

# JERICHO FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER FAQ

## ■ ACCOMMODATIONS/SAFETY

### **How many rooms are there at the Hampton Inn?**

There are 80 units.

### **How many families will be placed at the Hampton Inn?**

A maximum of 80 families.

### **Will residents be cooking / have access to ovens / burners in each room?**

No, there will be a microwave and small refrigerator in each unit. Three meals are provided daily, and during the COVID-19 pandemic, residents can bring meals back to their room or eat in the dining area if they so choose.

### **Will the layout of the hotel be the same as the blueprints on record, or will modifications be made, and new blueprints submitted?**

The layout is the same. The pool area will be closed and off limits to everyone. The pool will be emptied and locked down. Eventually the developer will apply for permits to remove the pool, and replace with a childcare center.

### **Will this site be used as a halfway house, and will sex offenders be housed here? What sort of background checks will be performed?**

NO. This is not a halfway house. NO sex offenders will be allowed as there will be children residing there.

### **Will there be any methadone administered at the site?**

NO. This is not a drug treatment program. No methadone will be administered.

### **Will there be a curfew for residents?**

Yes, 9:00pm during school nights and 11:00pm on Fridays, Saturdays and holidays.

### **Will there be anything put in place to assure that there will be no drugs, violence, and trauma at the shelter?**

The facility will have 24-hour security staff and will be also be monitored through a CCTV system. Staff will conduct bag checks on all people entering the building, as well as regular room checks and random room checks.

## ■ SCHOOL DISTRICT

### **Are all kids enrolled in the transitional housing program also enrolled in the school district?**

The federal McKinney-Vento Act and New York Education law Section 3209 provide important school selection and enrollment protections to preschool-12 students in temporary housing. Parents or unaccompanied youth in temporary housing may have up to three choices to enroll in school. They can choose:

- The school district where they were last permanently housed (district of origin), or
- The school district last enrolled in, even if the student was temporarily housed at that time.
- The local school district where the student is temporarily placed.

### **How many children will need to be enrolled in the school district?**

As of 7/28/20 we anticipate 19 children being added to the Jericho school district at NO cost to the district.

### **Will adding these children affect the reopening plans at Jericho in light of COVID-19?**

As per the school superintendent this will not alter any school reopening plans.

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## ■ SCHOOL DISTRICT *(continued)*

**How do the additional students impact the school district's resources, funding, and budget? What is the funding source to meet additional needs, such as transportation, food, after-school care, etc?**

Any time a student is temporarily placed into a new district, the "home district," or "district of origin," remains financially responsible for the student's education and transportation to school.

**Will the families and students be homed permanently at this location, or will this site be transitional? If temporary, how long can we expect students to be enrolled at Jericho?**

This is NOT permanent housing. It is a transitional housing facility licensed by NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance (NYSOTDA). It is expected that families will be housed anywhere from 6-8 months. Our directive to all providers is to move families to permanent housing as quickly as possible. This provider has one of the most accomplished records with respect to this goal. This provider will be held accountable to adhere to this directive. The goal is to find suitable permanent housing for each family.

## ■ PROCESS & COMMUNITY INPUT

**What is the approval process, and was it accelerated or circumvented? If so, why?**

The approval process is through NYS Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. The shelter provider notifies the State of their intent to develop a shelter. The State conducts an initial walkthrough of the site to determine its appropriateness. The shelter provider then must complete an extensive operational plan, security plan and budget in accordance with the State Part 900 regulations. The State then must approve and make final determination.

**Why was the community not made aware of this in advance?**

Nassau County engaged directly with the impacted stakeholder in this situation, the Jericho School District. Discussions occurred in January 2020 with the District and the plan was presented. While there will be an addition of a few students ranging from K-12, the district will bear NO cost. The school district where the student was previously enrolled must pay the costs.

**Why was the school district not given an opportunity to prepare for an influx of children?**

A meeting was held with the school superintendent on January 14, 2020 to discuss this project and the small impact on the district. Again, only 19 students will be entering the school when it opens. There is NO cost to the school district.

## ■ PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

**Who is managing the property?**

The property will be managed by Community Housing Innovations (CHI). CHI has been serving the Long Island community for the past 29 years. The services cover the operation and management of 24/7 emergency housing, the development of permanent affordable housing, and down payment assistance for first time homebuyers.

**What is Nassau County's role?**

It is Nassau county's role to provide emergency housing for homeless individuals and family but Nassau is NOT managing the property and has NO role in the everyday operations of the shelter.

**What precautions are being taken for COVID-19?**

CHI developed a strong response to the COVID-19 virus including cleaning protocols for staff, supplying staff and clients with Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and cleaning supplies, COVID screenings on all clients and any authorized visitors including temperature checks.