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New \$23.5M Sunrise Lofts now open, aims to help those aging out of foster care



Thao Costis, executive director of Harris County Community Services Department.

DAN CASTILLO OF HARRIS COUNTY COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT



By Sofia Gonzalez – Reporter, Houston Business Journal Aug 28, 2023

Houston and Harris County joined the Tejano Center for Community Concerns on Aug. 25 for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the grand opening of Sunrise Lofts — a new community dedicated to helping vulnerable individuals aging out of foster care.

Located at 3103 McKinney St., the nearly \$23 million community sits on about 2 acres in Houston's East Downtown District. Sunrise Lofts offers 89 units, including one-bedroom studios and two-bedroom apartments, as well as wraparound services.

According to its website, Sunrise Lofts will be a place where these individuals can "find secure housing and are surrounded by services that will help them develop the capacity to lead independent, productive, and fulfilling lives."

The new community will offer a wide variety of amenities to its residents. This includes a weight room, game room, library, open pantry, bike room, and a self-improvement

educational and career center.

Other resources such as on-site staff and case managers will also be available. These individuals will offer supportive services such as life skills training; educational opportunities, such as a GED diploma, high school diploma or professional certifications; vocational and job skills training; child care; and health care, among others.

"Sunrise Lofts will provide a safe, healthy and comfortable environment, in which these vulnerable youth will be able to take charge of their lives, develop independent living skills, be prepared to enter the workforce, and become productive members of society," Tejano Center CEO Adriana Tamez said in a previous statement.

Sunrise Lofts was created in collaboration between the city of Houston, Harris County, the Tejano Center for Community Concerns, the Corporation for Supportive Housing, the General Land Office, PNC Bank and Covenant Community Capital, according to a press release from Harris County.

PNC provided construction financing for Sunrise Lofts, the Houston Business Journal previously reported. The project originally broke ground in October 2021.

Meanwhile, the city contributed \$1.56 million of funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Home Investment Partnership Program — grants used to create affordable housing for low-income households — while the county contributed nearly \$15.4 million in Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery funds, along with about \$4.4 million in Home funds.

"The city of Houston is proud to partner with Harris County and the Tejano Center to help young Houstonians overcome barriers and help them on their path to success," Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner said in a statement. "Many young adults find themselves with housing insecurity, yet partnerships like we have with Harris County and the Tejano Center ensure no one gets left behind and that services are available to help Houstonians of all ages thrive."

In June, The Hay Center — a program of Harris County Resources for Children and Adults, a public-private partnership — held a groundbreaking ceremony for the center's new \$39 million campus at 3131 Gulf Freeway. The goal of this center also is to tackle the issue of homelessness early on by helping youth aging out of foster care.

The campus includes a 41,000-square-foot, 50-unit affordable housing building plus a separate 17,125-square-foot facility for wraparound services.