

For Immediate Release

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Aging Care Connections Receives Grant from Retirement Research Foundation

*Addressing the social barriers to positive health common among older adults
who are vulnerable to homelessness due to economic insecurity and lack of support*

La Grange, Illinois— November 10, 2022 — Aging Care Connections (ACC) has received a grant from Retirement Research Foundation for Aging (RRF) over a 12-month period to support a new collaborative effort between ACC and BEDS Plus Care, Inc. (BEDS) to directly serve a significant population of low-income, housing insecure, and chronically ill older adults in the Chicago metro area. Aging Care Connections and BEDS will use the Ambulatory Integration of the Medical and Social (AIMS) model to help chronically homeless and ill older adults stabilize their medical and psychosocial needs, particularly as it relates to housing stability. The intervention will be provided to older adults at both the BEDS Plus Summit Service Center and transitional apartments adjacent to the center.

“This is such an important initiative,” commented Desiree Scully, MA, Aging Care Connections’ Executive Director. “Chronically ill adults experience so many challenges. We’re so appreciative of the opportunity to partner with BEDS Plus to better serve this group, and grateful to RRF for their support.”

Slated to open in January 2023, the center will provide temporary housing and medical respite to chronically homeless clients with disabling conditions. Additionally, the Center will:

1. Be staffed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and feature 24-beds in semi-private sleeping rooms with two dedicated hospital discharge/quarantine single-bed rooms
2. Have showers, locker storage, laundry facilities, dining room, and an activity room

3. Have onsite access to a medical clinic. Behavior health services will also be available. ACC will implement the AIMS model of intervention with individuals 50+ for the duration of the grant.

AIMS is a risk-focused intervention that addresses biopsychosocial and functional issues that impact physical conditions or medical care plan adherence. Participants engaged in the intervention have felt better supported, less stressed, and better-informed about their healthcare needs leading to a better sense of wellbeing and better disease self-management which leads to lower hospital admission and readmission rates, fewer emergency dept visits and lower medical costs, but most importantly improves the health and quality of life for the older adults served by Aging Care Connections.

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Aging Care Connections is a valuable nonprofit community resource devoted to helping older adults in 38 Chicagoland communities live vital, independent lives as they age. Located in La Grange, Illinois, Aging Care Connections provides community-based services that promote dignity, self-respect and independence including information and assistance, benefits assistance, case management, care coordination, caregiver support, meals programs, educational/fitness/social programs, adult protective services, and programs for grandparents raising grandchildren.