



Frequently Asked Questions: Howard Brown Health Expansion Plans, 2020 - 2024

On February 14, 2020, Howard Brown Health announced a set of expansion plans to increase LGBTQ youth services, medical and behavioral healthcare in the Lakeview neighborhood, and clinical and other services on the South Side of Chicago. Partner agency Pride Action Tank has launched a needs of assessment to determine the most pressing needs and preferences of LGBTQ people and families residing on the South Side. The results of the needs assessment will inform planning for the future clinic and South Side community center. Learn more about Howard Brown's expansion plans [here](#).

Broadway Youth Center

1. When is the new BYC expected to open?

Absent permitting delays, construction of the new location at 1023 W. Irving Park will begin in the summer of 2020 and the building will open in the summer of 2021.

2. How much larger is the new BYC and how will programming change?

The new permanent home of BYC is a little over three times the size of the current location. The new five-story, 20,000 square-foot facility will house BYC's support programs on the ground floor and top two levels, medical care on the second floor, and staff workspaces on the third floor. With less crowding, BYC's education, employment, youth development, and basic needs programs will have dedicated spaces to help young people experiencing homelessness build their skills and resiliency. The second floor medical clinic will allow BYC to expand its walk-in primary care and sexual health screening clinic for adolescents and young adults ages 12-24.

3. What is the mission of BYC? How does it fit within the mission of Howard Brown Health?

The Broadway Youth Center aims to interrupt the cycles of unemployment, violence, poverty, and lack of access to education that lead to chronic/intermittent homelessness and poor health outcomes for LGBTQ young people and their allies. BYC is one of eleven community clinics operated by Howard Brown Health to uplift the lives of LGBTQ people of all ages.

4. What are the main program offerings at BYC?

BYC provides client assistance with basic needs such as laundry, respite, and meals in tandem with medical care, behavioral health, case management, and education and employment services. Through this integrated model, BYC provides a space where LGBTQ young people can exist authentically, learn to navigate institutionalized systems, and foster a community of peers who will aid them on their journey towards long-term success. In fiscal year 2019, BYC served 2,575 unique young people across all services.

At the heart of BYC's model is its drop-in program, which operates as a walk-in space where young people experiencing homelessness can access a full suite of low-barrier services including showers, food, laundry, and community programming. In addition to drop-in, BYC operates six main programs: (1) resource advocacy offers individualized case management to chart paths out of homelessness and toward the achievement of personal goals; (2) educational and employment services support young people in

achieving their high school equivalency diploma and securing/sustaining employment; (3) medical services offer walk-in sexual and reproductive health screenings, primary care, talk based therapy, and psychiatry; (4) outreach provides venue-based testing, marketing, education, and community-building events to reach diverse segments of young people across metropolitan Chicago; (5) violence prevention engages young people in skill building and workshops to stop the cycles of violence; and (6) youth development empowers young people in building leadership and life skills, as well as offers a variety of creative outlets.

5. How many staff members work at BYC?

Currently, 35 fulltime staff members work at the BYC. At the new location, the BYC is expected to employ 55 fulltime employees once operating at full capacity.

6. What has been the evolution of the BYC from its inception to now?

Founded in 2004, the BYC's new permanent location will be the program's fifth home in 16 years. In addition to being the largest BYC facility, this new structure will also be the first building that the BYC has occupied that Howard Brown owns. By owning the building as opposed to renting program space, Howard Brown can both ensure that this will be a long-term home for the BYC and design the building to suit the unique needs of this multifaceted program.

7. How much will construction of the new BYC cost?

Construction of the new location is estimated to be \$12 million.

8. How is construction being financed?

Howard Brown is seeking long-term financing for half to two-thirds of the cost of construction, based on the cost of lending. Added operational expenses will be off-set with grants, insurance revenue and other forms of patient revenue, and Howard Brown's general revenue sources. Howard Brown will seek philanthropic support to lower the amount of lending needed.

