

Homeless Headlines

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

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Making the Connection

By Candace M. King and Kathryn A. Nelson

Accessing public benefits is often a challenge for anyone who needs help from a state, federal or local agency. Often the

Note:

[This article introduces a new feature in Homeless Headlines addressing the intricacies of mainstream public benefits. Although all the topics addressed may not address homelessness directly, our presumption is that access to mainstream benefits may be seen as one means of preventing homelessness. Prevention is almost always a more humane and cost effective alternative to remediating a crisis. – Editor]



complex policy and non-user friendly systems are designed to meet the needs of the agency rather than the consumer,

and constant lack of funding adds to the challenge (and often the frustration). When the person needing the service is homeless, these systems and rules wind up being the proverbial “straw that broke the camel’s back”, and our clients give up, often before they ever really start, and ultimately turn away from supports that are critical to their success at becoming housed.

Over the past six months we have had the privilege of meeting with many of you as we have traveled around Illinois conducting our training program,

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Out of Reach 2005

Out of Reach 2005 reports that the national Housing Wage has increased to \$15.78, up from \$15.37 last year. NLIHC’s Housing Wage represents the wage a full time worker would have to earn per hour to afford the rent and utilities for modest two-bedroom apartment. This year Hawaii ranks as the most expensive state with a Housing Wage of \$22.30, and San Francisco, with a Housing Wage of \$29.54, leads the top-ten list of most-expensive jurisdictions and is joined by five other California metropolitan areas.

In Illinois, the Housing Wage is \$15.43 for the state as a whole, which makes the state 36th in affordability. West Virginia is the most affordable of “lower forty-eight” states at \$9.73. The range for the Housing Wage in Illinois for two-bedroom units is from \$9.46 (145 percent of the \$6.50 Illinois minimum wage) in many rural counties to \$17.33 (267 percent of the Illinois minimum wage) in the Chicago metro area.

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Illinois Department of
Human Services



Free Tax Preparation Services

Fast, free, electronic tax preparation services will be available in 35 communities all over the state of Illinois. Tax preparation services will begin on Saturday, January 28, 2006, and be available through April 15, 2006. Any family with income of \$38,000 or less, and any individual with income of \$15,000 or less, is eligible for these free services. (See related article on the Earned Income Tax Credit.)

In 2005 the Center for Economic Progress (CEP) provided free tax preparation to 25,326 families, generating \$35.2 million in refunds. This is an enormous boost for hard-working families. It also helps them to avoid getting high-cost refund anticipation loans, which are heavily marketed in some neighborhoods.

In addition, there are bank representatives available at 20 of our tax preparation locations, assisting families to open checking or savings accounts, so that they can avoid check-cashing costs, currency exchange charges, and payday loan strategies. CEP encourages you to let your constituents know about these services.

For a complete list of where and when these services are available in your area, please see:

- ↪ For Chicago:
www.centerforprogress.org/programs_chicagoland.html
- ↪ For Northern Illinois:
www.centerforprogress.org/programs_northern.html
- ↪ For Central and Southern Illinois:
www.centerforprogress.org/programs_downstate.html

CEP also has created fliers that can be used to advertise the free tax services in each and every community where the

services are available. These fliers can be found at:
www.centerforprogress.org/public_public.html#indsiteflyer. Please feel free to print, copy, and distribute these fliers in your community to make sure that everyone is aware that these services exist.

If you have difficulty accessing these fliers, please call and CEP can send them to you directly.

We are also currently seeking volunteers to help make these valuable services available to the most people possible. Each year over 1,000 community members go through the 8 hour training to become a volunteer, and many return year after year. Our volunteers tell us this is a very satisfying and important volunteer experience. If you or anyone you know are interested in signing up to volunteer, please see:

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Center for Economic Progress and the Earned Income Tax Credit

The Tax Counseling Project (see related article in this issue), a program of the Center for Economic Progress stands to bring more than \$40 million into the state's economy this year by preparing over 28,000 income tax returns for low and moderate-income families. In the last eleven years, \$160 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 35 communities throughout the state of Illinois from January 28-April 15,

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Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline by email

This is self-service only. If you would like to receive Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline by email, send a blank email to headlines-hotline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. When the confirmation message comes, just click on the reply and send buttons in your email program. If your address changes, unsubscribe (headlines-hotline-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com) and submit a new subscription.

Homeless Headlines



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HUD Awards \$75.1 Million in Homelessness Funding to Illinois

Local homeless programs across America will receive \$1.33 billion in grants announced today by the Department of Housing and Urban Development—the largest single commitment of federal funds designed to provide shelter and care for those without a home of their own.

HUD’s funding is provided in two ways:

- ↳ Continuum of Care grants provide permanent and transitional housing to homeless persons. In addition, Continuum grants fund important services including job training, health care, mental health counseling, substance abuse treatment and child care.

- ↳ Emergency Shelter Grants convert buildings into homeless shelters, assist in the operation of local shelters and fund related social service and homeless prevention programs.

Combined, HUD’s Continuum of Care and Emergency Shelter Grant programs will provide critically needed funding to more than 5,000 local programs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U. S. Virgin Islands. As a result, nearly 172,000 persons will receive the housing and services they need to become self-sufficient. For a more detailed local

summary of the Illinois funding announced today, see the accompanying table.

More than \$1.2 billion in Continuum of Care grants are awarded competitively to local programs to meet the needs of their homeless clients. Continuum grants fund a wide variety of programs—from street outreach and assessment programs to transitional and permanent housing for homeless persons and families.

