



## **Provident Hospital FAQs**

### **What is the history of Provident Hospital?**

Provident Hospital has an important place in Chicago and medical history. The original hospital opened on January 22, 1891 as Provident Hospital and Training School, the first African-American owned and operated hospital in America. Two years later, Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, a prominent African-American surgeon and founder of Provident, went on to perform the nation's first open-heart surgery. Additionally, Provident Hospital established the first nursing school for black women in Chicago.

The hospital relocated in 1982 to its current location on East 51<sup>st</sup> street. Provident Hospital's mission remained unchanged, providing quality health care to the medically underserved. After a long and distinguished history of service, rising hospital costs made it difficult for inner city hospitals to survive. As a result, Provident Hospital (under private ownership) closed its doors in 1987.

Cook County government recognized the importance and need for continued health care for south side residents of Cook County and purchased the facility from the federal government in 1991. The County invested more than \$50 million renovate the facility and upgrade clinical systems and equipment.

Provident Hospital of Cook County opened on August 17, 1993, as a public, community teaching hospital. The hospital is an affiliate of Cook County Health, one of the largest comprehensive public health systems in the country.

### **What are the advantages of building a replacement hospital?**

IMPACT 2020, CCH'S 2017-2019 strategic plan contemplated a new regional outpatient center on the Provident campus but a needs assessment identified gaps in available inpatient and surgical services in the area that can be better met with new modern and smaller and more efficient inpatient and outpatient facilities.

### **What services will the new facility provide?**

The replacement facility will allow Cook County Health to provide the community with comprehensive, high-quality health care in a modern facility. The new facility will include:

- 42 medical/surgical beds
- Six intensive care beds
- Eight operating rooms and four procedure rooms
- Diagnostic radiology and cardiovascular imaging
- An 18-bay comprehensive emergency department
- Extensive outpatient services with 70 exam rooms that will include primary and specialty care such as cardiology, endocrinology, orthopedics, pediatrics, sports medicine and bariatrics, as well as behavioral health and dental services
- Outpatient pharmacy

### **How will the new facility improve patient care?**

Cook County Health is proposing to build a state-of-the-art facility that will replace the current hospital **and** include comprehensive outpatient clinical services, allowing Cook County Health to deliver high-quality care to our patients, close to where they live. Cook County Health expects that the new facility with expanded inpatient and outpatient services will reduce the number of Provident patients having to travel to the Stroger campus.

The new facility will provide state-of-the-art operating and procedure rooms, an intensive care unit, a larger emergency room, expanded outpatient specialty care, diagnostic radiology and cardiovascular imaging, dental and behavioral health services.

### **Why build a smaller hospital?**

Advances in healthcare over the last several decades have led to fewer hospitalizations across the country. Expanded community-based outpatient care is at the core of CCH's strategic plan to improve patient outcomes and prevent unnecessary and expensive hospital stays.

### **What improvements have been made in recent years?**

In recent years, Provident has added digital mammography, comprehensive ophthalmology services and just this Spring reopened its intensive care unit to limit the need to transfer patients out of their community. In early 2020, Provident will offer outpatient dialysis services as well.

These investments have led to increased utilization at Provident Hospital. In 2018, Provident Hospital provided more than 127,000 outpatient visits, up from 62,000 visits in 2016.

### **How will this benefit the community?**

In addition to the expansion of high quality inpatient and outpatient services, the new facility is expected to maintain 450 full-time jobs and bring 50-90 additional jobs when the new facility is fully operational. Provident Hospital will remain one of the largest employers in Grand Boulevard.

Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle, Cook County Health and the Cook County Bureau of Asset Management are committed to developing a Community Benefits Agreement for the project, with minority and women business enterprise goals and a community hiring component.

Redevelopment of the Provident campus has the potential to spark additional redevelopment, bring more visitors and jobs to the neighborhood and provide additional public open space.

### **Where will the replacement hospital be built?**

Two years ago, at the request of Cook County Health, the Cook County Board of Commissioners approved the acquisition of the vacant property immediately west of Provident Hospital. The replacement hospital will be built on that site. The existing Provident Hospital **will not** close until the new hospital opens.

### **When will the replacement hospital be built?**

If approved by the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board, Cook County Health expects to open the new Provident Hospital and Outpatient Center in late 2022. The existing Provident Hospital **will not** close until the new hospital opens. Site preparation will begin in 2019.

### **How much will this cost? Who is going to pay for it?**

The cost of the project is estimated at \$240 million. Cook County will issue bonds in the amount of \$194 million and Cook County Health will make payments on the bonds with patient revenues. These expenses were approved in the FY2019 Cook County Capital Improvement Plan budget. Cook County Health will pay down the bond debt obligation and

fund the balance of the cost, mainly equipment and furniture, through its operating budget using patient revenues not local tax dollars.

### **Why aren't you renovating the old building?**

Over time, it is more prudent to build a new, modern, efficient facility than to retrofit the existing building. The proposed replacement facility will be 40% smaller. The current facility was opened in 1982. A study conducted in 2014 estimated that Provident needed nearly \$104 million in infrastructure improvements alone (in 2013 dollars). The 20 year operation of a replacement structure (\$242M) would be more cost effective than modifying the existing facilities for inpatient and outpatient services (\$298M).

### **What will happen to the other structures on the campus?**

The plan for the replacement facility will require the currently vacant outpatient building at 450 E. 51<sup>st</sup> Street to be demolished. Services in this building were relocated to Provident more than 10 years ago. Following the opening of the new Provident Hospital facility, expected in late 2022, the current hospital building will be demolished to allow for convenient patient drop-off, pick-up and green space. The existing Provident Hospital **will not** close until the new hospital opens.