9. What is the demographic profile of participants receiving services at BYC?

Through its holistic model of care, BYC reaches some of the most under-resourced young people in Chicago. In FY19, BYC served over 2,575 unique youth across all of its services. Of the young people accessing care, BYC served 62% people of color; 54% LGBTQ individuals; 40% cisgender males; 36% cisgender females; 22% transgender and gender non-conforming (TGNC) individuals; 8% living with HIV; and 28% experiencing homelessness. Only 53% of BYC clients report having access to permanent housing and nearly all of the participants served are low income, with 86% living at or below 200% of the federal poverty line. Sixty-one percent of young people accessing care at BYC are uninsured and access all services at no cost.

10. How can community members help sustain BYC in the future?

Community members can support the BYC through contributing their skills and time as volunteers for various program needs, organizing basic needs supply drives, and financially supporting the costs of services and supplies. Howard Brown seeks private support of BYC through ongoing fundraising efforts. For questions about how you can support construction of the new BYC, contact us at DianeP@howardbrown.org or



773.572.6988. To make an online gift to support BYC, visit <https://howardbrown.org/get-involved/donate/broadway-youth-center/>.

New Halsted Clinic

11. What is the history of the Halsted clinic?

First known as Howard Brown's Triad Health Practice at Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center, the clinic was Howard Brown's very first satellite clinic led by Dr. David Blatt and Dr. Tom Barret. In 2013, the clinic changed its name to Aris Health and moved to its current location at 3245 N. Halsted, becoming the agency's second standalone clinic. In 2015 as part of an agency-wide rebrand, the clinic was renamed to Howard Brown Health Halsted. Currently, the Halsted clinic has 10 exam rooms and maintains the third largest patient panel in the network, serving nearly 8,000 patients per year.

12. Why is Howard Brown building a new facility for its Halsted clinic?

The current location has reached capacity and cannot accommodate the full continuum of needs of new and existing patients. With a new facility, the practice can double its primary care offerings, operate a walk-in sexual health clinic, and offer patients on-site behavioral health and social support services. The new facility will reduce the time current patients wait for sexual health screening, primary care, or other appointments while also providing space for future growth.

13. What is the timeline for the move?

Contingent on zoning change approval, Howard Brown expects to complete the purchase of the property in spring of 2020. Planning and construction are expected to take between 18-24 months with a projected completion date of summer 2022.

14. How many people receive services at the current location?

Nearly 8,000 patients received care at the Halsted location in 2019. Demand for affirming services at this location has outpaced the clinic's current capacity and the size of the clinic has become the limiting factor to serving more patients.

15. What is the service capacity of the new location and how many staff members will it employ?

The capacity of the primary care practice is expected to double with an increase from 10 exam rooms to at least 20. Additionally, the new facility will provide space for walk-in sexual and reproductive health screening, on-site behavioral health and social support services, and the opportunity to bring other service lines to the area. The Halsted clinic currently has 18 staff; the new site expects to house over 60 staff when fully operational.

16. What will happen to the building and mural after the clinic moves?

Howard Brown has a long term lease at the current Halsted clinic location. While the primary care practice will move to the new facility, Howard Brown plans on repurposing the current building. Potential uses for this building include express testing or specialty care. A final determination will be made in 2022.

17. How much larger is the new facility than the current location?

The current Halsted clinic is approximately 4,000 square feet. The first floor of the new building will be rentable retail space, the second and third floors (approximately 30,000 square feet) will be clinical space and the remaining three floors will be space for support services and staff offices.

18. What services will be offered at the new location?

With a new facility, the practice can double its primary care offerings, operate a walk-in sexual health clinic, and offer patients on-site behavioral healthcare and other essential services. The new facility will reduce the time patients wait for screening of STIs (sexually transmitted infections), primary care, or other appointments.

19. What is the cost of construction for the new Halsted clinic?

Construction of the new Halsted clinic location is estimated to cost \$33 million.

20. How will construction be financed?

Howard Brown will be looking at various financing options, including both traditional options and programs available for non-profit organizations. Howard Brown will seek philanthropic support to lower the amount of lending needed.