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HUD 2005 Homelessness Awards: Selected Large State Awards <small>(Millions of Dollars)</small>				
	Continuum of Care	Emergency Shelter Grants	Total	
California	\$ 200.3	\$ 20.4	\$ 220.7	
New York	127.5	15.3	142.8	
Illinois	67.4	7.6	75.0	
Florida	58.1	7.0	65.1	
Pennsylvania	53.6	9.7	63.3	
Texas	50.1	11.1	61.2	

Chicago Premiere: “Turning a Corner”

“Turning a Corner” is an hour-long film that tells the stories of people involved in the sex-trade in Chicago and their efforts to raise public awareness and promote needed reforms. This groundbreaking film, produced by Beyondmedia Education with over a dozen members of the Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (PART) tells their stories of survival and triumph over homelessness, violence and discrimination, and gives rare insights into Chicago’s sex-trade industry.

<p>Hosted by: Bernardine Dohrn Children And Family Justice Center-Bluhm Legal Clinic Northwestern University School of Law</p> <p>Sponsored by: ↳ The Prostitution Alternatives Round Table (PART) of the Chicago Coalition For The Homeless ↳ Beyondmedia ↳ Art Show By Urban Art Retreat</p>	<p>Northwestern University Thorne Auditorium 375 E. Chicago Ave. Chicago</p> <p>Monday February 6, 2006 5:30PM - 8:00PM 5:30pm - 6:15pm Reception & Art Show 6:15pm - 7:30pm Film Screening 7:30pm - 8:00pm Panel Discussion</p>	<p>Complimentary Snacks and Cash Bar</p> <p>\$7.00 Parking Validated at event:: Lot C (Huron/Fairbanks/Superior/St. Clair) or Lot D (Erie and Fairbanks-across from VA Lakeside Hospital)</p> <p>For More Information & RSVP: Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (312) 435-4548 www.chicagohomeless.org</p>
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Strategies for Preventing Homelessness

The Strategies for Preventing Homelessness report is now available. HUD commissioned this exploratory study to identify and document communities that have implemented effective and well-targeted community-wide homelessness prevention strategies and have data to illustrate their effectiveness. This report documents the prevention approaches in six communities with the hope that other communities might learn how to carry out similar efforts.

The study identified a number of promising prevention activities that could be used alone or in combination as part of a coherent community-wide strategy. The promising prevention activities include:

- 1) Supportive services coupled with permanent housing, particularly when combined with effective discharge from institutions (especially mental hospitals);
- 2) Mediation in Housing Courts;
- 3) Cash assistance for rent or mortgage arrears; and
- 4) Rapid exit from shelters.

The report is available as a free download at www.huduser.org/publications/homeless/prevent_homelessness.html or in print for a nominal fee by calling HUD USER at 1-800-245-2691, Option 1. 📄

Connection

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Making the Connection: A Guide to Accessing Public Benefits. In the coming months, we hope through this column to continue to provide the support and information you need regarding the complex public benefit system that you and your clients have to navigate. Hopefully, through sharing of information you will be able to really “make the connection” between your clients and the public benefits they need and are eligible for.

What you need to know about public benefits cannot be learned in one day. We have worked in this business of public benefits for over 60 combined years and we are always amazed by what we continue to learn. We hope to use this column as a means to address questions, share strategies that work, and collectively learn and improve. Feel free to contact Kathryn at knelson@dupagefederation.org. She will attempt to respond to your concerns and will share some of your questions in this column.

Medicare D

Today we want to discuss a few things about the hot topic – Medicare D – and how this program is “working”. This is not a problem specific to the homeless, but if it does not work right, it can place many low income families at risk.

As you know by now, Medicare D began January 1, 2006 and is intended to provide prescription drug coverage to Medicare recipients who enroll in this program. For many persons on Medicare, enrolling in Medicare D is an individual choice.

However, low income clients who receive Medicaid really had no choice. As of January 1, 2006 Medicaid no longer pays for prescription drug coverage for individuals who are Medicare eligible. To ensure persons

on Medicaid did not lose drug coverage, everyone who receives Medicaid and Medicare was enrolled in a randomly selected prescription drug plan.

As clients are going to the pharmacy to fill their prescriptions they are facing a number of problems.

1. Problem:

The pharmacist cannot obtain proof of enrollment in a Medicare D plan through the computer system

2. Problem:

The person is not showing as being enrolled in the “extra help/low income subsidy” program and they are being required to pay the deductible

Solution: Starting 1/11/06 when a pharmacist has problems properly billing the Medicare prescription drug plans (PDPs) for someone who is dually eligible, or if their low-income eligibility information is lacking, the pharmacist is to call or fax the individual’s information to the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services (HFS) [Pharmacists have been provided the phone and fax number]. HFS staff work directly with the pharmacist to solve the problem on a case by case basis. If the problem can’t be fixed quickly, the state will cover the cost of the prescription drugs directly, and then seek reimbursement from the prescription drug plan to which the patient is assigned.

Information Needed by the Pharmacist:

Patient name; Medicaid Recipient ID Number; Date of Birth; Social Security Number; Pharmacy call back phone number (required)

Hint: Tell clients to go to the pharmacy with their Medicaid and Medicare cards, or any material that shows they are eligible for both programs. What the pharmacist needs is the Recipient Identification Number (RIN) from the Medicaid card, so if your client has a

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letter instead of the Medicaid card, make sure this number is on the letter. If it is not on the letter, then the client can contact the IDHS caseworker to request a temporary medical card or some other document with the RIN on it.

