



Youth Homelessness and The Night Ministry

Painful Clarity

A homeless youth is defined as a youth person between the ages of 12 and 24 who is without a safe, stable place to sleep and who is not living as part of a family with a responsible parent figure. For example, a youth who, night after night, goes from friend to family member not knowing their destination daily. According to the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, there are more than 12,000 homeless youth who are not wards of the State in Chicago over the course of a year. In 2001, the results of a Chicago Coalition for the Homeless study found that there are

approximately 26,000 homeless or runaway youth in the state of Illinois



The gap between the number of youth in need and the number of age-appropriate shelter beds and services available is painfully clear: homeless minors who are not wards of the state have access to only 24 beds, 16 of which are at The Night Ministry's Open Door Youth Shelter. Additionally, homeless youth

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per year. Many of these youth, and those from throughout the Midwest region, end up in Chicago. The most recent estimates place that number between 12,000 to 15,000 per year.

Affordable Housing Fund Gathers Steam

Reports from Capitol Hill indicate that considerable bipartisan support for the Affordable Housing Fund in H.R. 1461, the Federal Housing Finance Reform Act of 2005, is holding. The bill was voted out the House Financial Services Committee on May 25 on 65-5 vote. The Affordable Housing Fund would be established with 5 percent of Fannie Mae's and Freddie Mac's after-tax profits in order to produce, preserve, and rehabilitate rental housing that is affordable for extremely low and very low income

families and more home ownership more accessible for these families. The bill is now expected to come to the House floor for a vote after the July 4th recess.

In the Senate, the Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs Committee is expected to mark-up its version of the bill in late June. The Senate legislation is still being drafted, but low income advocates fully expect a provision similar to the Affordable Housing Fund

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Violence Against Women Act Introduced

Last Wednesday, the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) of 2005 was introduced in the Senate by a bipartisan group as S. 1197. This bill would reauthorize VAWA, which first became law in 1994 and was previously reauthorized in 2000.

Of particular note is that this version of VAWA includes, for the first time, a housing title intended to address the housing needs of victims of domestic

violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

The housing title includes grants to develop long-term housing for homeless or at-risk victims of domestic violence; grants to combat violence against women in public and assisted housing; and grants to expand transitional housing for victims of domestic violence. It also would amend Section 8 and Public Housing rules so that lease violations that are the direct results of incidents of domestic violence do not result in eviction for the victims. This version of VAWA also includes changes to the way that information about victims of domestic

violence can be reported to HMIS systems.

Other sections of the bill address domestic violence and the criminal justice system, services for domestic violence victims, grants for violence prevention programs, the health care system's response to domestic violence, the employment of domestic violence victims, and special provisions for immigrant and Native American women. The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

For more information, see www.vawa2005.org/

Housing People With and Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) released a new website that tracks states' progress in housing consumers of mental health and substance abuse services. The site is part of SAMHSA's effort to simplify and strengthen performance measures. One of the 10 major measures being tracked is housing and residential stability. Using the site, the public can view, for example, the percentage of mental health consumers who are homeless or the change in housing status between entry to and discharge from a substance abuse treatment program.

One of the most successful models that communities are using to end homelessness for people with psychiatric disorders and addictions is the Pathways to Housing model, pioneered in New York City and since replicated in other cities. This Housing First model involves providing immediate access to permanent independent apartments along with clinical and support services by Assertive Community Treatment (ACT) teams.

The Pathways model will be featured at a training institute at the upcoming Alliance annual Conference on Ending Homelessness. Training topics will include:

- ✓ The philosophy and values of this consumer-driven and recovery-focused program;
- ✓ The components of a high-fidelity ACT team;
- ✓ The operation and management of scattered-site supported housing that uses a harm reduction approach.

For more information about Pathways to Housing, see: <http://www.pathwaystohousing.org/index.html>. For more information about the National Alliance to End Homelessness conference, visit: www.endhomelessness.org/conf2005.

To view the SAMHSA Outcome Measure website, see: www.nationaloutcomemeasures.samhsa.gov/.outcome/index.asp. Clicking on different cells in the table will lead you to more specific state level data.

Housing Fund

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in H.R. 1641 to be in the Senate bill. The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) and National Housing Trust Fund campaign partners are urging that the entire fund be deeply targeted to extremely low income families.

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

Homeless Headlines



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Manufactured Housing as Alternative to Renting

According to a recently released HUD report, “Is Manufactured Housing a Good Alternative for Low-Income Families? Evidence from the American Housing Survey,” manufactured housing can offer low income households a viable alternative to renting, offering many of the benefits associated with traditional owner-occupied single-family housing at lower costs. When accompanied by land ownership, an important qualification, the report suggests that manufactured housing provides a relatively affordable investment opportunity, allowing low income homeowners to accumulate wealth and enjoy land value appreciation over time.

