

Housing Opportunities for Women (HOW): Permanent Supportive Housing at Greenview Apartments

Greenview Apartments Chicago, IL

The Greenview Apartments were built in 1923. Housing Opportunities for Women began renovation on the building in 2002 to convert it from a transitional housing facility to permanent supportive housing for families. Currently, six female-headed households reside at Greenview and utilize the lower-level Resource Center for weekly group activities such as parenting skills and homework club. Each of the six apartments has two bedrooms, living and dining rooms, a bathroom and kitchen. Participants easily access community resources such as medical, dental, and recovery services, and community colleges via CTA public transportation.



The Sponsor

Since 1983, Housing Opportunities for Women, Inc. (HOW) has provided housing and supportive services in Rogers Park and surrounding communities. HOW was the first transitional shelter for homeless women in Chicago. In the mid-nineties, HOW began providing services to homeless women and their children. In 2004, HOW shifted its programming from transitional housing to a Permanent Supportive Housing Program, utilizing a “Housing First” approach. With “Housing First,” women and families are connected with permanent housing FIRST, and support services immediately follow housing placement. HOW’s experience has been that individuals who experience homelessness are better equipped to focus on the issues that led them to homelessness, when stably housed.

More than 200 women and children are currently working with staff at HOW to reach their highest level of independence through subsidized housing and individualized case management. HOW owns two buildings for participant housing. The remainder of participants live in scattered-site housing leased throughout the North side by HOW.

CSH and the Project

CSH was an integral partner in financing the Greenview Apartments. CSH provided a \$210,000 loan for acquisition and pre-development expenses. Although repaid upon closing, CSH remained a strong partner throughout the process, providing HOW staff with encouragement and public relations strategies. CSH then partnered with HOW to host the *Greenview Open House* upon completion of the project in the fall of 2003. In 2004, CSH granted HOW \$30,000 for technology upgrades to assist them in building their capacity to own and operate permanent supportive housing.

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HOW has worked with CSH on advocacy efforts, renovation projects, and financing. For more information on Housing Opportunities for Women, visit www.how-inc.org or contact the Illinois CSH office through www.csh.org.

Funding Sources

Capital

Corporation for Supportive Housing (acquisition and pre-development loan)	210,000
Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund (loan)	650,550
Illinois Housing Development Authority (tax credits)	150,000
Total	\$1,010,550

Operating

HUD Shelter + Care	42,000
Eleanor Foundation (first year)	21,000
Total	\$63,000

Services

IDHS Services in Supportive Housing	~15,000
Private Fundraising	~20,000
Community Resources	~7,500
Total	~\$42,500



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CSH helps communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness.