


Homeless Headlines

ICCAA A publication of the Illinois Community Action Association, 3435 Liberty Drive, Springfield, Illinois 62704 - (217) 789-0125 

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Good Samaritans in Carbondale

In 1985, Good Samaritan Ministries was established as a tax-exempt organization by Carbondale Interchurch (now Interfaith) Council. In 1986, the Council opened an Emergency Shelter in one of the city buildings on East College Street with a philosophy of helping homeless people to help themselves.

The shelter quickly outgrew the available space and in January 1987, the Council and the newly formed Good Samaritan Ministries Board of Directors purchased the former Grace United Methodist Church (see photo), and adapted it to serve as a shelter. A small staff, volunteers from the churches, and

homeless people worked together to put up walls and cupboards, to plumb and paint, and to acquire furnishings and supplies. A soup kitchen, serving three meals a day, seven days a week, was also opened at this time.

In 1988, with broad and active community support in Carbondale, Good Samaritan opened a Transitional Program for people who are not able to go directly from the shelter to independent living.

Over the years, Good Samaritan has upgraded the electrical, plumbing, and

fire protection systems. The organization has also made the building handicapped-accessible and completed a lead-paint remediation project. The building has proved to be well built and resilient; the location has proved to be ideal.

There is no way to calculate the number of lives that have been brightened, the many travelers helped on their way, problems solved, at least for a time, and people given a new lease on life.

(Continued on page 5)



FY 2006: Cuts and Shifts in HUD Programs Expected

While the President's FY 2006 budget proposal will not be officially sent to Congress until February 7, strategic leaks to the media portend bad news for housing and other human needs programs. Funding freezes and spending cuts across the board are expected. On January 14, the Washington Post reported plans to disburse HUD community development programs to other federal agencies.

According to the Post, the Community Development Block Grant program, rumored to be facing as much as a 50 percent cut in its \$4.7 billion budget, would be moved to the Department of Commerce, as would the Brownfields Economic Development and Empowerment Zones/Renewal Communities programs. Youthbuild would be transferred to the Labor Department, while Rural Housing and Economic Development is said to be targeted for elimination. The purported

(Continued on page 7)

Inside Headlines

- 2 CRN Community Development and Empowerment Training
- 2 CSH Awards Illinois Grants
- 3 Housing Is Still Out Of Reach For Many
- 3 Center for Economic Progress and the Earned Income Tax Credit
- 4 Planning Association reader
- 4 CSH Finance Guide
- 4 New Sourcebook on Family Homelessness
- 4 Supportive Housing Costs, Impact
- 8 Headlines Directory

Headlines/Hotline on the Internet - The Illinois Community Action Association publishes both Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline on the Publications page of its web site at www.icaanet.org.

Illinois Department of
Human Services





CRN Community Development and Empowerment Training

The Chicago Rehab Network (CRN) Community Development and Empowerment Series exposes trainees to the entire process of affordable housing development and management. Sessions cover the nuts and bolts of project planning, financing, and development, and culminate in tenant services, property and asset management. The four-month certificate program, led by a diverse team of senior community development practitioners, allows trainees to enhance skills and share expertise with peers in the field. Community Development and Empowerment Series workshops are designed for adult learners from a variety of backgrounds.

- ⊙ **Community Building** – February 16-17
- ⊙ **HP12-C Financial Calculator & Computer Spreadsheets** – March 2-3
- ⊙ **Proforma Development & Analysis** - March 16-17
- ⊙ **Sources of Development Financing** - April 6-7
- ⊙ **Single Family Housing Development** - April 20-21
- ⊙ **Multifamily Housing Development** - May 4-5

- ⊙ **Project and Construction Management** - May 18-19
- ⊙ **Property/Asset Management/Services** - June 1-2

\$900—CRN members
\$1300—CRN non-members

Certificates will be awarded to those who attend all eight workshops.

Individual two-day workshops are:

\$150—members
\$200—non-members

Includes instruction material and lunch. Scholarships available for Participating Jurisdictions.

For information about the Community Development and Empowerment Series, the Urban Developers Program, and other training and technical assistance opportunities, contact the Chicago Rehab Network at (312) 663-3936, or visit www.chicagorehab.org.

