

Matthew DeLeon (Secretary to the Board)

From: Grant Suhs <suhs@beds-plus.org>
Sent: Wednesday, September 04, 2019 10:16 AM
To: CookCounty Board (Secretary to the Board)
Cc: Katie Spoden; gianna@housingactionil.org
Subject: September 4th Rules and Administration Committee: 19-2394 Just Housing Amendment Rules

To the Cook County Human Rights Commission:

I'm writing on behalf of BEDS Plus Care, a leading homeless services agency in Southwest Suburban Cook County, to encourage the Commission to uphold the spirit of the Just Housing Initiative (JHI) as it engages in interpretive rulemaking. As you know, the JHI intends to prevent discrimination against individuals with criminal records as they seek housing. Despite its negative connotations, having a "criminal record" does not automatically make a potential tenant a threat to property or other residents and, in some cases, does not even mean an individual was convicted of any crime at all. The JHI ensures that property managers look at the context and content of these records before making decisions and that housing applicants have the ability to fight discrimination.

BEDS Plus Care supports the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County and others' rulemaking proposals, including:

- **The Rules Must Not Exempt Public Housing Authorities.**
- **The Rules Should Ensure People Understand Their Rights**
- **The Rules Should Remove Examples of Categories of Convictions**
- **The Rules Should Reduce the Time Limit on Considering Criminal History to 3 Years from the Date of Conviction**

We hope you consider these changes in your deliberations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at suhs@beds-plus.org or 847.828.1428.

Grant Suhs
Communications and Advocacy Specialist