

## 6 Focus Groups | 54 Participants

CHH CAB, FHP CAB, LEAC, YLEAC, GTZ-IL Housing Committee, CHH Board

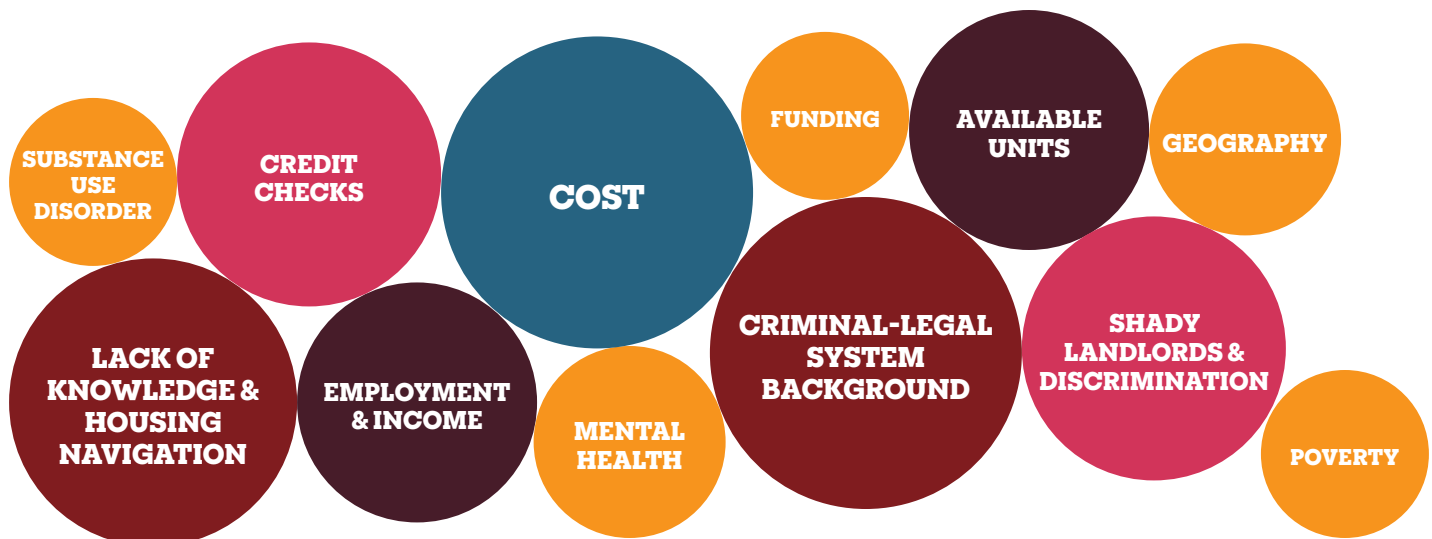
To inform the Center for Housing and Health Policy Priorities, six focus groups were conducted over a period of three months in groups ranging in size from four to 28 participants in virtual, hybrid, and in-person settings. Participants included people with lived experience of homelessness and housing instability, as well as people in the housing supportive services workforce.

## Focus Group Responses

### What are the top challenges to achieving your best health?



### What are the top challenges to accessing and maintaining stable housing?



# Focus Group Solutions

## Landlord Education

Landlords need to understand challenges people with lived experience of homelessness face; landlords use discriminatory practices to exclude people with criminal-legal system backgrounds; and landlords won't accept tenants with housing subsidies.

## Funding

For more affordable housing units, improvements to existing units, and supportive services.

## Create a sustainable funding source for housing in Chicago

Amend the Real Estate Transfer Tax so that a small tax increase on onetime real estate transactions for wealthy Chicagoans can create a dedicated fund for affordable housing and ending homelessness (recently proposed by Bring Chicago Home).

## "Ban the Box" Laws

Laws that remove questions on housing or employment applications about criminal legal system involvement.

## Tenant Education

Financial literacy, Know Your Rights trainings, trainings on being a "good" tenant.

## Universal Basic Income

Guaranteed monthly income, suggested range from \$500-\$1,000+/month.

## Participant Voices



**When you're homeless, you're only surviving. You're not really living."**

**No one can sleep well or take medication on the bus."**

**When I became homeless in 1985, I didn't have any resources because no one told me. For 16 years, I lived off a loan and didn't know where to go."**

**There are so many hoops to jump through to attain affordable housing."**

**Even apartments that are not comfortable to live in are overly expensive and it's scary to feel like you're going to lose housing."**



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