People with criminal records need access to safe, stable, and affordable housing to ground successful reentry processes and, thus, prevent recidivism. While customized support services including intensive case management, family/community supports, substance abuse/medical treatment, employment, training, and advancement services are also required, these developmental processes are easily truncated when participants lose viable housing options. With recidivism rates as high as 52 percent, studies show that 15 percent to 27 percent of inmates expect to be homeless upon release and up to 66 percent without appropriate housing recidivate within one year.

**Safer Foundation**

Established in 1972, Safer is the nation’s largest community-based provider of comprehensive reentry services to people with criminal records, serving over eight thousand people a year through fifteen prison and community sites in Chicago, Rock Island, Harvey, Illinois and Davenport, Iowa.

Case managers in Safer’s Core Programs work with over two thousand participants a year who are not employment ready due to immediate needs for basic services: food, housing, clothing, and substance abuse and mental health treatment.

Case managers involve these participants in developing Individualized Strategic Plans, make needed referrals to Safer’s extensive service network, and provide intensive follow-up.

**The Housing Initiative**

In the December of 2004, with the rate of recidivism in Illinois at an all-time high of 54 percent, Safer Foundation began providing rental assistance to homeless, recently incarcerated individuals with substance abuse and/or... (Continued on page 4)

**HUD Appropriations Bill Passes Senate**

Funding Increased and CDBG Preserved

The Senate approved the Transportation Treasury HUD (TTHUD) FY06 appropriations bill, H. R. 3058, by vote of 93-1 on October 20.

The measure is $2.9 billion more than HUD’s FY05 funding level. Section 8 tenant based assistance is funded at $15.6 billion and the Section 8 project based program is funded at $5.1 billion. The public housing capital fund is funded at $2.3 billion and the public housing operating fund is funded at $3.5 billion. The bill includes $1.9 billion for the HOME program and $3.8 billion for the Community Development Block Grant program. The Senate rejected the Administration’s proposal to eliminate CDBG.

(Continued on page 5)
Homeless Youth, A Review of Literature

The National Center for Homeless Education has released Unaccompanied and Homeless Youth, a Review of Literature. This project is based on a review of 1995 to 2005 literature on issues concerning unaccompanied youth experiencing homelessness. It provides an overview of the challenges these young people face and includes research about why they leave their homes, how they live after leaving, and what interventions are being used to assist them. It is broken down into sections on history, definitions, estimates, research, legislation, education, and interventions. Studies mentioned are predominantly those with larger numbers of participants who are fairly representative of the actual population of homeless youth.

The information should be especially helpful for advocates who disseminate information to increase community awareness of pertinent issues and strategies to serve unaccompanied youth, service providers and policymakers interested in effective programs and where they may focus their efforts to serve unaccompanied youth, and researchers who want to identify gaps in the knowledge base.

For a copy of the review go to www.serve.org/nche/downloads/uy_lit_review.pdf.

Corporation for Supportive Housing
2005 Training Series
Supportive Housing 101
Thursday, November 17, 2005
9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Hawthorne Suites
101 Trade Center Dr.
Champaign, Illinois
(217) 398-3400

Training Audience: Organizations planning or beginning development of permanent supportive housing for homeless persons or persons with disabilities.

Presenters: Katrina Van Valkenburgh and Nikki Delgado of the Corporation for Supportive Housing

Registration fee: $50 (Includes training materials, continental breakfast and lunch)

For further information or to register, contact Jen at (312) 588-1236, ext. 16 or jlkconsulting@gmail.com

KnowledgePlex Introduces DataPlace™

KnowledgePlex recently launched DataPlace (www.dataplace.org), a free online resource for housing and demographic statistics about communities, regions and the nation. With the new tool you can look up demographic, economic, housing, and mortgage lending data from the decennial census, Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, Section 8 Expiring Use and other data sets. You can also display key statistics on any location in the United States in colorful, customizable maps, charts, tables and rankings. For more information, see www.dataplace.org.
Statewide Homeless Youth Conference

December 13, 2005
8:30 am to 4:30 pm
at
The University of Illinois at Chicago
Student Center West
828 S. Wolcott

The conference is intended to:

- Release a new statewide study, a census of homeless youth in Illinois and their service needs.
- Initiate a dialogue between the funding community and community-based youth-serving organizations about the needs and issues of homeless youth in Illinois.
- Provide an opportunity to find common ground, think creatively, and strategize about addressing this problem effectively.