3. Problem:

Some dual-eligibles were not auto-enrolled, and they did not independently pick a Medicare D plan, so they are not enrolled in Medicare D and Medicaid is not paying for the prescription.

Solution: Your client needs to go to the pharmacy with proof s/he has both Medicaid and Medicare (proof can be the Medicare Red, White and Blue card and the Medicaid card, or a letter from the state showing Medicaid eligibility. Another option is contact the IDHS caseworker to request a temporary Medicaid card if the original is lost or was never received). If your client has evidence of both Medicaid and Medicare eligibility, but is not enrolled in a Part D plan, pharmacies are to follow instructions available on CMS' website regarding billing to a single national plan for payment of prescription drug claims, so your clients should be able to still fill their prescription.

4. Problem:

Clients are enrolled in SeniorCare or Circuit Breaker, and they are not sure how their drug coverage was affected under these programs?

Solution: Effective January 1, 2006 everyone enrolled in these programs was converted to Illinois Cares Rx; if the person is enrolled in Medicare, their prescription drugs will be paid through the Medicare D program.

There are approximately 10,000 SeniorCare and Circuit Breaker clients not eligible for Medicare Part D. Illinois

Cares Rx Plus (formerly SeniorCare) and Illinois Cares Rx Basic (formerly Circuit Breaker) clients who are **not** eligible for Medicare Part D will continue to get their drug coverage through Illinois Cares Rx.

All Illinois Cares Rx Basic (formerly Circuit Breaker) enrollees who receive drugs through Express Scripts who are not eligible for Medicare Part D will be enrolled in the Illinois Rx Buying Club for all drugs not covered in Illinois Cares Rx Basic (formerly Circuit Breaker).

5. Problem:

The plan the person is enrolled in does not cover the prescription drugs that the person takes

Solution: There are a few options available to persons who have both Medicaid and Medicare coverage: one is to appeal the denial of payment for the drug through the drug plan selected (this is usually a 24 hour process); another option is to go back to the doctor to see if a drug on the approved list can be prescribed (this may require talking to the pharmacist about what are reasonable alternatives. Sometimes pharmacists will call the doctor to get authorization to issue another drug, saving your client from having to go back to the doctor).

In some instances the plan that was randomly selected is not the best plan for your client's needs, so in these instances you should work with your client to enroll in a new plan (changing enrollment outside the open enrollment period is an option that is available only to dual eligible persons). Before changing the plan you will need to find the best plan available. This can be done by using the options/links available at <http://www.medicare.gov>

If you are not sure what to do, you can refer your clients who are 60 and older to Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) at 800-548-9034 or Senior Helpline at 1-800-252-8966.

6. Problem:

This is way too complex, and you need more help.

Solution: Clients with Medicare Part D questions should be directed to the Senior Health Insurance Program (SHIP) at 800-548-9034 or Senior Helpline at 1-800-252-8966 or Medicare at 1-800-MEDICARE (633-4227).

Candace King is the Executive Director of the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform for the past 10



years. She has over 30 years of working with human services systems advocacy. Kathryn Nelson is the Public Benefits Program Director with the DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform. Prior to this she worked for 30+ years with the Department of Public Aid and Illinois Department of Human Services. The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on advocacy and planning in DuPage County, Illinois and designer and trainer of Making the Connection: A Guide to Accessing Public Benefits. Questions can be directed to knelson@dupagefederation.org or cking@dupagefederation.org. ■

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HUD Awards

(Continued from page 3)

Emergency Shelter Grants are allocated based on a formula to state and local governments to create, improve and operate emergency shelters for homeless persons. These funds may also support essential services

including job training, health care, drug/alcohol treatment, childcare and homelessness prevention activities. By helping to support emergency shelter, transitional housing and needed support services, Emergency Shelter Grants are designed to move homeless persons away from a life on the street toward permanent housing.

Approximately \$322 million of the Continuum grants awarded today will fund new and existing programs through HUD's Shelter Plus Care program that helps to pay rent and provide permanent housing for

