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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 17, 2018

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**CITY COUNCIL APPROVES INNOVATIVE PROGRAM TO PROVIDE RAPID SUPPORT FOR RESIDENTS WHO ARE HOMELESS**

*Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool Will Quickly Connect Chronically Homeless to Housing and Wraparound Support Services*

The Chicago City Council today approved funding for the Flexible Housing Subsidy Pool (FHSP), a one-of-a-kind supportive housing rental subsidy model that combines both housing/rental subsidy expertise and intensive case management to effectively house residents who are experiencing homelessness.

"This innovative program will give the City of Chicago the tools needed to quickly provide support for Chicagoans who need it most," said Mayor Emanuel. "We as a City cannot thrive until each and every one of our residents can thrive, which is why we are committed to addressing homelessness in a holistic, comprehensive and compassionate manner."

The FHSP, co-sponsored by Alderman James Cappleman, establishes a rental subsidy source that allows the City of Chicago to quickly house and provide supportive services to some of Chicago's most challenging and costly homeless populations, including individuals who are high utilizers of emergency rooms and the criminal justice system.

The program brings together an unprecedented partnership that includes the Chicago Housing Authority (CHA), the Chicago Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS), the Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH), the Chicago Department of Planning and Development (DPD) and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH).

"Supportive housing addresses the needs of thousands in Chicago and Illinois who face multiple challenges and lack a stable place to call home," said Betsy Benito, Director in Illinois for CSH. "We are excited the City recognizes how supportive housing improves the overall quality of life here and also the benefits of building a more flexible pool of resources for people who may not meet traditional homeless rental assistance eligibility requirements."

Currently, no one governmental entity in Chicago provides a combined housing and supportive service model nor manages a third party that provides both housing/rental subsidy expertise and intensive case management. The FHSP will provide the City and its partners with the ability to quickly house and provide supportive services to challenging homeless populations, by:

- Streamlining approvals and retention by eliminating administrative processes and requirements that have limited value;
- Consistently adding units citywide to the homeless housing inventory to create an inventory of available, affordable housing to more quickly match persons experiencing homelessness to housing;
- Managing the entire housing process from beginning to end – to include intensive case management, housing navigation, and permanent supportive housing;
- Providing streamlined processes for both landlords and tenants to keep number of days to housing as low as possible; and
- Building upon HMIS data to identify individuals seeking services for the homeless.

“Our hope with this initiative is to secure quality, safe and affordable housing for extremely vulnerable Chicagoans, through a more streamlined process,” Lisa Morrison Butler, Commissioner of the Department of Family and Support Services said. “We are thrilled to partner with so many City agencies to connect those experiencing homelessness with housing and the supportive services they need to thrive.”

The City will dedicate \$500,000 for FHSP from the Affordable Housing Opportunity Fund (AHOF) and \$500,000 in 2018 corporate funds. The CHA will contribute \$800,000 in HUD funds that was approved by the CHA board in November 2017. The City and its partners will also be working to secure funding for FHSP from foundations, and other public and private organizations.

“CHA is proud to participate in a program that not only helps Chicago’s most vulnerable obtain housing in a streamlined fashion, but one that provides supportive services to assist on their road to self-sufficiency. We are excited to work with our partners as we continue to address homelessness in the city of Chicago,” said CHA CEO Eugene Jones, Jr.

FHSP has been modeled from successful initiatives in Los Angeles, CA and Houston, TX. Research has shown that housing with supportive and health services is proven to help this population stay housed, which reduces multiple system engagement and links individuals with services.

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