Hosted by:
The Youth Committee of the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless and The Illinois Department of Human Services in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago

For information, please contact:
Daria Mueller, Policy Specialist Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (312) 435-4548, daria@chicagohomeless.org

Rents Exceed Benefits for Persons With Disabilities

On September 1, the Technical Assistance Collaborative, Inc (TACI) and the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Housing Task Force released Priced Out 2004, an analysis of the extreme housing affordability problems low income people with disabilities face. According to the study, the rent for a one-bedroom unit in 2004 was 109.6% the amount of monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits.

Approximately 4,000,000 people with disabilities rely on SSI income to pay for their basic needs, including housing. The average monthly payment is $617. Based on this amount and the federal affordability guidelines, low income households should not pay more than $185 of their monthly income toward housing.

However, the rental costs represented by HUD’s Fair Market Rents are making that impossible. The rents range from 58% of SSI in non-metropolitan areas of Oklahoma, to 189% of SSI in Columbia, MD. The study compares the monthly SSI income to the fair market rental rates for efficiencies and one-bedroom apartments in every housing market in the country.

Findings from the 2004 report include:

- A 59% increase since 1998 in the amount of monthly SSI income needed to rent a one-bedroom unit.
- The national average rent of studios or efficiencies is also unaffordable as it rose to 96.1% of monthly SSI.
- People with disabilities who rely on SSI payments continue to be among the lowest income citizens in America, at 18.4% of the nation’s median income.

Even when the Housing Task Force included the supplements some states offer to SSI, the group found the most sufficient resolution to this problem would be an ongoing monthly housing subsidy for low income, disabled individuals. The report maintains that a remedy that resembles HUD’s Housing Choice Voucher Program and the Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Program is the only solution.

The full report, including state tables and the 10 highest cost local housing market areas, is available at www.tacinc.org/index/viewPage.cfm?pageld=171.
Safer Housing

(Continued from page 1)

or chronic disabilities using HUD Shelter Plus Care funding. Safer’s model program is utilizing a master lease agreement with a private housing provider to lease scattered site one bedroom apartments in Chicago’s South Shore community during the construction of their Focus Apartments building, a permanent ten unit apartment building located at 165 N. Central Ave in Chicago’s Austin community. The new building is scheduled for completion in November of 2005.

Ten recently released program participants were recruited from Safer’s work-release programs, and its pre-employment program at Sheridan Correctional Center. Program participants are provided with customized support services including intensive case management, family/community supports, substance abuse/medical treatment and employment training/placement. Participants are also enrolled in Safer’s Ready4Work program with its complimentary community/faith-based approach to case management and mentoring.

Program support is provided through the Ready 4 Work (R4W) Program. Safer Foundation is one of eighteen sites included in a national demonstration project with Public/Private Ventures that has been funded by the U.S. Department of Labor’s Center for Faith-Based & Community Initiatives, and its Employment & Training Administration. R4W has been highlighted at the White House as a powerful community- and faith-based reentry model.

Under the housing initiative residents are also required to participate in Safer’s Job Readiness Training as well as comprehensive job placement, retention, and advancement services Safer offers through its various programs. Residents work with Safer’s Housing Director to:

- Develop long-term housing and financial plans and complete tenant-focused life skills training (including financial literacy).
- Develop a therapeutic family through bi-monthly group meetings.
- Maintain compliance through intensive case management, with customized drug treatment plans.
- Contribute 30 percent of their earnings to savings, and eventually, to rent.

The Safer program has linked its comprehensive city-wide service network to local service strengths. This has yielded high rates of participant engagement and excellent program outcomes. Of ten residents enrolled in the program during the first year, program accomplishments include: nine participants with new job starts, three finished technical training programs, an average wage of $9.12 and no resident has been re-arrested or recidivated during this period.

Next Steps

Safer’s policy group, Council of Advisors to Reduce Recidivism Through Employment (CARRE), is making housing a priority in 2005 and is in the process of conducting research for policy briefs and papers on this issue. The Safer Foundation seeks to increase its capacity to serve the housing needs of its returnees by partnering with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the City of Chicago Department of Housing to provide eligible program participants housing opportunities.