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Fiscal Year 2005 Continuum of Care Competition Homeless Assistance Awards Report With ESG							
COC Number Sponsor Name	COC Name	Program	Dollars Awarded	COC Number Sponsor Name	COC Name	Program	Dollars Awarded
IL05-500	McHenry County CoC	SHPR	\$78,491.00	IL05-513	Springfield/Sangamon County CoC	SHPR	\$24,150.00
Thresholds		SHPR	\$78,491.00	Fifth Street Renaissance		SHPR	\$167,923.00
Pioneer Center of McHenry County		SHPR	\$261,819.00	M.E.R.C.Y. Communities		SHPR	\$91,899.00
Pioneer Center of McHenry County		SHPR	\$226,464.00	Youth Service Bureau		SHPR	\$46,825.00
Home of the Sparrow, Inc		SHPR	\$26,250.00	Abundant Faith Ministry		SHPR	\$115,325.00
Supportive Services Day Program for Homeless People		SHPR	\$105,000.00	Helping Hands Permanent Housing Project		SHPR	\$448,129.00
Home of the Sparrow, Inc		SHPR	\$54,600.00			Total:	
		Total:	\$831,115.00	IL05-514	Dupage County CoC	SHP	\$196,732.00
IL05-501	Rockford/Winnebago, Boone Counties CoC	SHPR	\$39,865.00	DuPage Pads, Inc.		SHPR	\$408,860.00
Shelter Care Ministries		SHPR	\$161,309.00	DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.		SHPR	\$166,667.00
The Carpenter's Place (LinHowe Ministries, Inc.)		SHPR	\$93,083.00	New Hope Permanent Housing		SHPR	\$666,347.00
Promised Land Employment Service		SHPR	\$250,569.00	Shift Permanent Housing		SHPR	\$82,240.00
Youth Services Network		SHPR	\$155,568.00	DuPage Daybreak Transitional Housing		SHPR	\$140,000.00
American Red Cross		SHPR	\$174,960.00	Youth Transitional Housing		SHPR	\$107,289.00
City of Rockford		SPCR	\$174,960.00	HUD Outside Housing		SHPR	\$60,124.00
City of Rockford		SPCR	\$174,960.00	Youth Transitional Housing Expansion		SHPR	\$128,780.00
		Total:	\$1,050,314.00	World Relief Transitional Housing		SHPR	\$121,322.00
IL05-502	Waukegan/North Chicago/Lake County CoC	SPC	\$240,600.00	Transitional Housing Renewal		SHPR	\$83,281.00
Lake County		SHPR	\$330,750.00	Permanent Housing for the Homeless Mentally Ill (MISA)		SHPR	\$99,437.00
Alexian Brothers		SHPR	\$70,704.00	Permanent for Homeless Mentally Ill		SHPR	\$385,000.00
The Lake County Haven		SHPR	\$63,000.00	Permanent Supportive Housing for the Homeless Mentally Ill (CAPV-VII)		SHPR	\$68,780.00
The Lake County Haven		SHP	\$30,000.00	Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.		SHPR	\$203,667.00
Lake County HMIS		SHP	\$449,295.00	DuPage County Community Services		SHPR	\$35,550.00
PADS' Crisis Services, Inc.		SHP		DuPage County		SHPR	\$2,954,076.00
		Total:	\$1,184,349.00	IL05-515	South Central Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$249,845.00
IL05-503	Champaign/Urbana/Rantoul/Champaign County CoC	SHP	\$17,926.00	Embaras River Basin Agency, Inc.		SHPR	\$76,434.00
Center for Women in Transition		SHPR	\$43,043.00	HOPE of East Central Illinois		SHPR	\$199,675.00
Mental Health Center of Champaign County Inc		SHPR	\$206,516.00	C.E.F.S. Economic Opportunity Corporation		SHPR	\$154,722.00
Center for Women in Transition; A Woman's Fund; Salvation Army Services, Inc.		SPCR	\$134,112.00	Embaras River Basin Agency, Inc.		SHPR	\$680,676.00
City of Urbana						Total:	
		Total:	\$401,597.00	IL05-516	Decatur/Macon County CoC	SHP	\$32,579.00
IL05-504	Madison County CoC	SHPR	\$303,660.00	Dove, Inc.		SHPR	\$364,794.00
Madison County Government		SHPR	\$279,424.00	Dove, Inc.		SHPR	\$89,581.00
Madison County Community Development		SHPR	\$359,476.00	Dove, Inc.		SHPR	\$61,471.00
Chestnut Health Systems		SHP	\$82,723.00			Total:	\$548,425.00
Chestnut Health Systems				IL05-517	Aurora/Elgin/Kane County CoC	SHP	\$62,759.00
Hoyleton Youth and Family Services				Lazarus House		SHPR	\$54,331.00
		Total:	\$1,159,443.00	Transitional Housing		SHPR	\$234,302.00
IL05-505	Evanston CoC	SHPR	\$220,860.00	Public Action to Deliver Shelter, Inc.		SHPR	\$297,425.00
Connections for the Homeless		SHPR	\$368,787.00	The Larkin Center		SHPR	\$64,981.00
Housing Options for the Mentally Ill in Evanston, Inc.				Transitional Living Program		SHPR	\$163,030.00
Connections for the Homeless				Permanent Supportive Housing Program		SHPR	\$30,135.00
		Total:	\$658,256.00	Supportive Services Only		SHPR	\$169,853.00
IL05-506	Joliet/Bolingbrook/Will County CoC	SHPR	\$261,836.00	Continuum of Care for Kane County		SHPR	\$1,076,816.00
Cornerstone Services, Inc		SHPR	\$754,500.00			Total:	
CFM Lamb's Fold Women's Center		SHPR	\$250,000.00	IL05-518	Rock Island/Moline/Northwestern Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$58,713.00
Cornerstone Services, Inc		SHPR	\$1,412,607.00	Project NOW, Inc. CAA		SHPR	\$119,445.00
Cornerstone Services, Inc		SHPR	\$261,836.00	Project NOW, Inc. CAA		SHPR	\$127,943.00
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet		SHPR	\$112,912.00	Family Transitional Housing Program		SHPR	\$77,433.00
		Total:	\$2,728,353.00	Freeport Area Church Cooperative		SHPR	\$383,534.00
IL05-507	Peoria/Perkin/Fulton, Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford CoC	SHPR	\$22,442.00			Total:	
Pioneer Civic Services		SHPR	\$212,381.00	IL05-519	West Central Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$163,451.00
South Side Office of Concern		SHPR	\$186,216.00	YWCA of Quincy		SHPR	\$164,448.00
YWCA of Peoria		SHPR	\$75,668.00	YWCA of Quincy		SHPR	\$76,853.00
YWCA of Peoria		SHPR	\$126,000.00	YWCA of Quincy		SHPR	\$59,961.00
YWCA of Peoria		SPCR	\$126,000.00	YWCA of Quincy		SHPR	\$54,907.00
Peoria Housing Authority				Western Illinois Regional Council		SHPR	\$519,620.00
		Total:	\$745,619.00			Total:	
IL05-508	East Saint Louis/Belleville/Saint Clair County CoC	SPC	\$167,700.00	IL05-520	Southern Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$74,397.00
Saint Clair County		SHPR	\$177,382.00	Transitional Housing Program		SHPR	\$186,248.00
Saint Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department		SHPR	\$110,000.00	Family Counseling Center		SHPR	\$56,975.00
CDBG Operations Corporation		SHPR	\$469,814.00	Transhouse		SHPR	\$70,000.00
CDBG Operations Corporation		SHPR	\$265,659.00	Stopping Woman Abuse Now		SHPR	\$19,597.00
Chestnut Health Systems		SHPR	\$169,127.00	B.C.M.W. Community Services		SHPR	\$77,105.00
Saint Clair County Intergovernmental Grants Department				Anna Bixby Women's Center		SHPR	\$47,584.00
		Total:	\$1,359,682.00	Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, Inc.		SHPR	\$64,340.00
IL05-509	DeKalb City & County CoC	SHPR	\$98,375.00	Anna Bixby Women's Center		SHPR	\$598,246.00
Hope Haven of DeKalb County, Inc.		SHPR	\$95,270.00			Total:	
Hope Haven of DeKalb County, Inc.						Total:	
		Total:	\$193,645.00	IL05-512	Bloomington/Central Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$219,854.00
IL05-512	Bloomington/Central Illinois CoC	SHPR	\$139,640.00	Your Family Resource Connection		SHPR	\$63,865.00
The Salvation Army		SHPR	\$23,184.00	Project Oz		SHPR	\$171,353.00
Your Family Resource Connection		SHPR	\$148,240.00	The Baby Fold		SHPR	\$64,017.00
Project Oz		SHPR	\$16,501.00	PATH Crisis Center		SHPR	\$6,581.00
The Baby Fold		SHPR	\$6,581.00	PATH Crisis Center		SHPR	\$16,501.00
PATH Crisis Center		SHPR	\$6,581.00	Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education # 32		SHPR	\$6,581.00
PATH Crisis Center		SHPR	\$6,581.00	PATH, Inc.		SHPR	\$6,581.00
Iroquois-Kankakee Regional Office of Education # 32		SHPR	\$6,581.00	PATH, Inc.		SHPR	\$6,581.00
PATH, Inc.		SHPR	\$6,581.00			Total:	\$853,235.00
PATH, Inc.		SHPR	\$6,581.00			Total:	
		Total:	\$853,235.00			Total:	

