

Building a Home for LGBTQ Community Services on the Southside of Chicago

Thanks to State Rep. **Lamont Robinson**, Governor **JB Pritzker**, Majority Leader **Gregory Harris**, and other supporters in the Illinois General Assembly, the 2019 Illinois Infrastructure Bill, called Rebuild Illinois, includes a \$15 million appropriation for Howard Brown Health to build a new healthcare and social services facility on the Southside of Chicago. The future development will include healthcare and other essential services affirming the lives of LGBTQ people and allies.

Vision

- Southside home for the LGBTQ community;
- Health, wellness, and community-building offerings;
- Co-location of multiple entities;
- Meeting and gathering spaces;
- Partnership with housing, if additional funding can be raised.

Pride Action Tank Launching Community Input Project

With the assistance of a volunteer steering committee, Pride Action Tank will lead efforts to gather community input on the important service needs, considerations, preferences, and priorities to make the future center a safe, welcoming, and affirming space to gather and receive services. Stay tuned for an online survey and community meetings being planned for 2020.

Project Phasesⁱ

Phase One: Community Input | September 2019 - September 2020 (*Focus areas: Invite stakeholders to brainstorm ideas and give input to inform future development plans.*)

Phase Two: Partnerships and Site Selection | September 2020 – February 2021 (*Focus areas: Narrow scope; model costs and scope; determine prospective agency partners.*)

Phase Three: Implementation and Planning | February 2021 – February 2022 (*Focus areas: Invite bids for construction management, architecture, zoning specialist, and other culturally competent vendors to draft detailed plans for future facility.*)

Phase Four: Final Review | March 2022 – Feb 2023 (*Focus areas: Invite review of project summary and finalize financial, construction, and occupancy plans.*)

Phase Five: Construction and Ribbon Cutting | March 2023 –Feb 2024 (*Focus areas: Initiate, oversee, and complete construction; develop operational agreements.*)

Services

Complementing the clinic's medical offerings, the center may offer youth development, career development, social services, and, pursuant additional funding, supportive housing.

Partners

Howard Brown Health will partner with other entities serving the LGBTQ community on the Southside of Chicago. Partnerships to be determined by the end of 2020.

Howard Brown Health provides a full spectrum of outpatient services, including sexual and reproductive health, primary care, dental care, behavioral health, and social services at 11 clinics citywide, including three on the Southside. Founded in the LGBTQ community, Howard Brown reaches more than 35,000 patients annually. No one is turned away for an inability to pay. Most of its 11 clinics are co-located with agency partners that provide complementary services. Learn more at howardbrown.org.

ⁱ Time parameters are projected