

# Housing

## Housing is a *Human Right*

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care, and necessary social services...”

- Article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)

Human rights are the rights and freedoms all individuals hold equally—regardless of nationality, race, religion, gender, age, sexual orientation, or abilities.

Under Human Rights law, children and youth must receive *special* protection and assistance.

A child/adolescent’s right to adequate housing is directly connected to their rights to education, health, freedom from exploitation and general well-being.

In addition to providing legal services, we also help youth find a voice and speak out on issues that affect their lives...if you are interested in participating, contact Beth at 1-800-940-1119 or at [beth@chicagohomeless.org](mailto:beth@chicagohomeless.org).

## Need Legal Help?



Call Us!



Youth Futures can assist youth experiencing housing instability with a variety of civil legal problems including but not limited to:

- Education
- Discrimination
- Civil rights
- Public benefits
- Identification issues
- Partial Emancipation
- Medical Debt Relief
- Housing

For assistance please contact Beth Cunningham at 1-800-940-1119, or drop in at one of our current clinic locations:

- **Teen Living Program**, 3739 S. Indiana, Fridays from 3:30-4:30pm.
- **Center on Halsted**, 3656 N. Halsted on Wednesdays from 9:00-10:00am.
- **H.E.L.L.O Activism Group**, Tuesdays 6:00 –8:00 pm at 3178 N. Broadway, 3rd floor.

Check us out on the web at [www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org) or blog with us at [www.chicagohomeless.org/blog](http://www.chicagohomeless.org/blog)

## Are You a Youth Experiencing Housing Instability?



## Know Your Rights!

The Law Project of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

1-800-940-1119  
[www.chicagohomeless.org](http://www.chicagohomeless.org)

# What Are My Rights?

## “Housing Instability” ?

‘Housing Instability’ means that you don’t have a safe or stable place to stay...or you are at risk for losing your home.

You are experiencing housing instability if you don’t have a fixed, regular, or adequate place to live. Are you...

- sharing the housing of other persons due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason;
- living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or camping grounds due to lack of alternative adequate accommodations;
- living in emergency or transitional shelters;
- living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, substandard housing, bus or train stations, or similar settings; or
- a runaway or awaiting foster care placement?



**If you are experiencing housing instability... We can help!**

## Education

**If you are a youth experiencing housing instability...**

By law, Illinois schools must enroll you in school immediately, even without records, proof of residency, or any other documentation.

**If you are an unaccompanied youth, you do not need a parent or guardian to enroll in school and you have the same educational rights as any other student.**

You have the right to go back to the last school you attended or to the school nearest the place you are staying. You have a right to transportation to go back to your school, and free breakfast and lunch. You also have a right to have many school fees paid for, such as:

- Graduation fees
- Drivers Ed
- Extracurricular activities
- Uniforms

You have the right to enroll in school receive a diploma up until you are 21 years old and receive assistance with credit recovery.

**You have the right to attend school without being discriminated against based on your housing status, race, gender-identity or sexual orientation.**

**Want Your High School Diploma? Call Us... We Can Help!**

## Freedom from Discrimination

You have the right to live free from discrimination and harassment based on your housing status, race, gender or gender identity, or sexual orientation by:

- School,
- The police,
- Your employer, and
- Any public accommodations (that means restaurants, stores. etc).

**If you have been arrested, harassed by the police, or disciplined because of your housing status, race, gender-identity or sexual orientation...let us know.**

## Public Benefits

**You may be entitled to public assistance, including but not limited to:**

- Food Stamps
- TANF
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Child Care
- General Assistance
- Medicaid

**If you are interested in signing up for any of these programs, call us.**