

## Chicago Multifamily Homeless Preference FAQ

1. Is adopting a homeless preference mandatory?  
No. Adopting a homeless preference is voluntary.
2. What is the Central Referral System (CRS)?  
The system is a single point of access to Permanent Supportive Housing and Permanent Housing with Short Term Supports to improve efficiency through which individuals and family access housing. The system prioritizes housing for the most vulnerable based on length of homelessness, date of application, and vulnerability score (based on things like age, number of ER or hospitalizations in the past year, specific health conditions, etc).
3. Do the owners have to use the referral process we have set up with the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH)?  
No. Owners can partner with any homeless service organization.
4. Are there specific people that the Owners need to contact at CSH if they are using the CRS referral process?  
Yes. Please contact Betsy Benito at 312-332-6690 x 14.
5. What geographic area does the CSH referral process cover?  
The Central Referral System is for the City of Chicago only. Any owner wishing to adopt a homeless preference for buildings outside of Chicago may do so but we do not have a referral process set up for them. If there is interest, we can put the Owner in touch with the local Continuum Of Care (COC) who may be able to help them partner with a local homeless organization.
6. Can CSH refer applicants meeting specific unit or program requirements?  
Yes. CSH can send over referrals based on the following criteria: median income, household composition, gender, age, HIV/AIDS, Military/Veteran, disabling condition (presence of, not specific condition), and current zip code.
7. Does the Owner need to amend their Tenant Selection Plan prior to receiving referrals if they currently have no waiting list?  
No. The Owner can fill any vacancies first; however, we would like the Owner to amend their TSP after the units are full.
8. What if the applicant does not have money for a security deposit?  
The Chicago Alliance has a small move-in fund that can be used for things such as back utility bills and security deposits. For more information, please call Kathleen Molnar at 312-379-0301 x 12.