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Fiscal Year 2005 Continuum of Care Competition Homeless Assistance Awards Report With ESG

COC Number	Sponsor Name	COC Name	Program	Dollars Awarded	COC Number	Sponsor Name	COC Name	Program	Dollars Awarded
IL05-510	Chicago CoC				IL05-510	Chicago CoC (Cont'd)			
	City of Chicago		SHP	\$4,288,394.00		The Renaissance Collaborative, Inc.		SHPR	\$184,451.00
	Affordable Housing Preservation Foundation- 51st Street Y		SHP	\$155,106.00		Supportive Housing Program		SHPR	\$485,991.00
	Lakefront Supportive Housing		SHP	\$157,500.00		Hull House		SHPR	\$389,026.00
	Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)		SHPR	\$525,000.00		Open Doors I / HAPSA/ HAP Employment		SHPR	\$304,278.00
	Pathways Home Outpatient		SHPR	\$355,855.00		Ridgeland Transitional Living and Day Care		SHPR	\$611,859.00
	Dolores' Safe Haven		SHPR	\$330,293.00		Housing Stability Program		SHPR	\$82,803.00
	Neon Street Dorm		SHPR	\$207,936.00		Courage Homes		SHPR	\$721,954.00
	AidsCare, Chicago House, Lakefront Supportive Housing, Lawson YMCA		SHPR	\$381,249.00		The Inner Voice, Inc.		SHPR	\$398,649.00
	Interfaith House, Inc.		SHPR	\$189,889.00		Undomiciled Mental Ill Substance Abuse (UMISA)		SHPR	\$64,471.00
	Better Existence with HIV (Be-HIV), Christian Community Health Center		SHPR	\$279,179.00		Circle Urban Ministries		SHPR	\$396,875.00
	Residents for Effective Shelter Transitions (REST)		SHPR	\$185,563.00		HUD Supportive Housing for Women		SHPR	\$469,909.00
	Matthew House		SHPR	\$137,592.00		Adult Education-SSO		SHPR	\$136,599.00
	Neon Street Dorm		SHPR	\$47,014.00		Bethel New Life, Inc.		SHPR	\$219,153.00
	Leland House/ Barnabas Project		SHPR	\$132,224.00		Family		SHPR	\$317,278.00
	Heartland Health Outreach		SHPR	\$278,541.00		Bethel New Life, Inc.		SHPR	\$96,983.00
	Christian Community Health Center, Vital Bridges		SHPR	\$368,524.00		Pioneer Transitional Housing Program		SHPR	\$79,459.00
	Interfaith House		SHPR	\$210,704.00		Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund		SHPR	\$804,460.00
	Lawson House YMCA		SHPR	\$256,955.00		Chicago Low-Income Housing Trust Fund		SHPR	\$668,152.00
	La Posada Scattered Site		SHPR	\$375,000.00		Eddie Beard Homeless Veteran's Transitional Housing		SHPR	\$205,452.00
	Sarah's Circle		SHPR	\$68,250.00		Featherfest		SHPR	\$293,526.00
	Pathways Home Permanent Housing		SHPR	\$488,341.00		Featherfest		SHPR	\$532,528.00
	Lawson Safe Haven		SHPR	\$163,962.00		Second Stage		SHPR	\$375,375.00
	Healthcare Alternative Systems, Inc.		SHPR	\$214,748.00		Chicago Christian Industrial League		SHPR	\$92,533.00
	Heartland Human Care Services/Rafael Center		SHPR	\$45,123.00		Featherfest		SHPR	\$256,626.00
	Cressey House		SHPR	\$57,931.00		West Englewood United Organization		SHPR	\$210,118.00
	Transitional Housing with Supportive Services		SHPR	\$79,018.00		Chicago Christian Industrial League		SHPR	\$250,120.00
	Rebecca Johnson Apartments		SHPR	\$188,064.00		Job Training- SSO		SHPR	\$50,274.00
	Austin Safe Haven		SHPR	\$244,919.00		Pathways		SHPR	\$485,820.00
	Singles Two		SHPR	\$198,368.00		Featherfest		SHPR	\$318,130.00
	Community Mental Health Council, Inc.		SHPR	\$73,014.00		Featherfest		SHPR	\$124,967.00
	Pathways Home Safe Haven		SHPR	\$948,722.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$240,408.00
	The Employment Project		SHPR	\$123,537.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$39,672.00
	Residents for Effective Shelter Transitions (REST)		SHPR	\$279,399.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$189,360.00
	New Hope Apartments		SHPR	\$1,379,776.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$614,076.00
	Families Building Community-Expansion		SHPR	\$343,819.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$155,052.00
	Families Building Community		SHPR	\$693,873.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$231,276.00
	Heartland Health Outreach		SHPR	\$130,438.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$250,044.00
	Patty Crowley Apartments		SHPR	\$150,144.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$42,060.00
	La Posada Interim Housing		SHPR	\$471,265.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$39,672.00
	Carlton Miriam Delmar Apartments		SHPR	\$123,072.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$552,720.00
	Wayne Street Grais Apartments		SHPR	\$403,605.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$99,804.00
	New Hope Apartments		SHPR	\$375,000.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$132,240.00
