Connections’ Response to COVID-19

- Understanding the Basics
  - How much has the response cost?
  - What services are being offered
  - Who is being served - demographics

- What’s next?
  - Transitioning from hotel to permanent housing
  - Build on public/private partnership
How much does Connections’ COVID response cost? Where is the funding coming from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Funding</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>City of Evanston</td>
<td>$685,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$184,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Connections</td>
<td>$297,000</td>
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<td>$200,000</td>
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<td>$100,000</td>
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COVID expense summary March 23-May 31st
What COVID-specific services are being offered and where?

- **Eviction prevention/rental assistance**
  - Prior to COVID-19 ~10k/week
  - Currently ~25k/week and rising
  - 250% increase

- **Emergency congregate shelter**
  - 20 beds for men and women
  - Operates 24/7

- **Hotels as shelter**
  - 232 people in two local hotels
  - 165 adults 67 children

- **Expanded food pantry & drop-in services**
  - 20-50 visits/day
  - 464 individuals served in two months
What COVID-specific services are being offered and where?

Food and Meals
- $184,000 Invested in local restaurant industry through delivery of 3 meals/day (3,500 meals/week) to hotel guests as well as meal support to housed participants

Health Care and Mental Health
- Psychiatric clinic every other week
- House-calls and clinic hours by Connections’ staff nurse
- Partnership with Erie Family Health for primary and behavior health care
- On-site testing of shelter residents and staff through Advocate Aurora Health/Lutheran General
- Mental health support by In-house mental health staff and partners like Jocelyn Center and Trilogy

Partnership support
- Moran Center
- Family Promise
- YWCA
- Peer Services
- Y.J.C, Y.O.U. and many others

Other Supports
- Mail service
- Laundry service
- Transportation support
- Case management
Summarizing COVID services

Hotels & shelter
Total Clients Served 274
Total Households 202
Total Children 74
Total Families with Children 32
Total Shelter Nights >12,200
Total Meals Served >28,000

Drop-In
Case Management, Food Pantry, Showers, Lunches, Transportation Passes

Daily Visits Dewey Drop In

Total Visits: 1,584  Unique Clients: 464

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.
Who is in emergency and hotel shelters

Current Clients
245
Congregate Shelter – 13   Hotel A – 59   Hotel B – 173

Current Households
173

Current Children
67

Current Families with Children
28

Race
- Black/AA 68%
- White 19%
- Other 1%
- Missing Data 12%

Disabling Condition
- Yes, 47%
- No Data 12%
- No 47%

Connected to Evanston
- Yes, 151, 62%
- No, 49, 20%
- No Data, 45, 18%

Age Range for All Clients
- 25-54: 120
- 19-24: 13
- <18: 67
- >55: 45

Ending homelessness, one person at a time.
What’s next?
Considerations for housing pathways

Vulnerability scores for adults

- Low vulnerability: 7%
- Assessment in process: 50%
- Vulnerable: 28%
- Highly vulnerable: 15%

Income

- No Income: 49%
- Receive Income: 45%
- Unknown: 6%

Monthly income range: $200-$2,600
Average monthly income (for those receiving income): $950
What’s next?

160 households - two primary paths to housing

Permanent rental supports (70-90 households)

Permanent Supportive Housing
- Disabling condition required
- Homeless for at least 12 months
- Low inventory of available units

Housing vouchers
- “Portable” or site-based
- Very limited inventory

Temporary or no rental supports (50-70 households)

Rapid rehousing (ESG/CDBG)
- 3-24 months of full or partial rent support

State/private short-term rental assistance
- 1st months rent and security deposit
- Up to six months rent in arrears or advance

Market-rate housing
- With or without move-in support
What’s next?

Build on the momentum of a successful public/private partnership forged during crisis

- Direct federal CARES-funded (CDBG/ESG) **passthrough dollars** to rental assistance and staffing to support transition to housing
- Continue to **support hotel rooms** through FEMA reimbursement period (August 2020)
- Consider designating some Affordable Housing Fund resources for a **Flexible Housing Pool**
- **Convene landlord network** and encourage participation and flexibility regarding rental qualification