The authors of the report draw on data from the American Housing Survey from 1993 to 2001 to demonstrate that owned manufactured housing tends to have higher average quality rankings than rental housing when compared across neighborhood and structural dimensions, and that the structural quality of manufactured housing does not deteriorate more rapidly than traditional owned housing as is often

suggested. Additionally, the factors influencing these quality rankings are similar across all tenure types, suggesting that specific policies are not needed when incorporating manufactured housing into communities.

The authors also advise that the advantages of owned manufactured housing may accrue to communities as well as individual households, as manufactured home owners tend to exhibit mobility patterns similar to residents of traditional owned housing. According to the report, “the longer a household resides in manufactured housing at a specific location the less likely they are to move while holding constant other factors that influence household mobility.” In contrast, rental households are actually more likely to move the longer they reside in a particular rental unit, according to the report.

The report is available at:
www.huduser.org/publications/HOMEOWN/IsManufactHousingGoodAlt4LIFam.html

Poor People Pay More

Poor people often pay more than middle class people for the exact same goods and services, according to a recently released study by the Brookings Institution. The report, entitled “The Price Is Wrong,” examined market patterns in Philadelphia and discovered that low-income households pay more to buy and insure their cars; pay higher prices to buy groceries in their neighborhoods; pay more to buy and insure their homes; pay higher prices to buy furniture and appliances; pay higher real estate taxes; and often pay higher prices for utilities.

The report concludes that “in fact, aside from the lower value of their homes, low-wage families in Philadelphia pay higher prices than other households for nearly every basic necessity.” The discrepancy comes from things like higher interest and insurance rates charged to low-income people, as well as financial and lending practices targeted to low-income people like check-cashing, short-term loans and rent-to-own stores.

Brookings identifies rational market characteristics that cause these higher prices, but urges cities to consider ways to combat this phenomenon remarking that “When low-income working families have to pay higher prices for everyday goods and services they have less money to invest in savings, education, homes and home improvements, their retirement, and their children. This holds these families back” and hurts the overall well-being of a city.

For more information or to read the whole report visit: www.brookings.edu/metro/pubs/20050404_PriceIsWrong.htm

HUD Appropriations Bill in House

On June 21, the House Appropriations Committee reported out the Transportation, Treasury, HUD, the Judiciary, District of Columbia (TT-HUD) spending bill. (See accompanying table.) The bill is expected to move to the House floor for a vote prior to the July 4th Congressional recess.

At the beginning of the Committee's mark up, TT-HUD Subcommittee Chair Joe Knollenberg (R-MI) said his top priorities for the HUD budget were to protect extremely low income families who receive Section 8 and who reside in public housing, increase funding for the disabled and those with HIV/AIDS, and adequately fund the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. There were no changes to the bill as it was reported from the Subcommittee on June 15.

HUD-related amendments are possible during consideration of the bill on the House floor. An amendment may be

offered to solve some of the voucher funding policy problems that have caused such turmoil in the voucher program the last two years. Another may seek to add funds to the voucher program.

The TT-HUD appropriations legislation is expected to be marked up in the Senate on July 12 in Subcommittee and be considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on July 14.

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

FY 2006 HUD Budget and House Appropriations

HUD Program (set-asides indented)	FY04 Enacted (in millions)	FY05* Enacted (in millions)	FY06 Request (in millions)	FY06 House Appropriations Committee (in millions)
Tenant-based rental assistance	14,186	14,766	15,845	15,531
Project-based rental assistance	4,792	5,298	5,072	5,100
Public Housing Capital Fund	2,695	2,579	2,327	2,600
Resident Opportunity & Self Sufficiency	55	52.5	24	24
Public Housing Operating Fund	3,579	2,438	3,407	3,600
HOPE VI	149	143	-143	0
Native American Housing Block Grants	650	621	583	621
Elderly Housing (Section 202)	774	741	741	741
Disabled Housing (Section 811)	249	238	120	238
HOME Investment Partnership Program	2,006	1,900	1,981	1,900
HOME formula grants	1,859	1,789	1,730	1,790
American Dream Downpayment Assistance	87	50	200	50
Housing Counseling Assistance	40	42	40	41
Community Development Block Grants	4,921	4,671	0	4,200
Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity	27	25	30	23
Youthbuild	65	62	0	0
Economic Development Initiative	276	262	0	290
Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grant	9	9	9	0
Homeless Assistance Grants	1,260	1,240	1,440	1,340
Housing for Persons with AIDS	295	281	268	285
Rural Housing and Economic Development	25	24	0	10
Empowerment Zones/Enterprise Communities	15	10	0	0
Brownfields Redevelopment	25	24	0	0
Fair Housing Assistance Program	28	26	16	22
Fair Housing Initiatives Program	20	20	16	16
Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction	174	167	119	119
Salaries and Expenses	1,116	1,030	1,153	1,520
Homeland Security – Emergency Food and Shelter Grants	153	151	153	153
USDA – Section 515	116.5	99	27	100
USDA – Rural Rental Assistance	584	587	650	650
USDA – Housing Preservation Grants	10	9	10	0
Treasury – CDFI	61	54	8	55