Safer will be able to apply the best-practices it has developed through its housing pilot and see that all participants benefit from R4W activities, supports provided by the Housing Director, and Safer’s other services including Job Readiness, Basic Skills, and GED training and placement, retention, and advancement services through its Employment Services Department.

With strong public partnerships, Safer believes that it can dramatically reduce recidivism rates by combining its best-practice support service programs and strategies with access to the quality housing options its returnees require.

For further information contact:

Anthony Lowery, Housing Director
Safer Foundation
571 W. Jackson
Chicago, Illinois 60661
Telephone (312) 922-2200
Email: anthony.lowery@saferfoundation.org
HUD Appropriations
(Continued from page 1)

The Administration, in its Statement of Administrative Policy on the TTHUD bill, expressed concern that the Senate Appropriations Committee’s overall funding level would add $2 billion to the President’s request for HUD for FY06 and that the CDBG program was continued over the Administration’s objections. The Administration also cautioned that without real reforms to the Section 8 tenant based housing assistance program, Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) will have difficulty maximizing the issuance and renewal of vouchers, thereby missing opportunities to aid more low income households within existing funds.

Many amendments were adopted during Senate consideration of the bill.

In a huge victory for low income people, Senator Charles Schumer (D-NY) offered an amendment that would provide for the renewal of project based Section 8 contracts in apartment complexes after foreclosure. Current law ends project based contracts at foreclosure except for projects primarily occupied by elderly and disabled people. The amendment passed and was attached to the bill.

Subcommittee Chair Kit Bond (R-MO) and Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA) offered a technical amendment to the Section 8 voucher renewal formula. The amendment, adopted by voice vote, clarifies that PHAs will not be penalized in their funding formula when they sideline units pending long-term projects. Also approved was an amendment by Senator Tom Harkin (D-IA) to prevent wealthy college athletes from abusing the Section 8 program. Senator Harkin’s amendment would require students’ parents’ income to be considered in determining their eligibility, unless they are independent students under the same qualifications that the Department of Education uses in their Free Application for Student Financial Aid.

Senator Debbie Stabenow’s (D-MI) amendment would provide a set aside out of HUD’s Section 202 elderly housing program to fund the legacy housing program which provides for intergenerational housing units to assist low income grandparents who are heads of households.

Senator Bond’s amendment on the issue of eminent domain in response to the recent U. S. Supreme Court case, Kelo, et al. v. City of New London, et al. was also accepted. The amendment would limit the use of Federal funds from the TTHUD FY06 appropriations in funding eminent domain activities that primarily benefit private activities.

Senator Murray’s amendment that was adopted orders the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness to conduct an assessment of the guidance disseminated by the Department of Education, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and other related federal agencies for grantees of homeless assistance program to be sure that guidance is consistent with and does not restrict the exercise of education rights provided to parents, youth and children under the McKinney-Vento Act.

Several amendments of concern were not accepted. A bipartisan effort to amend the bill to increase voucher rescission funds to expand program funding was not included in the final bill. Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT) spoke to the amendment on the floor and discussed the importance of increasing the funding for CDBG, Section 8 and public housing capital and operating fund, and suggested to Senator Bond that the amendment be withheld and that in conference there be an effort to increase the funds for these worthy programs. Senator Bond responded that trying to fund these programs is his top priority, but that the committee had been unable to identify any more dollars in terms of rescission funds. However, Senator Bond agreed to work with Senators Leahy and Norm Coleman (R-MN), original cosponsors of the bill, as they go to conference with the House, to try to add money to these vital programs.

There was also an attempt by Senator Jack Reed (D-RI) to increase funds available for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), in light of rising energy prices due to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Senator Coleman and Senator Gordon Smith (R-OR) also supported the amendment. However, the amendment was ruled out of order by the chair and was not voted on.

The Senate and House must now meet in a conference committee and work out the differences in the two bills. This is expected to happen prior to the November 18 expiration of the continuing resolution.

