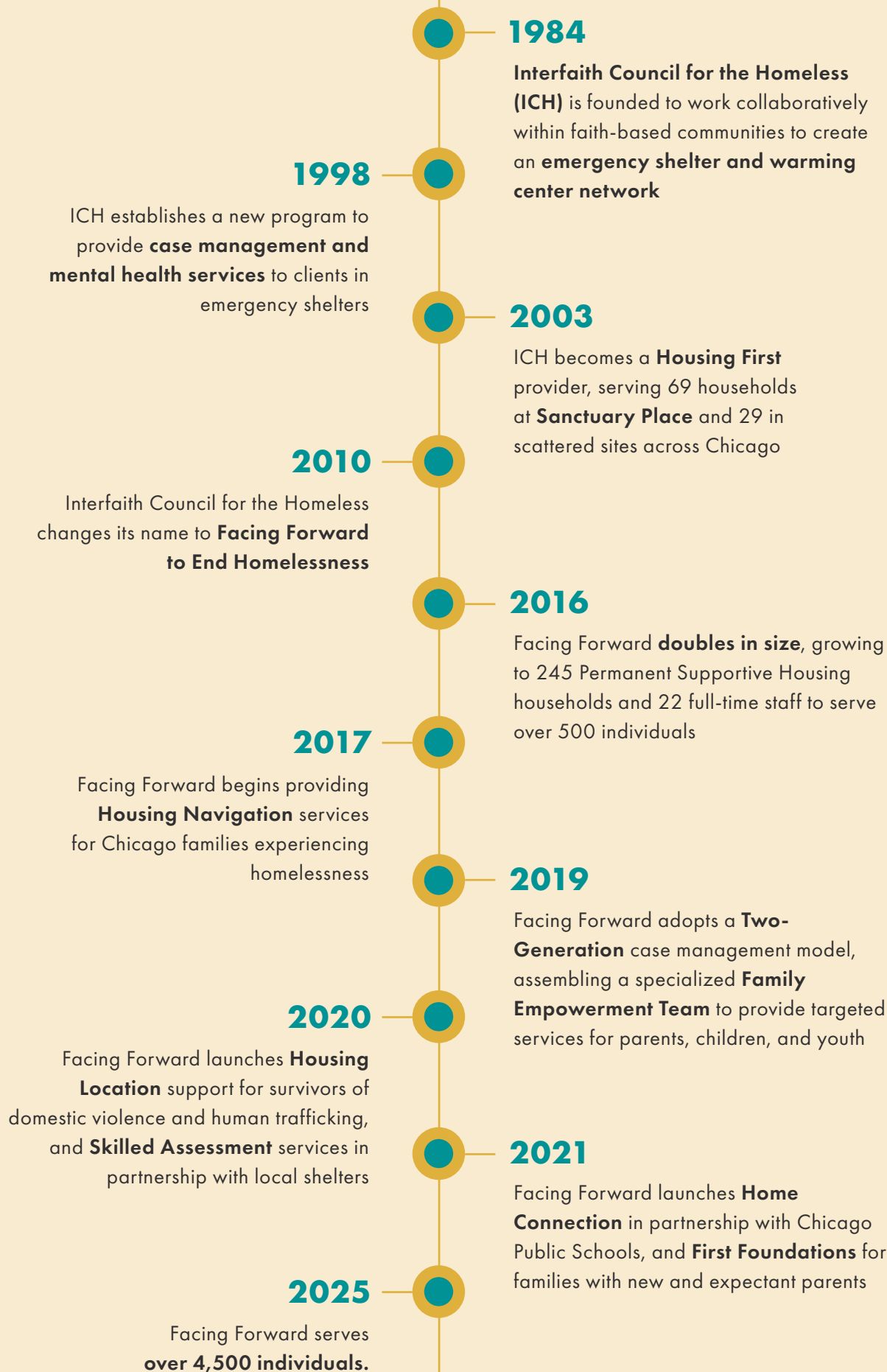
TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE

Traumatic experiences can be both a cause and an effect of homelessness. We recognize how past experiences shape each client’s present journey and build trusting, empathetic relationships and spaces where clients are empowered to heal and move forward.