When/Where

Unless otherwise noted, each workshop will take place from 8:30 am – 4:30 pm at U. S. Dept of Housing & Urban Development, 77 West Jackson, Room 326, Chicago, Illinois. For directions to the training facility, parking, and/or public transportation, call CRN at (312) 663 3936.

Registration

Workshop enrollment is limited. In order to reserve your space, registration and full payment must be received five days prior to the workshop. Because of high demand for these workshops, refunds will be made only to those who withdraw their registration at least five business days prior to the start of the workshop.

Fees

Register for all eight workshops in the series.

CSH Awards Illinois Grants

The Illinois office of CSH has awarded nearly \$230,000 in grants to 17 nonprofit agencies that are working in the field of permanent supportive housing; the funding will be used to help the agencies increase their capacity to develop and manage viable, sustainable permanent housing with

services. To view the full press release and list of grant recipients, visit www.csh.org/index.cfm?iSection=PageViewPage&pageID=3502

For further information, contact CSH at the address in *Headlines Directory*.

Homeless Headlines



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Housing Is Still Out Of Reach For Many

Workers in Illinois must earn \$15.44 per hour to afford a two-bedroom apartment according to a report released today in Illinois by the Statewide Housing Action Coalition (SHAC). The annual “Out of Reach” report, prepared by the Washington D. C.-based National Low Income Housing Coalition, analyzes the gap between rental housing costs and wages.

Across Illinois, the two-bedroom Housing Wage ranges from \$7.33 to \$17.42, well above the state minimum wage of \$6.50 per hour that goes into effect on January 1, 2005. The \$15.44 Housing Wage places Illinois 38th in terms of affordability compared to the fifty states, Washington D. C., and Puerto Rico. Illinois is the least affordable state in the Midwest.

Federal affordability guidelines state that households should not spend more than 30 percent of their incomes for rent and the Housing Wage is based on this standard. When they must spend more, households cannot afford other necessities, such as food, clothing, transportation, and medical care. In Illinois, 33 percent of households are renter households. Rental costs in the report are based on

federal Fair Market Rent (FMR) limits for 2005. The FMR in Illinois for a two-bedroom apartment ranges from \$523 to \$906 per month in metropolitan areas. The average FMR for non-metropolitan areas is \$489.

questionably lower than last year, particularly in the Chicago metropolitan area.

The percentage of households that rent, two-bedroom FMRs, and the two-bedroom Housing Wage for the state, metropolitan areas, and non-

Illinois Housing Wage for 2004			
State/Metropolitan Statistical Area/Non-Metro Area	Percent Renter Households (2000)	2BR FMR	2 BR Housing Wage
Illinois	33%	\$803	\$15.44
Bloomington-Normal MSA	34%	\$612	\$11.77
Champaign-Urbana MSA	44%	\$611	\$11.75
Chicago PMSA	35%	\$906	\$17.42
Davenport-Moline-Rock Island, IA-IL MSA	28%	\$565	\$10.87
Decatur MSA	28%	\$523	\$10.06
DeKalb County MSA	40%	\$731	\$14.06
Grundy County MSA	28%	\$760	\$14.62
Kankakee PMSA	31%	\$661	\$12.71
Kendall County MSA	16%	\$858	\$16.50
Peoria-Pekin MSA	28%	\$576	\$11.08
Rockford MSA	28%	\$599	\$11.52
Springfield MSA	29%	\$567	\$10.90
St. Louis, MO-IL MSA	28%	\$741	\$14.25
Non-metropolitan areas	25%	\$489	\$9.40

FMRs are gross rent estimates. They include the rent plus the cost of all utilities, except telephones. FMRs determine the eligibility of rental housing units for the federal Housing Choice Voucher program. HUD introduced a number of methodological changes in the way the 2005 FMRs were calculated. The result of the many changes was FMRs that were often

metropolitan areas may be found in the accompanying table.

The complete report, including data for every state, metropolitan area and county in the country, is available at www.nlihc.org/oor2004/.

For further information, contact Bob Palmer of the Statewide Housing Action Coalition at the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■

Center for Economic Progress and the Earned Income Tax Credit



The Tax Counseling Project (the Project), a program of the Center for Economic Progress stands to bring more than \$30 million into the state’s economy this year by preparing over 23,000 income tax returns for low and moderate-income families. In the last ten years, \$122 million in federal and state tax refunds have been returned to Illinois taxpayers, largely as

a result of the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC).

