



## 2026 - 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Activity Report

*The caring people of Elmhurst unite to provide compassionate assistance to people in need in our community.*

Coming off four consecutive years of record-breaking activity levels, it is always difficult to make assumptions about what the new year will bring. We ended 2025 with the **total number of client services being up by 12.5% to 1,745 from 1,551 in 2024**, and with the **year-over-year \$295,218 dollar value of client services being up 22.3% from last year's \$241,321**.

The quarter began with a seeming “tug-of-war” between moderate growth momentum, easing inflation trends, and stable financial conditions, on the one hand, and rising tensions in the Middle East, renewed trade frictions, and higher energy prices on the other. Then, on February 28<sup>th</sup>, the US and Israeli airstrikes began what is our continuing war with Iran.

### How has all this affected EWAN's clients and our service levels?

Our **1st Quarter** statistics indicate that **client visits of 347** are **about equal to 348 in Q1 of 2025**. **New client visits in Q1** this year are actually **down from 32 in 2025 to 13 this year**. Not unexpectedly, **gas cards are up from 19 last year to 37 this year**. On the other hand, the **number receiving rent or mortgage assistance is down slightly from 47 last year to 42 this year** while **those receiving utility assistance is up from 35 in 2025 to 44 in Q1 2026**. This “some up/some down” is reflective of **category service levels across the board**, leading us to believe that it's **too early to draw any trend lines**. However, looking only at **March of this year**, the **dollar payments for both rent/mortgage and utility payments are up significantly from last year** – from **\$8,326 in March of 2025 by 102.7% to \$16,879 this March for rent/mortgage** and from **\$3,414 in March last year by 58.3% to \$5,404 this year for utilities**. We'll see where the statistics are at mid-year as **gas continues at \$4.00+/gallon and inflation at 3.30% compared to 2.40% last year, up 37.5%**. **We're prepared for whatever happens!**

	<u>Q1 26</u>	<u>Q1 25</u>		<u>Q1 26</u>	<u>Q1 25</u>
Rent/Mortgage:	42	47	Medical:	0	8
Utilities:	44	35	Dental:	0	6
IC Food Pantry Vouchers:	277	243	Gas/Fuel:	37	19
Referral or Consultation:	5	9	Transportation:	0	1
Gift Cards:	4	5	Car Repair:	3	5
Clothing/Clothes Closet:	0	9	Shoes:	13	6
Student Activity Needs:	1	1	Hope Fund:	3	0

Total Q1 Client Visits: **347** (LY Q1: 348) **-0.29%**

New Q1 Clients: **13** (LY Q1: 32) **-59.4%**

Total Q1 Number of Client Services: **439** (LY Q1: 397) **+10.6%**

Dollar Q1 Value of Client Services: **\$61,460** (LY Q1: \$71,653) **-14.2%**

**Thank you all for your generous support!**

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