STRENGTH-BASED PRACTICE

At Facing Forward, we help clients identify their unique strengths, resources, and personal goals. Together, we look at practical ways they can use their skills, relationships, and connections in the community to build a stable foundation and make choices that reflect what matters to them most.



PROGRAMS - OUR IMPACT

At Facing Forward, we believe everyone deserves a safe, stable home and the opportunity to make a fresh start. In FY 2025 we served over **4,500 Chicagoans**, providing housing and support services to help our neighbors take steps toward lasting stability.



Total Number of Individuals Served:

4,742

-  Permanent Supportive Housing: 559 people
-  Home Connection: 152 people
-  First Foundations: 30 people
-  Housing Resource Specialists: 4,001 people

PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

Facing Forward's longest-running program serves families and individuals who have experienced chronic homelessness and are living with a disability.

Our Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) program provides long-term housing paired with family-wide supportive services. Every household is matched with a dedicated case manager who walks alongside them as they work toward their goals. With personalized support and resources, clients can improve their health, strengthen life skills, and pursue education and employment opportunities that empower them for lasting success.

BUILDING AGENCY

We guide and support clients as they make decisions about their housing, set personal goals, and engage in services that help them build the future they envision.

SYSTEMIC IMPACT

PSH is a cost-effective solution that reduces reliance on publicly funded emergency departments, jails, and shelters.

IMPACT

559

individuals
served in FY25,

229

of them children



HEALING AND HOME: OYANDE'S JOURNEY

Facing Forward reaches thousands of Chicagoans every year. Our clients are each on a unique journey with unique needs, and it's truly a privilege to work with them and witness their resilience, growth, and successes.

"Success" is individually defined by each person that comes to Facing Forward. For Oyande, success meant finding a long-term housing solution so she could focus on her health. Oyande connected with Facing Forward in 2023 after a brain cancer diagnosis left her unable to work, unable to afford rent, and soon after, living on the street. In addition to her serious physical health concerns, Oyande's mental health suffered greatly as she experienced homelessness. During this time, Oyande was connected to Facing Forward and her case manager, Venus. Together, Oyande and Venus took the first steps on her journey towards health, housing, and stability.

With Facing Forward's support, Oyande could move beyond homelessness and focus on healing.

Facing Forward's comprehensive resources offered her wraparound support, not just housing. Over 98% of the clients Facing Forward houses are signed up for health insurance, Oyande included. Newly insured, she got access to much needed treatment for her brain cancer, as well as resources to address her mental health concerns.

Oyande flourished with housing concerns behind her, consistent medical care, and a new support system. She is back in good health, both mentally and physically, and can now focus on new financial goals. Oyande has maintained employment as a server downtown for over two years now. She is well on her way to independence and continues to develop financial plans and goals with her case manager.

Oyande's future is bright, and she told us that in the coming years she's looking forward to expressing herself creatively, developing her cooking skills, and giving back to the community.

We are blown away by Oyande's resilience, hard work, and tenacity. She is just one example of what can happen when our clients are connected with the resources and support they need, and we can't wait to see what she does next!

“Facing Forward helped me to climb that ladder to healing, not just physically but mentally. I'm grateful for all of the resources.”

— OYANDE, FACING FORWARD CLIENT



INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS FOR FAMILIES

We know that children whose parents experience homelessness are significantly more likely to face homelessness themselves. Facing Forward's Innovative Programs for Families take a Two-Generation, or whole-family, approach to building stability.

Many families experiencing homelessness are doubled up—staying with relatives, friends, or acquaintances in overcrowded or unstable conditions. Because federally funded housing programs are often reserved for individuals staying in shelters or on the streets, these families are frequently overlooked and left without critical support. Our pilot programs address this gap by providing rapid access to housing and targeted, age-specific services that help families establish stability and move forward with confidence.