The Tax Counseling Project will operate in 33 communities throughout the state of Illinois from January 29-April 15, 2005. For times and locations of operation, go to the Center for Economic Progress website at www.centerforprogress.org. *Note the*

links on the right side of the tax site web page for sites outside Chicago.

The Federal Earned Income Tax Credit

The federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), now the most popular and arguably the most successful federal anti-poverty program, was signed into law by then-President Gerald Ford and became effective for the 1975 tax year.

In its early years, the tax credit was not well known and was hardly used. In 1980, only 6 million families with annual incomes of less than \$10,000 qualified
(Continued on page 6)

Planning Association Reader

The American Planning Association (APA) has created an Affordable Housing Reader, a collection of articles and reports from its several publications that focus on a broad range of affordable housing issues. It also provides access to numerous reports and papers that the APA has put out in the past few years.

The APA has dubbed affordable housing a “supertopic” that it will focus on throughout the year. The Reader covers the topic as it has been analyzed by the APA over time. Previously, many of the articles were out-of-print or only available to APA members.

The articles and reports included come from eleven different sources, including Planning, The Journal of the American Planning Association, and other APA magazines. Also included are policy documents and legal briefs.

This Reader serves as an excellent reference point for affordable housing issues from an urban planning perspective, and should be appealing to those wanting to look at the literature in more depth. It is available at www.planning.org/affordablereader. ■

CSH Finance Guide

For information about all major federal capital, operating and services financing sources, please visit the Corporation for Supportive Housing new interactive, comprehensive Financing Supportive Housing Guide: csh-homefront.c.topica.com/maac2Ouabc38MaH910JeadIcSC/

You can also contact CSH at the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■

New Sourcebook on Family Homelessness

The National Alliance to End Homelessness has put together a growing compendium of information to help communities moving forward on plans to end family homelessness. This new resource includes:

- ⊙ An overview of the essential systems that must be in place to end family homelessness
- ⊙ A fact sheet on family homelessness
- ⊙ An introduction to the Housing First Approach
- ⊙ Tools to End Homelessness – how State and local TANF agencies, public housing authorities, and child welfare agencies can contribute to ending homelessness
- ⊙ A review of research on the intersection of child welfare and homelessness

- ⊙ Dennis Culhane’s presentation to the National Conference on Ending Family Homelessness
- ⊙ New York City’s Action Plan to End Homelessness
- ⊙ A selection of best practices
- ⊙ A selected bibliography on research on family homelessness

Over time, the Alliance will add further material to the sourcebook, including information about the intersection of domestic violence and homelessness and more detailed descriptions of how public sector agencies have become engaged in ending homelessness in their state/locality.

To view the “Sourcebook on Family Homelessness: Problems and Solutions,” visit www.endhomelessness.org/families/ ■

Supportive Housing Costs, Impact

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) has introduced two publications as part of its new Evidence Series. Both publications are available for free download from the CSH website; please see below for links.

The Do-It Yourself Cost-Study Guide - Assessing Public Costs Before and After Permanent Supportive Housing: A Guide for State and Local Jurisdictions Stakeholders in many cities and counties have expressed interest in cost-avoidance analyses such as the one conducted for the New York/New York Initiative, which provided powerful evidence of supportive housing’s impact on reductions in inappropriate use of emergency public services. This guide, written by Martha R. Burt, walks jurisdictions through the thinking and data gathering needed to make a decision about whether to conduct a cost study, and if yes, what scope a

jurisdiction needs and might be able to produce. Download the guide from csh-homefront.c.topica.com/maacZ35abcKpJaH910JeadIcSC/

Using RIMS II to Estimate the Economic Impact of Supportive Housing - CSH contracted with Bay Area Economics (BAE) to develop this guide for using RIMS II (Regional Industrial Multiplier System II) to estimate the economic impact of developing supportive housing. RIMS II is best suited to larger projects with greater development costs (50+ units), and is most effective at describing the economic impact of multiple supportive housing developments. This guide specifically addresses the needs of supportive housing advocates. Download the guide from csh-homefront.c.topica.com/maacZ35abcKpKaH910JeadIcSC/

For further information, contact CSH at the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■

Homeless Headlines

Samaritans

(Continued from page 1)

Ministries

Emergency Shelter

The Emergency Shelter helps homeless individuals and families by providing free, safe, temporary housing while they seek the means to have permanent, affordable housing. The Emergency

residents of the emergency shelter. Good Samaritan also welcomes people from the community who are hungry.

