



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
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CITY CONTINUES EFFORTS TO EXPAND ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ACROSS CHICAGO

CHICAGO - Today, the City introduced an ordinance that continues efforts to expand access to mental health services in Chicago. The proposal will allow the City to lease the former space of the Auburn Gresham Mental Health facility to Human Resources Development Institute (HRDI), a community-based mental health provider that is expanding its comprehensive mental health services to additional communities across the city.

“Mental health services are vital to the health and wellbeing of Chicagoans and should be available to more people: this is our north star as we continue our efforts to expand access to mental health services,” said Chicago Department of Public Health Commissioner Dr. Bechara Choucair.

Earlier this year, the Chicago Department of Public Health invested \$500,000 for community-based mental health providers to expand their services in communities across Chicago, as part of the City's plan to reform the way mental health services are provided so that more Chicagoans can receive the services they need. This \$500,000 investment will allow more than 1,000 new individuals to receive these valuable services.

Partially through this City investment and with the addition of state funding sought by the organization, HRDI is planning to expand the wide array of mental health services they provide across the city to Chicagoans in the Auburn-Gresham area. This lease is an example of how the City's reforms to mental health services are being implemented and leading to expanding services throughout the City.

These funds are just one part of a larger effort established by CDPH to improve the quality of the mental health system in Chicago in order to expand access to mental health services and increase support for the uninsured. In addition to this \$500,000 investment, \$3 million has been made



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available to community providers to expand and integrate HIV testing and substance abuse treatment into mental health services.

This past spring, CDPH completed a transition that increases its focus on serving the uninsured and expanding partnerships with community-based mental health providers with over 60 locations across the city, so that individuals can receive quality service in their communities. Reports on the progress being made with this transition are released regularly and are available on the Department of Public Health's website:

http://www.cityofchicago.org/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/clinic/svcs/2012_mental_healthservices.html

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