

# Three Steps Home

Housing \* Health \* Education

## HB3212 Access to Housing

Establishes a pathway for unaccompanied homeless minors to consent to housing and services with a DCFS-licensed youth transitional housing program



745

homeless minors in  
Chicago are  
unaccompanied

The legislation provides the opportunity for homeless minors to access:

- Housing
- Social services
- Counseling
- Life skills training
- And much needed stability

## HB3709- Increasing Access to Counseling

In Illinois minors 12 and over are permitted to consent to 5 counseling visits without parental consent. Youth often struggle with discussing problems with their parents or guardians.

But sometimes 5 sessions are not enough for youth to feel comfortable sharing with their parents. This bill expands counseling sessions from 5 to 8.

"Mental health professionals are in a good position to help heal families by working with youth who are running away, homeless or otherwise estranged. This legislation expands the possibility for youth to seek help from providers and get short-term support.

Most often this is likely to lead to reunification with families"

-Niranjan S. Karnik, MD, PhD

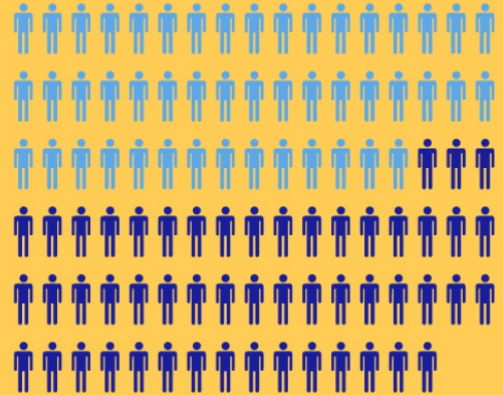
Who will benefit from this legislation?

- Unaccompanied homeless minors
- LGBTQ Youth
- Minors in need of early intervention for mental health crisis
- Minors in conflict with their family

## HB3211 College Student Hunger

Increased hunger on college campuses has become a pressing issue in Illinois, especially among students at community colleges.

48% of college students report experiencing food insecurity



This bill utilizes flexibility offered by the federal program to extend SNAP (food stamps) eligibility to low income adults pursuing a vocational or degree program at a community college.

## Homeless Youth

Studies have long shown that unsheltered youth are much more likely to be raped, sexually exploited, physically assaulted, and to go without needed health care.

These pieces of legislation provide youth with:  
housing  
nutrition  
and counseling services.

It gives youth the opportunity to find their place in the world.