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

**Scientific-Atlantic Foundation Inc.**
5030 SugarloafPkwy.
P.O.Box 465447
Lawrenceville, GA 30042-5447

**Contact:** William F. McCargo, V.P.

**Areas of Interest:** Children/youth services; education; federated giving programs; health organizations; housing/shelter development; human services; Mexico. **Types of Support:** Annual campaigns; building/renovation; capital campaigns; conferences/seminars; continuing support; curriculum development; debt reduction; emergency funds; employee-related scholarships; endowments; equipment; general/operating support; in-kind gifts; internship funds; land acquisition; matching/challenge support; program development; scholarship funds; scholarships-to individuals; student loans-to individuals; technical assistance. **Limitations:** Giving primarily in areas including Chicago, Illinois. **Application Information:** An application form is not required; initial contact - letter; board meets as necessary; deadline is April 15.

**Sears Roebuck and Co. Contributions Program**
c/o Community Affairs Dept.
3333 Beverly Rd. BC-127A
Hoffman Estates, IL 60179
Telephone: (847) 286-5506
Fax:(847) 286-5918
Email: lgibb03@sears.com
URL: www.sears.com/community

**Contact:** Lisa Gibbons, Mgr.,

**Areas of Interest:** Family services; housing/shelter; housing/shelter-repairs. **Types of Support:** Cause-related marketing; donated equipment; donated products; employee volunteer services; in-kind gifts; program development; seed money; sponsorships. **Limitations:** Giving primarily in areas of company operations, with emphasis on the Chicago area and Chicago’s northwest suburbs; giving also to national organizations. No support for political, labor, fraternal, social, or veterans’ organizations, religious organizations not of direct benefit to the entire community, disease - or disability-specific organizations or international organizations. No grants to individuals or for general operating support, capital campaigns, endowments, or memorials, medical programs, fundraising events, research, or advertising. **Application Information:** Multi-year funding is not automatic. The company may request additional information at a later date. The Community Relations Dept. handles giving. The company has a staff that only handles contributions. Application form is not required. Applicants should submit a detailed description of project and amount of funding requested. Initial contact-letter of inquiry to headquarters; letter of inquiry to store manager at nearest company store for local organizations located outside the Chicago area. No deadlines. Final notification within two months.

**Note:** Guidelines are more clearly explained on website- worth a look.

**Structured Employment Economic Development Corporation**
(also known as Seedco)
915 Broadway, 17th Fl.
New York, NY 10010
Telephone:(212) 473-0255
Fax:(212) 473-0357
Email: info@seedco.org
URL: www.seedco.org

**Contact:** Diane Baillargeon, Pres.

**Areas of Interest:** Children day care; children/youth services; community development; community development business promotion; community development neighborhood development; community development real estate; disasters- 9/11/01; economic development; employment; employment services; health care; housing/shelter development; housing/shelter home owners; leadership development; urban/community development; youth development; youth development business. **Types of Support:** Program-related investments/loans, Technical assistance **Limitations:** Giving on a national basis. No grants to individuals **Application Information:** See website for program information. An application form is required. First contact- letter. Board meets quarterly. No deadlines stated.

**Note:** The organization is a nonprofit national intermediary that provides financial and technical assistance to community –based organizations and local anchor institutions, such as universities and hospitals, that work in partnership to revitalize low-asset communities. The Non-Profit Assistance Corporation (N-Pac), a subsidiary of Seedco, specializes in providing technical assistance and project management services to nonprofit organizations.
Mainstream Resources/Funding


- Smith, V. K. (2002) Making Medicaid Better: Options to allow States to continue to participate and to bring the program up to date in today’s health care marketplace. Washington, DC: National Governor’s Association. www.nga.org/cda/files/MAKINGMEDICAIDBETTER.pdf


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Reading

Fellowships are awarded for one year, with the expectation of renewal for a second year, provided the fellow remains in good standing with the sponsoring organization. The program also pays all fringe benefits to which an employee of the sponsoring organization would be entitled as well as all debt service on law school loans for the duration of the fellowship.

Types of Support: Fellowships Limitations: Giving on a national basis. No grants to individuals not securing a potential position with a sponsoring public interest organization.

Application Information: An application form is available online and is required. Applications should include an official law school transcript, two letters of recommendation (from a law school advisor and a former employee), a commitment letter from a potential sponsoring institution, and a resume. Initial contact: download application form and mail application form and supporting materials to foundation. Only one copy of proposal requested. Board meets in Mid-December. Deadline stated is October 4; final notification by Dec. 3.