

WE CARE

BROADWAY YOUTH CENTER

For 17 years, Broadway Youth Center has served as a central gathering point for LGBTQ+ young people experiencing housing insecurity and poverty. Youth accessing care share with us how critical BYC is for them in meeting immediate and long-term health and safety goals. Expansion of the high-quality services for homeless, unstably housed and/or underserved youth we offer is one of our highest priorities.

During Phase I of Howard Brown Health's We Care Campaign, we will build a five-story, 20,000-square-foot healthcare and youth programming home for BYC. This facility will offer a stable place of respite to thousands of youth experiencing homelessness and housing instability each year. As its first permanent home, our new BYC will create opportunity, security, and access for LGBTQ+ youth and their allies citywide.

WHO WE ARE

FOUNDED IN 2004 AS A TRAUMA-RESPONSE ALTERNATIVE TO TRADITIONAL CARE ENVIRONMENTS, BYC is and has always been a place for young people to find safety, have a meal, and receive critical care. As a full-service clinical location, drop-in center, and social service hub, there are few barriers young people face once they walk through our doors.

Knowing the trauma many street-based youth encounter in their day-to-day lives, BYC builds trust slowly and intentionally. Our harm-reducing model of care empowers young people to take an active role in setting and achieving their personal health and wellness goals in an environment free of judgement.





For many young people, finding an immediate place to rest is more important than receiving an HIV test; a place to shower is wanted more than therapy; and a meal is sought before housing services. At BYC, our staff are able to meet immediate needs first, encouraging young people to access additional supportive services if and when they are ready. We are then able to deliver wraparound healthcare and social support to all youth, age 12 to 24, regardless of ability to pay.

At capacity every day, both before and during COVID-19, BYC is crucial for the health and wellness of our community. With demand on the rise, showing We Care means delivering our model of comprehensive services in a facility that can meet and exceed their needs, ensuring no young person is turned away.



WHO WE SERVE

In 2015, we served 713 young people.
In 2019, we served over **2,500**.

BYC's clients are diverse and resilient. For all young people accessing services across BYC's spectrum of care, young people comprise 63% people of color, 47% LGBQ individuals, 36% cisgender males, 32% cisgender females, 30% transgender or gender nonconforming people, 4% people living with HIV, and 27% youth experiencing homelessness. Only 55% of BYC clients report having permanent housing and most are low income, with 85% living at or below 200% of the federal poverty line (\$12,760 in 2020).

Many LGBTQ youth leave home because their families do not accept their gender identity or sexual orientation. Within our drop-in program, 26% of our clients report having permanent housing, with 55% living on the street, and 19% living in homeless shelters.

Nearly all of the young people served in drop-in are low income, with 99% living at or below 200% of the federal poverty line.

Drop-in clients comprise 87% people of color, 43% LGBQ individuals, 46% cisgender males, 36% cisgender females, 18% transgender or gender nonconforming people, and 4% people living with HIV.

Based on historical growth trends, we expect BYC's transition to its long-term home to grow its client and patient base by over 200%, serving as many as 6,000 patients with healthcare and 4,500 clients with social services.



WHAT WE DO FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Consistent barriers to shelter, food, education, and financial stability, compounded by frequent exposure to violence and harassment, isolate LGBTQ+ youth. Coping mechanisms such as substance use, disordered eating, high-risk sexual behavior, and aggression are the consequences of this insecurity. These factors make it more difficult for our clients to achieve developmental milestones like educational and employment achievements. This perpetuates cycles of trauma and poverty beyond adolescence and into adulthood.

BYC interrupts cycles of unemployment, violence, poverty, and inaccessible education that lead to homelessness and poor health outcomes. At the heart of BYC is its drop-in program, a walk-in space where young people experiencing homelessness can access a full suite of low-barrier services and resources, including showers, food, laundry, and community programming.



ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS INCLUDE:

Medical services including:

- Sexual and reproductive health screenings
- Primary care
- Gender-affirming hormone therapy
- PrEP access

Mental health care including:

- Groups
- Drop-in therapy
- Talk-based therapy
- Psychiatry

Resource advocacy such as:

- Individualized case management
- ID replacement
- Housing referrals
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program
- Medicaid or health insurance
- Job application assistance

Educational and employment services including:

- Securing and sustaining employment
- Tutoring
- High school equivalency diploma courses
- College application and scholarship assistance

Outreach such as:

- Venue-based HIV/STI screening
- Community-building events for young people
- Sexual education within Chicago Public Schools

Violence prevention including:

- Skill-building workshops to stop cycles of violence
- Identifying trauma responses
- Developing coping mechanisms for anger and hurt

Youth development services such as:

- Leadership development
- Cultural arts programming like vogue classes
- Community networking

In the past three years, demand for services has dramatically increased at BYC's current location at 4009 N. Broadway. Youth may wait upward of four hours for medical care on a busy day. Drop-in services like laundry and showers reach capacity daily. Space for staff and patients alike is at a minimum. A larger building customized for BYC will expand programming and greatly improve immediate health outcomes for LGBTQ+ youth. The new BYC will strengthen capacity to provide low-barrier wraparound care, which will improve young people's health and wellbeing, increase their knowledge and skills, and improve their long-term self-sufficiency, while sticking to its roots as a community-driven, social justice space.