*FY 2005 numbers reflect an across the board cut of .8 percent.

Source: www.nlihc.org/news/062305chart.pdf

TANF Extended Through Continuing Resolution

For the 10th time, Congress passed a Continuing Resolution (CR) in order to keep the TANF block grant program intact while Congress continues to deliberate over its reauthorization.

The House Energy and Commerce Committee agreed to assume the costs of continuing the TANF programs that fall under its jurisdiction – including abstinence education and the Transitional Medical Assistance program that provides temporary health care coverage for families in which the parent is exiting welfare for employment. The Committee Chair Rep. Joe Barton (R-TX) indicated that the future of Transitional Medical Assistance should be considered as part of reforming the Medicaid program and as part of a budget reconciliation agreement.

While both the House Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee have passed TANF reauthorization proposals, there are significant differences between the two bills that have delayed further action.

For more information on TANF reauthorization, see www.naeh.org/pol/auth/TANF.html#basics

HMIS and Domestic Violence

The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has released a new document with answers to frequently asked questions about the participation of domestic violence providers in HMIS. The document emphasizes that there is no set deadline for domestic violence providers to participate in HMIS systems, and also details the privacy and security standards required to protect information about all clients, as well as the benefits of an HMIS system. To read the document go to [www.hmis.info/serv_comm_docs/HMIS Domestic Violence Question and Answers 06-09-05.pdf](http://www.hmis.info/serv_comm_docs/HMIS_Domestic_Violence_Question_and_Answers_06-09-05.pdf) (Type in exactly as given (including spaces). If you cut and paste, extra characters will be inserted and the link will not work.)

Homeless Veterans Resource Guide

A new guide to resources for homeless veterans is available from the Interagency Council on Homelessness. The nine-page document includes links to important websites and contact information for the Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA's) homeless outreach and health care coordinators.

The resource document was created to “facilitate consideration of the needs of homeless veterans and knowledge of available resources by 10-year planning partnerships.” Last year, VA provided health care to roughly 100,000 homeless veterans and “more than 74,000 [veterans] benefited from its specialized homeless programs. More than 44,000 homeless veterans are receiving compensation or pension benefits.”

For a copy of the resource document, see: www.ich.gov/library/final_document_on_homeless_veterans.pdf

SAMHSA Releases Treatment Funds

On Thursday, July 30, SAMHSA awarded funding to 30 projects in 20 states through the Treatment for the Homeless grant program. Grant amounts vary slightly but are generally \$400,000 over five years. These funds are used for communities to expand and strengthen treatment services for homeless individuals with substance abuse disorders, mental illness or co-occurring substance abuse disorders and mental illness. In 2004, 34 grants were awarded through this program. For more information and for a list of projects awarded grants visit: http://www.samhsa.gov/news/newsreleases/050630_homeless.htm

Nighth Ministry

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ages 18-21 have access to only 119 program spaces in Chicago, again with Open Door providing a significant proportion.

Every day, The Night Ministry's staff encounters kids and young adults who are perpetually in crisis, who can't take for granted even the simplest requirements for life. Homeless youth face unique problems – family difficulties, lack of education, inexperience with daily living skills, and social isolation.

Causes of youth homelessness include alcohol and drug abuse at home, mental illness that is unnoticed or dismissed, physical, sexual, or emotional abuse, leaving the foster care system, and conflict over a youth's sexual orientation or pregnancy, among others. Youth on the streets are frequently victims of commercial sexual exploitation, police harassment, and hate crimes.

for homeless youth; and Aftercare Program, which provides encouragement and practical resources to help youth keep their housing situation stable.

achieving greater self-sufficiency. We help residents secure age-appropriate stable housing, healthcare, education, financial independence, life skills to become self-reliant, and more. Recreational activities are as important as other services for these adolescents, who are as nurtured by fun as by food. Residents participate in more than group trainings to expand their life skills, they also attend outings to cultural and recreational events to lift their spirits and broaden their horizons.