	Inspiration Corp Short Term Support		SHPR	\$199,911.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$252,360.00
	Bethel New Life, Inc.		SHPR	\$350,557.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$474,720.00
	Community Mental Health Council, Inc.		SHPR	\$101,082.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$252,360.00
	Harmony Village		SHPR	\$514,532.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$252,360.00
	Inspiration Cafe SRO		SHPR	\$92,736.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$243,984.00
	Mobile Assessment Unit		SHPR	\$221,650.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$368,328.00
	Rowan Trees		SHPR	\$308,319.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$556,620.00
	Goldie's		SHPR	\$67,736.00		Chicago Department of Human Services		SPCR	\$420,336.00
	Lakeview Shelter, Inc.		SHPR	\$68,080.00					Total: \$43,759,139.00
	South Loop Apartments		SHPR	\$257,771.00	IL05-511	Cook County CoC			
	Clustered and Scattered Site Apartments (CaSSA)		SHPR	\$194,377.00		HMIS- Suburban Cook County Continuum of Care		SHPR	\$255,976.00
	Holland Apartments- Families		SHPR	\$147,457.00		Home of the Sparrow, Inc.		SHPR	\$164,205.00
	Northwestern Memorial Hospital		SHPR	\$160,827.00		WiPower, Inc.		SHPR	\$205,206.00
	The Inner Voice, Inc.		SHPR	\$348,807.00		Community Family Homes Initiative II		SHPR	\$159,394.00
	Greenhouse Shelter		SHPR	\$26,929.00		Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.		SHPR	\$127,267.00
	Holland Apartments-Singles		SHPR	\$74,717.00		Community and Economic Development Association of Cook County, Inc.		SHPR	\$133,616.00
	Lakeview Shelter, Inc.		SHPR	\$124,578.00		YMCA Network		SHPR	\$199,850.00
	Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago		SHPR	\$163,104.00		New Hope Apartments-West Suburban		SHPR	\$306,277.00
	Unity Parenting & Counseling Inc		SHPR	\$434,758.00		Metropolitan Family Services		SHPR	\$231,498.00
	Thresholds		SHPR	\$109,643.00		Fellowship Housing Corporation		SHPR	\$100,120.00
	Deborah's Place		SHPR	\$414,750.00		WINGS Program Inc.		SHPR	\$44,693.00
	Interfaith Council for the Homeless		SHPR	\$312,241.00		The Center of Concern		SHPR	\$127,434.00
	Northwestern Memorial Hospital		SHPR	\$332,899.00		New Hope Apartments Program North/Northwest Suburban		SHPR	\$377,329.00
	Saint Leonard's Ministries		SHPR	\$47,250.00		Bethel Community Facility		SHPR	\$491,846.00
	Heartland Human Care Services		SHPR	\$314,986.00		Home of the Sparrow and The Harbour		SHPR	\$479,373.00
	The Night Ministry		SHPR	\$74,260.00		Together We Cope		SHPR	\$624,185.00
	Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home)		SHPR	\$124,785.00		Family Independence Project		SHPR	\$96,082.00
	Beacon Therapeutic Diagnostic and Treatment Center		SHPR	\$1,083,562.00		South Suburban Family Shelter		SHPR	\$281,957.00
	Lakefront Supportive Housing		SHPR	\$74,028.00		WINGS Program Inc.		SHPR	\$89,875.00
	Heartland Health Outreach		SHPR	\$368,219.00		Genesis Place		SHPR	\$156,332.00
	Community Supportive Living Systems Inc. (CSLS)		SHPR	\$203,150.00		Journeys from PADS to HOPE		SHPR	\$183,665.00
	Supportive Services Gap Program		SHPR	\$292,057.00		Housing Authority of the County of Cook		SPCR	\$326,712.00
	Inspiration Corporation		SHPR	\$354,284.00		Housing Authority of the County of Cook		SPCR	\$147,900.00
	Lakefront Supportive Housing		SHPR	\$49,875.00					State CoC Total: \$67,445,061.00
	Community Mental Health Council, Inc.		SHPR	\$127,696.00					
	Heartland Human Care Services		SHPR	\$939,084.00		Emergency Shelter Grants Allocations:			
	Ladkefront Supportive Housing		SHPR	\$136,560.00		CHICAGO			\$3,710,037.00
	Single Room Housing Assistance Corporation		SHPR	\$422,546.00		COOK COUNTY			\$465,068.00
	Renaissance Social Services, Inc		SHPR	\$60,585.00		DU PAGE COUNTY			\$157,764.00
	New Phoenix Assistance Center		SHPR	\$271,509.00		EAST ST LOUIS			\$82,634.00
	New Phoenix Assistance Center		SHPR	\$325,780.00		EVANSTON			\$87,297.00
	Next Step		SHPR	\$443,441.00		IL NONENTITLEMENT			\$2,607,525.00
	New Moms, Inc		SHPR	\$105,838.00		LAKE COUNTY			\$113,085.00
	Northwestern Memorial Hospital		SHPR	\$227,522.00		MADISON COUNTY			\$135,888.00
	Independence House LLC		SHPR	\$85,890.00		OAK PARK			\$85,972.00
	Southwest Women Working Together		SHPR	\$588,746.00		PEORIA			\$84,694.00
	New Moms, Inc		SHPR	\$147,860.00		ROCKFORD			\$93,509.00
	Southwest Women Working Together		SHPR	\$369,162.00					Total ESG: \$7,623,473.00 *
	New Phoenix Assistance Center		SHPR	\$240,500.00					
	Rosenthal Family Lodge		SHPR	\$64,628.00					TOTAL STATE FUNDING: \$75,068,534.00