NEEDS ASSESSMENT

In 2018, Howard Brown conducted a space planning analysis with the goals of determining how much space BYC required within the coming years to:



MEET THE LONG-TERM DEMAND FOR SERVICES



CREATE CARE SPACES OPTIMIZING CLINIC AND SOCIAL SERVICE PRODUCTIVITY



SUPPORT IDEAL PROGRAM FUNCTIONALITY AND ENCOUNTER GROWTH AT BYC

Based on growth trends and program need, the team projected that BYC would need an additional 14,000 square feet to create a program space of 20,000 square feet. Included in the analysis were a need at BYC for:



LARGER DROP-IN SPACE



STAFF BREAK ROOM



MEETING AREAS



COMMERCIAL KITCHEN



MORE DESIGNATED ROOMS FOR INDIVIDUAL ENCOUNTERS



OUR BIG PLAN

Our new BYC will be **almost four times larger** than its existing facility. By owning the building, we ensure a long-term home designed and built specifically to suit the unique needs of this multifaceted program.



THE NEW BROADWAY YOUTH CENTER

1023 W. Irving Park Road
Target Date: Fall 2021
Five floors, 20,723 square feet

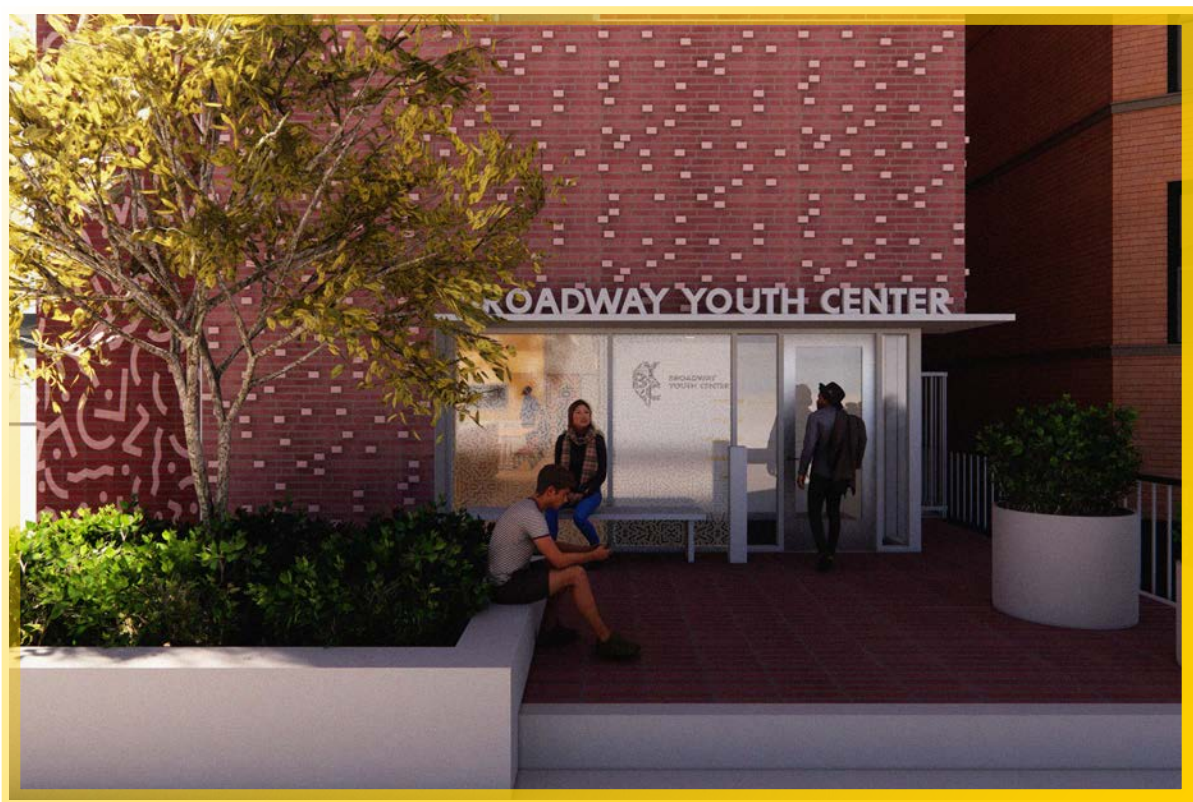
Grow client population 240%
from 2,500 to 6,000 per year

The new location will have two dedicated floors for clinical and behavioral health services, including an onsite lab and pharmacy, greatly expanding our clinical capacity to serve youth. Additionally, the new facility will more than double the space for basic needs, social support, and cultural programming to include a dance and movement studio, computer classroom, and expanded shower and laundry facilities.

While the current BYC location serves more than 2,500 youth annually, our new location will allow social and cultural programming for up to

4,500 participants, and clinical services for as many as 6,000 teens and young adults annually. Additionally, BYC will employ 55 people across all service lines, bringing 20 new jobs to the neighborhood.

The need for BYC’s services has consistently outpaced our ability to secure additional space for the program. The new BYC is a bold commitment to Chicago’s young people. We are proud of the ways in which this building will add to the menu of services for homeless and at-risk youth.



BYC Project Funding

Philanthropy	\$4 million
Government	\$500,000
Reserves	\$5.2 million
Financing	\$5.9 million
New Markets Tax Credit	\$3.2 million
TOTAL	\$18.8 million

We Care.

We Care about a future where the health and wellness of LGBTQ+ youth is affirmed with health care as a human right.

We Care about delivering affordable, accessible and culturally competent care from non-judgmental healthcare professionals to all young people who seek that support.

Broadway Youth Center delivers an experience that exceeds expectations. In so doing, we show youth experiencing homelessness that we believe in their lives, their health, and their futures.

WE SHOW THEM WE CARE.



howardbrown.org/wecare
giving@howardbrown.org