Food Pantry

The Food Pantry provides canned goods and perishables to people in need. Area churches and civic organizations provide food and augment federal commodities. The Food Pantry is located in the University

In 2004, a year-long fund-raising campaign raised nearly \$10,000 to replace the pantry's aging collection of chest and refrigerator-top freezers. Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity and Illinois Department of Human Services funding covered approximately \$8,000 of the costs, but it took an unexpected last-minute anonymous donation of \$1,700 to rescue the project. The new resources allowed the purchase of a food service grade step-in freezer with more storage capacity than all the old freezers combined.

Emergency Assistance

The Emergency Assistance Program helps area residents pay their rent or utility bills in order to prevent them from becoming homeless. This is one-time assistance. The recipient must demonstrate the ability to maintain a normal payment schedule in the future.

In cooperation with other human service agencies, Good Samaritan assists people who are working their way off the welfare rolls. They also help stranded travelers get to their destinations by providing a gasoline voucher or a bus ticket.

Good Samaritan Ministries is non-denominational and neither holds nor requires participation in religious services as a condition to receiving benefits from its various services.



The main Good Samaritan facility houses all the agency's programs, except the Food Pantry.

Shelter has the capacity to house 30 persons.

Transitional House

Some individuals staying in the Emergency Shelter are not prepared to live independently without additional basic life skills training. The Transitional House helps these people by providing support services for up to twenty-four months to prepare them for a smooth transition into the community. The Transitional House can house twelve persons.

Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen provides nutritionally balanced meals served three times a day, every day of the year, to

Baptist Church in Carbondale. It is the only program not housed in the main facility.

Good Samaritan Ministries

(All figures for year ending June, 2004)

Emergency Shelter

- ⊙ People Served: 572 (including 50 children)
- ⊙ Nights Stayed: 3,797

Transitional House People

- ⊙ Served: 22
- ⊙ Nights Stayed: 2,369

Food Pantry

- ⊙ Individuals Served: 10,400
- ⊙ Families Served: 3,554
- ⊙ Christmas food baskets: 250

Soup Kitchen

- ⊙ Meals Served: 22,318

Emergency Assistance

- ⊙ People Helped: 179

For further information, contact:

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Center for Economic Progress

Promoting Financial Empowerment and Self-Sufficiency



Economic Progress

(Continued from page 3)

for the credit. The maximum credit that year was a modest \$500 for a household with two children.

In 1993, the value of the credit was nearly doubled, and since that year, more than 4.3 million people have been lifted out of poverty each year as a result of the EITC.

People below the poverty line are not the only beneficiaries of the program. Working families with two or more children can earn up to \$33,692 per year and still qualify for a credit.

Last year, more than 20 million families and individuals in the United States claimed the federal EITC and received more than \$37 billion.

The federal EITC is a special tax benefit for working people who earn low or moderate incomes. This credit helps to reduce the tax burden on these workers, to supplement wages, and to make work more attractive than welfare.

Workers who qualify for the EITC and file a federal tax return can get back some or all of the federal income tax that was taken out of their pay during the year. They also may get extra cash back from the IRS. Even workers whose earnings are too small to have paid taxes can get the EITC and the credit reduces any income and payroll taxes workers may owe.

Single or married people who worked full or part-time at some point during the year can qualify for the EITC. The average EITC is \$1,867, however, for families with children the average raises to \$2,160. It varies depending on family

size and income. For example:

- ⊙ Workers who were raising one child in their home and had a family income of \$31,338 or less in year 2004 could be eligible for a credit up to \$2,604.
- ⊙ Workers who were raising more than one child in their home and had family income of less than \$35,458 in 2004 could be eligible for a credit up to \$4,300.
- ⊙ Workers who were not raising children in their home but were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2004 and had incomes below \$12,490 could get a credit of up to \$390.

How many low-income workers are eligible?

An estimated 21 million workers in the United States, including almost 950,000 in Illinois, are eligible for the federal EITC for tax year 2003. In 2003, 814,532 Illinois workers filed for the Federal EITC, claiming \$1.4 billion in refunds.

