

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 3, 2016

Open Door Health Center has received a grant from the Chicago Department of Public Health and HUD to provide housing opportunities for people living with HIV/AIDS in DuPage County. Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA) will allow Open Door to provide subsidies for clients to maintain a stable living environment, which is an essential element to accessing healthcare and HIV related services.

“The prevalence of HIV/AIDS is up to 9 times higher among persons who are homeless or unstably housed,” states Perry Maier, Open Door Interim Executive Director. “The need for stable and affordable housing becomes more urgent after becoming infected.” The Housing and Health Study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD) found housing status is one of the strongest predictors of access to treatment and positive health outcomes for people living with HIV/AIDS. Stable housing improves access to appropriate medical care and treatment adherence, both linked to lower viral loads and reduced mortality.

In addition to the housing assistance, funding will allow Open Door to provide access to needed supportive services to ensure beneficiaries with a path to self-sufficiency such as life skills, job readiness services and employment training.

Individuals interested in learning more about Open Door’s DuPage County HOPWA opportunity can contact Teresa Rubio at 815-217-4404.

About Open Door Health Center: Open Door has been providing sexual health and wellness services since 1977. Services include stigma-free primary medical care, HIV/AIDS specialty care including case management, peer education, and oral health, behavioral health and substance abuse and comprehensive sexually transmitted infection (STI) service. Locations in Aurora and Elgin, Illinois serve more than 1,100 people within 5 counties.