FIRST FOUNDATIONS

Serving families with expectant parents and children ages three and under who are facing or at risk of homelessness.

Facing Forward's First Foundations program quickly secures stable, affordable housing for families and provides two years of rental assistance and comprehensive case management. Through tailored services like employment assistance, age-specific support for children, parenting supports, and connections to childcare and family healthcare, we help families build stability and develop the skills necessary to move from the program into stable housing of their own.

IMPACT

11
families, with a total of

30
individuals served in FY25

HOME CONNECTION

Serving families with students experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

In partnership with Chicago Public Schools and University of Chicago Urban Labs, the Home Connection program provides housing-focused case management, short-term financial assistance, and up to one year of rental assistance for families with students experiencing or at risk of homelessness.

IMPACT

47
families, with a total of

152
individuals served in FY25



PROGRAMS

HOUSING RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Serving individuals and families experiencing homelessness.

Facing Forward's Housing Resource Specialists are part of a citywide network working within Chicago's **Coordinated Entry System** to connect people experiencing homelessness with housing and support. This system ensures fair access to a shared housing waitlist, prioritizing those with the greatest need such as families with children, individuals experiencing long-term homelessness, and individuals with serious health conditions.

In addition to conducting assessments in both English and Spanish, Housing Resource Specialists provide immediate support by distributing hygiene kits and connecting individuals with essential resources for food, shelter, medical care, and employment services through trusted community partners.

ASSESSMENTS ARE CONDUCTED AT:

- Pacific Garden Mission
- Franciscan Outreach
- Center On Halsted
- Lincoln Park Community Center
- Matthew House
- Heartland Alliance
- SPARC
- Little Bit of Heaven
- and more!

IMPACT

4,001

assessments conducted in FY25

FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TEAM

In addition to personalized support from their case managers, Facing Forward clients can connect with members of our Family Empowerment Team for age-specific resources and guidance from pregnancy through adulthood.



EARLY CHILDHOOD ADVOCATE | for ages 0-5

The Early Childhood Advocate helps families who are expecting or have young children access the resources they need to support healthy development and prepare for school.

Services include:

- At-home developmental screenings
- Parenting support to establish routines and access essential baby supplies like diapers, cribs, and strollers.
- Connections to prenatal healthcare specialists, doulas, childcare, and preschool programs.



EDUCATION ADVOCATE | for school-age children

The Education Advocate helps families navigate the school system and ensure children have the support they need to succeed.

Services include:

- Assisting families who need Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and school accommodations for diverse learners
- Support establishing daily routines and study habits
- Connections to counseling, therapy, free tutoring, test prep, summer programs, and extracurricular activities



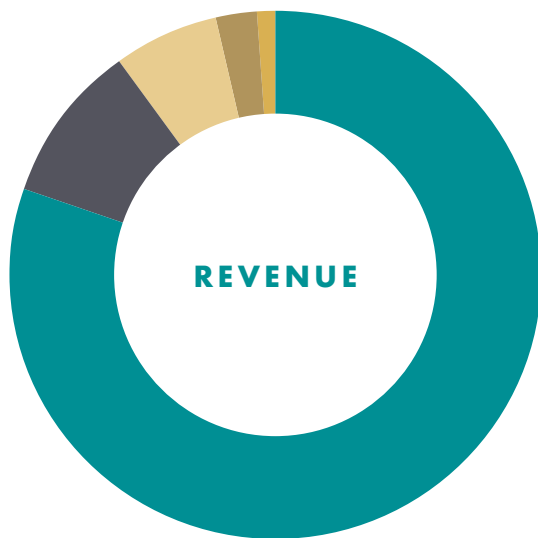
CAREER ADVOCATE | for ages 14+

The Career Advocate helps youth and adults build career skills and connect with employment opportunities.

Services include:

- Help assessing skills, interests, and setting career goals to create a personalized career plan.
- Support with applications, resume writing, and interview preparation.
- Connections to workplace readiness training and professional development workshops.

