

Clinic planned for Bronx homeless shelter

Nonprofit Project Renewal is seeking the state's permission to open an extension clinic at the Bronx Men's Homeless Shelter to provide primary medical care and psychiatry services.

Homeless individuals who must take care of their primary needs for food, clothing and shelter before focusing on health care are often challenged to find time to enroll in health insurance programs or get appointments for safety net health care services.

"As a result, a homeless person's health has often deteriorated to an acute state by the time they do seek health care," the certificate-of-need application stated. "Frequently, that care is then sought in a hospital Emergency Department, which both increases the cost of the care delivered and decreases the likelihood of consistent follow-up care."

The proposed new clinic will provide homeless men with high-quality health services at a location they are already frequenting, according to the application. The goal is to improve health outcomes and help reduce inpatient hospitalizations and avoidable Emergency Department visits.

Project Renewal owns the building at 4380 Bronx Blvd., where it plans to locate the extension clinic. Construction is expected to take a month.