HUD Awards

(Continued from page 6)

disabled homeless individuals and their families. The Shelter Plus Care program requires that HUD-funded projects help their clients live independently and provide needed supportive services from funding sources other than HUD.

Illinois Grants

Total Illinois grants came to approximately \$75.1 million (up from \$72.7 million in 2004). (See tables on pages 3, 4 and 5. HUD officials acknowledge that there may be some errors in this data.) Of Illinois' share, approximately \$67.4 million will go to projects serving homeless families and

individuals in areas covered by twenty-one Continuums of Care in the State.

Each Continuum of Care in Illinois brings together non-profit groups, the private sector and local and state governments in a partnership to design local programs to help homeless people become self-sufficient. Programs funded by the Continuum of Care grants will provide transitional and permanent housing assistance and will help people overcome problems that can lead to homelessness, such as a lack of basic education and job skills, mental illness and drug addiction. The amounts awarded to states, local governments and non-profit groups based on a number of factors that measure the effectiveness of their

respective individual plans to help homeless people.

An additional \$7.6 million in Emergency Shelter Grants were also awarded in Illinois to eleven entitlement communities, and to the State of Illinois for distribution to non-entitlement areas. Those resources will provide food and shelter on a short-term basis to homeless people. These grants are awarded through a formula based on a community's housing and poverty needs. States and cities select projects to receive funding.

For further information, contact Darrel Bugajsky of the Chicago HUD office at (312) 353-1696, ext. 2720 or the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■

Out of Reach

(Continued from page 1)

It is a year of "firsts" for Out of Reach, although few are worth celebrating. This is the first edition in which the national Housing Wage is greater than three times the federal minimum wage of \$5.15. In other words, more than three full-time federal minimum wage jobs are necessary to afford the national Fair Market Rent of \$821 for a two-bedroom apartment. This is also the first year that a full-time minimum wage earner cannot afford the Fair Market Rent for even a one-bedroom unit anywhere in the country. And in only 42 rural counties could that same minimum wage worker afford a studio apartment. None of those 42 counties are in Illinois.

Another first this year is that Out of Reach includes local renter wage data, the average wage of all renters in a jurisdiction. Nationally, NLIHC estimates the renter wage to be \$12.22. The data show that only 10 percent of renters live in counties where the two-bedroom Fair Market Rent is affordable to a householder with a full-time job paying the average wage. This is of particular concern for former residents

of the Gulf Coast who have been uprooted and need to find employment capable of sustaining housing costs in tightening rental markets. In Illinois, estimated median renter wages range from \$4.28 in Pope County to \$15.44 in Cook County. These correspond to affordable rents of \$223 and \$803, respectively.

Despite the perception that rental markets have softened and average rents have retreated, HUD's estimation of Fair Market Rents reflects an increase of 2.7 percent nationally over last year, which itself is below Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) estimates of the increase in rental costs (3.1 percent) over the last twelve months. Further straining the budget of all renters is the 18 percent hike in the cost of housing-related heating and utilities that has occurred over the last year. Even as housing and other costs have risen, the real value of workers' wages has fallen by 1.6 percent according to the BLS. Thus there is broad evidence that in 2005, the gap between what people earn and what they can afford continues to grow.