FY 2025 FINANCIALS



REVENUE:

\$6,837,783

Government: \$5,488,664

Foundations: \$675,090

Contributions: \$432,647
**Individual, Corporate, Faith-based*

Tenant Rents: \$172,678

Other: \$58,909



EXPENSES:

\$7,385,398

Programs & Services: \$5,850,739

General & Administrative: \$1,534,659

TOTAL ASSETS:
\$3,116,028

TOTAL LIABILITIES:
\$694,776

TOTAL NET ASSETS:
\$2,421,252

Facing Forward's financial activity from July 1, 2024 to June 30, 2025 is summarized here, based on audited statements prepared by an independent accounting firm. This summary excludes certain disclosures required by generally accepted accounting principles and is not intended to represent the organization's full financial condition or results. Audited financial statements are available upon request.

Facing Forward ended the fiscal year with a planned deficit due to the spending down of multi-year grants recorded in prior fiscal years.



GET INVOLVED WITH FACING FORWARD

- Corporate Partnership
- Landlord Partnership
- Tax-deductible Gift
- In-Kind Donations of School Supplies, Toys, Hygiene Items and Housewarming Baskets
- Host a Lunch & Learn
- Serve on One of Our Boards
- Volunteer
- Sign Up for Our Newsletter
- Follow Us on Social Media

CONNECT WITH US:



www.ffchicago.org



Facing Forward to End Homelessness



@facingforwardchicago



Facing Forward to End Homelessness



Stay up to date with all things Facing Forward. Scan or click on the QR code to follow us on social media and sign up for our newsletter!



To learn more about supporting Facing Forward, please contact Sydney Stevens at sydney@ffchicago.org or (773) 839-6737.

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**We truly appreciate the generosity of
our corporate, faith-based, foundation,
government, individual and in-kind partners.
As partners in our mission, you've helped over
4,500 children and adults on their journeys
beyond homelessness in FY 2025
(July 1, 2024 — June 30, 2025).**

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Dumsie Ebo
Tom Ekin
Lauren Ernst
Danielle Eubanks
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Built with pride and passion, committed to safety, quality, innovation and excellence within the communities where we live and work.

OHLA USA is a proud supporter of

**Facing Forward
to End Homelessness**

**FIRST
EAGLE
BANK**

INVESTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

A BANK THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST

As a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), we prioritize developing strong, supportive relationships with local non-profits. By doing so, we're able to bring our Vision Statement to life: Make a positive difference in people's lives – our customers, our community, and each other.

**Contact Us to See How Banking with FEB Makes a
Difference in Your Community!**

**312-850-2900
info@febank.com**

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS



Ameriprise Financial is *proud to support the mission of Facing Forward to End Homelessness.*

For 130 years, Ameriprise Financial has been helping clients plan for a secure future. This extends to the communities in which we live and work. Through volunteerism, grants and individual giving, we create exceptional moments in our communities to help people thrive.

ameriprise.com/communityrelations
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THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE PARTNERS

A photograph of a woman with dark curly hair hugging a young girl with curly hair. The woman is wearing a plaid shirt and a watch, and the girl is wearing a denim shirt. They are both smiling and looking towards the camera.

Premiere Systems
is proud to support
**Facing Forward to
End Homelessness**
& their mission to
empower individuals
through housing &
social services.

The logo for Premiere Systems, featuring a stylized 'P' inside a circle.

**Premiere
Systems**
premieresystems.com

Invested in our community

William Blair is proud to support Facing Forward to end homelessness. Their focus to break the cycle of homelessness in Chicago by providing housing and social services that empower individuals to face forward to a new future is an inspiration to us all.

www.williamblair.com/wbcares

William Blair



A large teal graphic in the top left corner, consisting of a series of connected line segments forming a jagged, upward-pointing shape.

Facing Forward

A teal icon of a house, with the roofline integrated into the top of the word 'Forward'.

to end homelessness

CONTACT US

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www.ffchicago.org