21. Given the many needs on the South and West sides of Chicago, why build another clinic on the North Side?

After more than 45 years in the Uptown and Lakeview neighborhoods, demand for Howard Brown's services on the North Side has outpaced the agency's ability to provide care at its current locations. This has led to longer than expected wait times for both walk-in services and primary care appointments. Additionally, the Halsted clinic has nearly reached capacity for primary care patients and without expansion would be forced to stop accepting new patients.

In the past three years, Howard Brown has focused on expanding into areas of unmet need, opening four clinics on Chicago's South and West Sides. In 2018, the agency further invested in the 63rd Street location through doubling the size of the medical clinic and adding a dental practice. This past year, the 55th Street primary care clinic was complemented with the addition of Howard Brown's first express sexual health screening site on the first floor of the same facility. In 2020, the 55th Street primary care clinic will be expanded to increase exam rooms and space for supportive services. The agency remains committed to increasing access to LGBTQ affirming care across the city, and the expansion and relocation of Halsted is necessary to better serve Howard Brown's current patient population and maintain access for new patients seeking care on the North Side.

22. Will the new site have offer dental services?

Howard Brown is committed to expanding its dental services to the north side. While the location of a North Side dental clinic has not been finalized, this significant growth in North Side services will greatly facilitate the addition of a dental clinic in the region.

23. How can community members lend support to the future Halsted clinic?

Howard Brown seeks private support through ongoing fundraising efforts. For questions about how you can support construction of the new Halsted clinic, contact us at DianeP@howardbrown.org or 773.572.6988. To make an online gift to support Howard



Brown Health Halsted, visit <https://howardbrown.org/donate> and type “Halsted” in the comments box.

Southside LGBTQ Community Center

24. What work does Howard Brown currently do on the South Side?

Howard Brown currently operates three clinics on the South Side of Chicago: 63rd Street, 55th Street, and Howard Brown Health at Thresholds South. These clinics offer the range of Howard Brown’s comprehensive medical and support services, including walk-in sexual health, benefits enrollment and navigation, sexual assault survivor services, and transgender and gender nonconforming health programs. Howard Brown works with community leaders as well as a dedicated South Side Community Advisory Board to evaluate and identify new service offerings, and the agency will build on this history of community partnership to intentionally expand its South Side presence with this project.

25. What is the timeline for the South Side LGBTQ Community Center?

The current timeline for the South Side LGBTQ Community Center consists of five phases.

Phase One: Community Input | September 2019 - September 2020; Phase Two: Partnerships and Site Selection | September 2020 – February 2021; Phase Three: Implementation and Planning | February 2021 – February 2022; Phase Four: Final Plan Review | March 2022 – Feb 2023; and Phase Five: Construction and Ribbon Cutting | March 2023 –Feb 2024.

26. Why is the Community Center project starting with a needs assessment?

To make the future center a safe, welcoming, and affirming space to gather and receive services, Pride Action Tank, with the assistance of a volunteer steering committee, will lead efforts to gather community input on the important service needs, considerations, preferences, and priorities for South Side residents.

27. How can south side residents participate in the needs assessment?

Pride Action Tank recently confirmed steering committee members and will release more information regarding the needs assessment in the coming weeks. The needs assessment will utilize online surveys and a series of community meetings to garner feedback from South Side residents, information will be announced on Pride Action Tank’s [website](#).

28. How large a facility will the future Community Center be?

The final size of the community center will be driven by the findings of the needs assessment and the space requirements of community partners. More detailed information on the square footage of the community center is expected to be available in early 2021.

29. How much will construction of the Community Center cost?

Construction costs will be dependent on the outcomes from the needs assessment and the investment of partner agencies. Howard Brown expects to invest funds beyond those appropriated for the agency by the recent state infrastructure plan.



30. What partner agencies will collaborate to design and operate the future Community Center?

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

31. In what ways will the future Community Center benefit the local community?

The future development will include healthcare and other essential services affirming the lives of LGBTQ people and allies. With multiple partner agencies coming together, the project will also offer job opportunities for local residents. In addition to increasing care access opportunities, the new site should add vitality and economic activity to the neighborhood selected for the project.