The Housing Wage is the hallmark of the publication and represents the

hourly wage that a household must earn, assuming a full-time workload (40 hours per week, 52 weeks per year), to afford the going rent for modest housing. The Out of Reach methodology is simple: Based on the Fair Market Rent, as determined by HUD, the level of income required in order to afford decent housing in every state, metropolitan area, and county is calculated, with the assumption that no household should spend more than 30 percent of income on housing.

Out of Reach 2005 is available at: www.nlihc.org/oor2005. Statistics are given for states, metro areas, non-metro areas (balance of state), and counties.

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in *Headlines Directory*. ■

Tax Preparation

(Continued from page 2)

www.centerforprogress.org/volunteers.html#. Volunteer training is this month, so please sign up soon.

Please feel free to contact me or Regi Ratliff at 312-630-0253, or rratliff@centerforprogress.org with any questions or concerns.

Mary Ruth Herbers Senior Director for Programs Center for Economic Progress

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Tax Credit

(Continued from page 2)

2006. For times and locations of operation, go to the Center for Economic Progress website at www.centerforprogress.org/programs_free.html. 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 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 \$33,030 or less in year 2005 could be eligible for a credit up to \$2,662.

↳ Workers who were raising more than one child in their home and had family income of less than \$37,263 in 2005 could be eligible for a credit up to \$4,400.

↳ Workers who were not raising children in their home but were between the ages of 25 and 64 on December 31, 2005 and had incomes below \$13,750 could get a credit of up to \$399.

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 2004. In 2004, 840,000 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 2004 did not

claim the credit in 2003, many of which filed tax returns but did not know they were eligible for the credit.

For further information, contact:

Mary Ruth Herbers, Senior Director of Programs
Center for Economic Progress
29 E. Madison, Suite 910
Chicago, IL 60602
Telephone (312) 252-0280 ■



Headlines Directory

Center for Community Change

1536 U Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
Telephone: (202) 339-9300
<http://www.communitychange.org>

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

820 First Street, NE, Suite 510
Washington, DC 20002
Ph: (202) 408-1080
Fax: (202) 408-1056
<http://www.cbpp.org>

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

1325 S. Wabash, Suite 205
Chicago, IL 60605
Telephone: (312) 435-4548
Fax: (312) 435-0198
<http://www.enteract.com/~cch/index.htm>

Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities in Illinois

300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 522 7016
Fax: (217) 522-7024
TDD: (217) 522-7016
<http://www.inwv.net/~ccdi/>

Corporation for Supportive Housing

1 N. LaSalle, 12th Floor
Chicago, IL 60602
Phone: 312 6976125
Fax: 3123467280
Email: il@csh.org
www.csh.org

Food Research and Action Center

1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 540
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 986-2200
Fax: (202)986-2525
foodresearch@frac.org

Housing Action Illinois

11 E. Adams, Suite 1501
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
<http://housingactionil.org>

Housing Assistance Council

1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 842-8600
Fax: (202) 347-3441
<http://www.ruralhome.org>

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

801 S. 11th
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 789-2830
Fax: (217) 789-1939
<http://www.ilcadv.org>

Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness

Matthew Hanafee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3956
Oak Park, IL 60303-3956
Telephone: (708) 263-3590
Email: ILHomeless@aol.com

Illinois Community Action Association

3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
<http://www.icaanet.org>

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

620 E. Adams, CIPS-3
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 785-6142
Fax: (217-782-1206
<http://www.commerce.state.il.us/>

Illinois Department of Human Services

Homeless Services and Supportive
Housing
400 W. Lawrence, 2C
Springfield, IL 62762
Telephone: (217) 782-1317
Fax: (217) 524-6029
<http://www.state.il.us/agency/dhs/>

Illinois Food Bank Association

P.O. Box 8293
Springfield, IL 62791
(217)522-4022
E-mail: cifbank@aol.com

Illinois Housing Development Authority

401 N. Michigan Ave., Suite 900
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: (312) 836-5200
Fax: (312) 836-5286
TDD: (312) 836-5222
<http://www.ihda.org/>

National Alliance to End Homelessness

1518 K Street, NW, Suite 206
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-4664
E-mail: naeh@naeh.org
<http://www.endhomelessness.org/>

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans

333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20003-1148
Telephone: (202) 546-1969
Fax: (202) 546-2063
E-mail: nchv@nchv.org
<http://www.nchv.org/home.html>

National Coalition for the Homeless

1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3406
Telephone: (202) 737-6444
Fax: (202) 737-6445
<http://nch.ari.net/>

National Community Reinvestment Coalition

727 15th St., NW, #900
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 628-8866
Fax: (202) 628-9800

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty

918 F Street NW #412
Washington DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-2535
Fax (202) 628-2737

National Low-Income Housing Coalition & National Low Income Housing Information Service

727 15th St NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 662-1530
Fax: (202) 393-1973
E-mail: info@nlihc.org
<http://www.nlihc.org>

National Rural Housing Coalition

601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
<http://www.nrhweb.org>

Rural Development

2118 W. Park Ct, Suite A
Champaign IL 61821
Telephone: (217)403-6222
Fax: (217)403-6231

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless

P.O. Box 955
704 W. Boynton
Marion, IL 62959
Telephone (618) 993-0094
Fax: (618) 993-4013

Supportive Housing Providers Association

3417 North Monticello
Chicago, IL 60618
Telephone: (773) 588-0827
Fax: (773) 267-1294
supportivehsg@aol.com

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

Office of Community Planning and
Development
77 W. Jackson 24th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507
Telephone: (312) 353-1696
Fax: (312) 353-5417
<http://www.hud.gov/local/chi/chihome.html>