Why do some eligible workers fail to claim the EITC?

Thousands of potentially eligible workers don't know about the tax credit. The Center estimates that more than 120,000 eligible Illinois workers fail to claim the EITC because they do not know about it or they do not file tax returns. Some of these people are not required to file tax returns, but they cannot take advantage of the EITC unless they file.

Many other people are immigrants who face language barriers or are native-born individuals with literacy deficiencies that make it difficult for them to deal with the complicated IRS tax forms and instruction booklets. Some are people who are working for the first time and have never before filed a tax return.

The uncertainty our economy is experiencing, with increasing poverty and the volatile labor market, means that those who are eligible to claim the EITC changes from year to year based on annual earnings. As many as one-third of EITC taxpayers in 2003 did not claim the credit in 2002, many of which filed tax returns but did not know they were eligible for the credit.

For further information, contact:

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Chicago, IL 60602
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Homeless Headlines

FY 2006

(Continued from page 1)

rationale is to reduce duplication of economic development programs. The CDBG program has been the subject of criticism by the White House, and deemed “ineffective” by OMB’s evaluation of federal programs. The use of CDBG for Congressional earmarks, also known as “pork,” is also not favored by OMB.

Moving federal programs from one agency to another would require statutory change and moving the programs from one authorizing committee to another and one appropriations subcommittee to another. Congressional committees are notoriously resistant to giving up any area of jurisdiction, so the viability of these proposals remain to be seen. The President has tried to eliminate HUD’s Rural Housing and Economic Development program in each of his previous budgets, only to be rebuffed by appropriators. His efforts to move

the McKinney Emergency Food and Shelter Program from FEMA to HUD have also failed.

Cuts to domestic discretionary spending will be much easier to achieve if Congress succeeds in setting new spending caps this year, as is widely expected as a key deficit reduction strategy. Cuts to the Housing Voucher program and to the Housing Investment Partnership Program (HOME) have already been leaked to the press.

At a budget briefing for human needs advocates sponsored by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) and the Coalition for Human Needs on January 13, CBPP head Bob Greenstein advised the audience to expect more focus on spending cuts than tax cuts this year as the Administration and Congress turn their attention to reducing the \$413 billion federal budget deficit. Several costs, such as the ongoing cost of the war in Iraq, will not

appear in the President’s budget, in order to show a reduction in the deficit.

But domestic discretionary programs make up only one-sixth of the federal budget and to achieve significant improvements in the deficit more cuts are needed. Budget experts are predicting a reconciliation directive in Congress’ FY2006 budget resolution imposing across the board cuts in federal entitlement programs, including Medicaid and Medicare, SSI, Veterans’ benefits, EITC, Child Care Credits, Food Stamps, Child Nutrition, and much more. In the words of new Senate Budget Committee Chair Judd Gregg (R-NH), as quoted in the Wall Street Journal on December 12, 2004: “This cannot afford to be a guns-and-butter term...you’ve got to cut the budget.”

For more information, contact Katie Fisher at Katie@nlihc.org or (202) 662-1530 or contact NLIHC at the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■



Headlines Directory

Center for Community Change

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Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

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Fax: (202) 408-1056
<http://www.cbpp.org>

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

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Chicago, IL 60605
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<http://www.enteraact.com/~cch/index.htm>

Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities in Illinois

300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
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Telephone: (217) 522 7016
Fax: (217) 522-7024
TDD: (217) 522-7016
<http://www.inw.net/~ccdi/>

Corporation for Supportive Housing

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www.csh.org

Food Research and Action Center

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 540
Washington, D.C. 20009
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foodresearch@frac.org

Housing Assistance Council

1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
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Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

801 S. 11th
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Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness

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Illinois Department of Human Services

Homeless Services and Supportive
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Illinois Food Bank Association

P.O. Box 8293
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Illinois Housing Development Authority

401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
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National Alliance to End Homelessness

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National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

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E-mail: nchv@nchv.org
<http://www.nchv.org/home.html>

National Coalition for the Homeless

1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
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<http://nch.ari.net/>

National Community Reinvestment Coalition

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National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

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Washington DC 20004
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National Low-Income Housing Coalition

& National Low Income Housing
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National Rural Housing Coalition

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Rural Development

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Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless

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