Open Door rarely produces a traditional “rags to riches” story. Success for the residents of at Open Door is measured in small increments - a return to school, a decision to study for and take the GED, enrolling in a job

training program, a realization that they need to change their expression of anger, or figuring out what they want to achieve and taking some early necessary steps in that direction.

As one of Night Ministry's former resident's said, *“By taking advantage of the opportunities offered to me at Open Door, I was able to better myself. I believe in hope and I believe in my dreams. The hardest part of life is accepting when you need help and it's finding the right resources to help your situation. I am living proof of how Open Door and The Night Ministry can be beneficial to homeless and unfortunate youth.”*

Among the problems residents face is a lack of age-appropriate transitional next-stage housing. The staff works hard with residents to help them find stable housing for them to transition to once they leave. However due to the limited options available, youth sometimes experience cycles of homelessness. Consequently, The Night Ministry views aftercare as a vital piece in the continuum of services

The Night Ministry's Response

The Night Ministry reaches out to the diverse range of youth experiencing homelessness through five Homeless Youth Programs:

- ∩ Street Youth Outreach program in Lake View; Individualized Services provided at our drop-in center at the Broadway Youth Center five afternoons a week;
- ∩ Youth Empowerment Services, which works specifically with homeless and tenuously-housed pregnant and parenting teens;
- ∩ Open Door Youth Shelter, which is a 120-day shelter and supportive services program

Open Door is an interim housing program for homeless youth ages 14-21 who are not wards of the State. Every year the program serves nearly 200 youth, including pregnant and parenting youth and their children. It is the only shelter in Chicago that accepts pregnant and parenting minors as young as 14 years old. It is open and staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and provides beds for 10 female and six male youth and up to five of their infants/toddlers.

Open Door is far more than a bed for the night. During their stay at Open Door, every youth works with a case manager to create an individualized case plan, which seeks to achieve reasonable goals leading toward

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provided to youth. The Aftercare Coordinator's job is to help prevent residents from returning to the streets once their stay at the shelter is finished. The Aftercare efforts are aimed at fostering stability in housing, supporting consistent employment, and preserving educational enrollment.

All of the program staff furnishes food, or hygiene kits, or a connection to an urgently needed service. As sorely important as they are, these things don't sustain a spirit. Even if they manage to scrape together the bare essentials of living, how do these kids keep on going? The staff not only provides concrete services, they also work to build relationships that help to lift the heart, spirit, and self-esteem of the youth they serve.

Additionally, The Night Ministry works with other homeless youth-serving agencies in Chicago to increase the visibility of the unique needs facing the vulnerable population of homeless youth. The primary way they do this work is through Chicago Continuum of Care. The Night Ministry is very involved with the Continuum as co-chairs the Homeless Youth Task Group, on the Governing Board and the Executive Committee of the Continuum.

The Task Group, as recently as this past year, has advocated for homeless youth to be considered a priority population in the SuperNOFA process without success. Furthermore, The Task Group is working to form a constituency group comprised of current, formerly and precariously housed youth with the goal to hold a formal seat on the Continuum's Governing Board. This opportunity to advocate on their behalf will empower involved youth as they learn, develop and expand their abilities.

For further information, contact Kari McLean at (773) 784-9000x210 or kari@thenightministry.org. ■

Private Resources

Helen Brach Foundation

55 W. Wacker Dr., Ste. 701
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 372-4417
Fax: (312) 372-0290

Contact: John P. Hagnell, Associate Director

Areas of Interest: Children/youth services; disabled; economically disadvantaged; education; environment; higher education; **homeless human services; housing/shelter;** human services; secondary school/education; youth development services. **Types of Support:** Annual campaigns; building/renovation; conference/seminars; equipment; general/operating support; program development; publication; scholarship funds. **Limitations:** Giving primarily in areas including the Midwest. No grants outside continental U.S. No support for political organizations. No grants to individuals, or to organizations with less than one year of budget history. **Application Information:** No grants under \$5,000. An application form is required. Applicants should submit:

1. Staff salaries.
2. Qualifications of key personnel.
3. Copy of IRS Determination Letter.
4. Copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990.
5. Listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations.
6. Copy of current year's organizational budget and/or project budget.

The initial contact requested is a letter or a FAX; seven copies of the proposal is needed; board meets quarterly; grants are considered at the March meeting; the deadline stated is December 31 (earlier preferred); final notification is March and April. ■



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.inw.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 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.iccaenet.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@nlhcc.org
<http://www.nlhcc.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.nrhccweb.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

Statewide Housing Action Coalition

11 E. Adams, Suite 1501
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822

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>