



Energy Efficiency Success Story

Maria Shelter, 7320 S. Yale Ave., Chicago, IL

Savings

- **26%** annual savings on natural gas
- **\$9,600** annual natural gas savings*

Building Overview

- **Building operated by:** Institute of Women Today
- **Building type:** 3-story brick building
- **Year of construction:** 1920s
- **Heating system:** natural gas central steam boiler

Upgrades Completed

- Boiler replaced and steam system balanced
- Heating pipes insulated
- Boiler controls installed

Project Summary

Maria Shelter is a 50-bed transitional shelter on the South Side of Chicago that serves homeless women and their children. The shelter is operated by the Institute of Women Today. High energy costs were straining the organization's budget and they were barely able to keep the doors open.

Fortunately, Angela Hicks, Executive Director of the Institute of Women Today, was able to work with Elevate Energy to make improvements that drastically cut the shelter's energy bills.

The Elevate Energy team provided energy efficiency recommendations and technical assistance, and grants from the Chicago Department of Environment and Peoples Gas Company covered the costs of the recommended upgrades. Improvements made to the building included a new boiler and repairs to the leaky heating system. In addition, new controls and pipe insulation were installed to ensure that the heating system operates at maximum efficiency.

The improvements have cut natural gas usage in the building by more than 25 percent, saving the shelter approximately \$9,600 per year. The savings have made it possible for the shelter to stay open and continue to serve women and children in need.



From the Owner

"Elevate Energy was our knight in shining armor. They really made the lives of the women and children of our shelter more comfortable,"

— Angela Hicks, Executive Director of the Institute of Women Today

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*Figures are based on actual bills. Dollar amounts assume \$1.00 per therm for natural gas. Figures have been weather-normalized to account variable year-to-year weather conditions, and as a result, figures stated here will not directly mirror the actual bill amounts that they are based upon.