Swedish Covenant Health

Promoting Better Health Through Housing

Homelessness has a severe negative impact on a person’s physical and mental health, reducing life expectancy by 15 years. Swedish Covenant Health partnered with the Center for Housing and Health (CHH) in 2017 to improve the lives of 10 chronically homeless individuals who frequently present to the hospital’s emergency department (ED).

CHH pays for the housing with a grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, while funds from the SCH Foundation provide intensive medical care and support services.

In addition to permanent housing and rental subsidies, participants receive:

- Assistance with securing critical documents (birth certificates, ID, Social Security cards);
- Education on tenancy skills such as budgeting and paying rent;
- Enrollment in public benefit programs including Medicaid; and
- Referrals for medical services, behavioral healthcare, job training and Managed Care Organization insurance care coordination.

Swedish Covenant’s ED has seen a drastic drop in visits and a regained sense of pride and purpose for the individuals they once treated. One particular individual is now enrolled in college and has only been back to the ED to thank those who helped him.

Illinois Hospitals are doing more. Read about SwedishAmerican’s commitment to improving patients’ overall health by making home visits.

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