

**Operated by:** African American Planning Commission, Inc. (AAPCI)

**Location:** 6661 Broadway

**Total units:** 130 units for Single Adult Men

## **When is this facility scheduled to open?**

This transitional housing facility will serve 130 single adult men experiencing homelessness from this community and surrounding communities in the Bronx as they stabilize their lives and is scheduled to open in Fall 2023.

## **Who is the social services provider?**

African American Planning Commission, Inc. (AAPCI) is the not-for-profit social service provider partner that will operate this site. AAPCI has extensive experience and expertise operating transitional housing facilities and helping to achieve significant housing placement outcomes for New Yorkers experiencing homelessness. Our partnership with AAPCI at this location will continue that work by giving 130 New Yorkers experiencing homelessness the opportunity to be sheltered in their home borough, closer to their support networks and the communities they last called home as they get back on their feet.

## **Who will be served by this facility?**

The shelter will serve 130 individuals experiencing homelessness with priority offered to those with roots in the Bronx, including Community District 8, providing those who previously resided in the borough before experiencing homelessness the opportunity to remain closer to their support networks, including the anchors of life that we all rely on, like jobs, health care, community, family, friends, and houses of worship as they get back on their feet.

## **What services will be provided at this facility?**

On-site services will include case management, individual and group counseling, permanency planning and housing placement assistance, support groups, independent living and life skills workshops, and support in finding and securing employment. Off-site service linkages will include, but will not be limited to, primary healthcare, health/mental health services, referrals to substance use treatment, vocational training, employment placement, GED instruction, conflict mediation, and legal services. Additionally, this site will have the ability to provide dedicated mental health services as appropriate to any individuals who may need them.

## **What is the average duration of stay?**

The average length of stay for single adults in shelter is approximately one year.

## **Is there a curfew for clients?**

There is a 10:00 PM curfew for residents. Individuals who are employed with late work hours will receive passes to return to the facility after curfew based on their documented work schedule.

## **How did the City select this site?**

Not-for-profit providers propose new shelters through an open-ended RFP process, which means proposals are accepted on a rolling basis. When a proposal is submitted, the quality of the proposal (including the need for the proposed shelter capacity at the location, the viability of the building, the scope of the client services, the experience of the provider, pricing, and other operational matters) is evaluated and scored by agency program experts working with the Department of Social Services' Contracts Office in accordance with New York City Procurement Policy Board Rules. The proposal is also reviewed by Agency leadership for consistency with the borough-based approach, and the capacity and equitable siting goals that the *Turning the Tide* plan will achieve when it is fully implemented.

## **What is the security program?**

A secure and safe environment is critical to the success of any program facility—and DHS is committed to prioritizing the safety of clients, staff, and community members alike. AAPCI will provide on-site security around-the-clock. A minimum of two security officers will be located at the building entrance to control building access and to monitor security cameras, which will be located throughout the building and grounds. Staffing will consist of a minimum of three security guards per shift and one additional supervisor per shift. AAPCI will provide a 24-hour open line for the community to provide feedback in a timely manner and to immediately address any concerns that may arise.

As an added measure, a total of at least 42 security cameras will be installed throughout the building and across the shelter grounds. These cameras allow security officers to continually monitor compliance with house regulations and good neighbor policies both in and around the facility, acting as a deterrent for inappropriate or illegal activities. Recordings will be made available to authorities in the event that arrests or prosecution are warranted.

## **Will there be future community meetings regarding this site?**

One of our top priorities is ensuring this facility is seamlessly integrated into the community and our clients are welcomed as neighbors. To that end, we are committed to continuing to maintain open engagement and productive dialogue with the community. We welcome community input as we move forward, and, where possible, we will make adjustments based on community feedback.

The City and AAPCI together are committed to open engagement with all community stakeholders, including local elected officials, community board members, local block associations, and community-based organizations. We have already reached out to local elected officials and community boards, and remain committed to developing a Community Advisory Board (CAB) that will hold regular meetings to ensure that any community concerns are proactively addressed. We are also deeply committed to working with interested community members who may wish to volunteer their time and talent to further assist the shelter residents.

## **What is the City doing to ensure the health and safety of clients during the pandemic?**

Since the COVID-19 crisis began, we've responded with unprecedented speed and scope—and taken extraordinary steps to ensure the safety of clients and staff across the shelter system. While conveying the City's latest guidance from Health experts to our shelter providers, DSS-DHS has developed a multi-pronged approach for implementing City guidance on isolation and mitigation, while simultaneously working to ensure that regular COVID testing and opportunities to get vaccinated are readily available for clients across the shelter system, effectively flattening our curve, which has closely tracked citywide trends.