



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

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VOLUME 17, ISSUE 9

Ninth Down, Tenth To Go

On September 20th and 21st, the Ninth Annual HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Provider Conference was held at the Hilton Hotel in Springfield. Keynote speakers this year included Doug Schenkelberg from Chicago's Heartland Alliance. Doug got the conference off to a great start speaking on Heartland's From Poverty to Opportunity Campaign. Later that day, conferees were treated to a double-header with Linda Couch from the National Low Income Housing Coalition in Washington, D.C., and April Lasker from the Illinois Housing Development Authority.

Ms. Couch spoke on an overnight success for which the coalition has labored mightily for several years now. The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund now seems likely to pass Congress. Several dedicated funding sources have been passed and more are anticipated. The program will generate the first new dollars for affordable housing in years.

April Lasker spoke on IHDA's Rental Housing Support Program. Organizations across the state are currently laboring on responses to the RHSP request for proposals. The program will generate subsidies to low income Illinois families that will make

rental housing substantially more affordable in both urban and rural parts of the state. Applications are due on November 30 and the program will start in the weeks following April 1, 2008.

While retaining the same basic structure of previous years, this year's conference offered many more workshops because no sessions were repeated, except for the ever-popular Consumer Panel. In 2007, a separate Youth Consumer Panel was also offered featuring a young man sponsored by Chicago's La Casa

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More Money for Trust Fund in FHA Bill

On September 18, the House of Representatives passed H. R. 1852, the Expanding American Homeownership Act of 2007, a bill to modernize the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) that includes a dedicated source of funding for the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. There was strong bipartisan support for the bill, which passed by a vote of 348-72 with 123 Republicans supporting it. In May, the House approved H. R. 1427, the Federal Housing Financial Reform Act of 2007, which also includes funds reserved for

the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

H. R. 1852 authorizes about \$250 million a year for an affordable housing trust fund. The funds will be generated by the removal of the national loan volume cap on FHA reverse mortgage loans used by seniors to remain in their homes. With the lifting of the loan volume cap, new revenue will be created for the FHA program. Unless the new revenue is designated for a

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Headlines/Hotline on the Internet - The Illinois Community Action Association publishes both Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline on the Publications page of its web site at www.icaanet.org. To receive both by email, send a blank email to: headlines-hotline-subscribe@yahoo.com. (Self service only.)

Illinois Department of
Human Services



HUD Sponsored CSH Trainings Fall 2007

Partnerships in Permanent Supportive Housing

One day training created to help organizations form or strengthen partnerships to support the development of permanent supportive housing. Topics will include elements of successful partnerships, memorandums of understanding, organizational assessments, and an in-depth discussion of the different roles of developers, owners, service providers, and property managers in supportive housing. The training will also include a discussion on developing partnerships within continuums to support new permanent supportive housing, including bonus project applications.

Training locations and dates:

Chicago - October 30
Harold Washington Apartments
4946 North Sheridan
Chicago, IL 60640
Phone: 312-447-4500

Springfield - December 5
Illinois Community Action Association (ICAA)
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Phone: 217-789-0125

Property Management

One day training on property management for HUD grantees. Topics will include an overview of property management, tenant/landlords roles and responsibilities, reporting requirements, maintenance, rent collection, eviction prevention, and coordinating property management and supportive services. The training will also include an introduction to the new Property Management Clerk Certification and Occupancy and Leasing Specialist Certification programs available now in the Community Colleges system.

Training location and date:

Bloomington - October 29
Eastland Suites and Conference Center
1801 Eastland Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704
Phone: 309-662-0000

Registration

To register, visit <http://documents.csh.org/documents/il/HUDReg.pdf>, or contact Janis York at 312-332-6690, ext. 16. ■

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Homeless Headlines



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www.icaanet.org

Definition of Homelessness Expanded in Senate McKinney Bill

On September 19, the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs voted in favor of S. 1518, the Community Partnership to End Homelessness Act of 2007. The bill, introduced by Senators Jack Reed (D-RI) and Wayne Allard (R-CO) on May 24 (see Memo, 5/18 and 5/24) would amend and reauthorize the HUD McKinney-Vento homeless assistance programs. The bill would consolidate HUD’s three main competitive homeless programs – Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care and Moderate Rehabilitation/Single Room Occupancy – into one “Community Homeless Assistance Program.”



(D-CT), chair of the committee, and included substantial revisions to the bill as introduced. The bill, as amended by the committee, would expand the definition of homelessness to include doubled-up households. Specifically, households would be considered homeless for the purposes of receiving services if they: are living in somebody else’s housing because they don’t have the resources to obtain other housing; have been notified that the arrangement is short-term; have moved either three times in the past year or twice in the past three weeks; and are not contributing significantly to the

cost of the housing. The definition would also include people who have moved frequently (three times in the past year or twice in the past 21 days) and are currently living in a hotel or motel in which they will not be able to stay for more than a brief period.

This expansion of the definition is a significant victory for advocates who have argued for many years of the need for such a change, to better reflect the reality of homelessness, particularly in rural areas.

The manager’s amendment also would combine the Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability program with the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program to create a new “Emergency

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A manager’s amendment to S. 1518 was offered by Senator Christopher Dodd

Making the Connection IDHS Application Decisions and the Appeal Process

Contributor: DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform



The authors of this column welcome your comments and questions. See contact information at the end of the article.

Your client has successfully been interviewed for benefits and has provided all of the verification that was requested. Now you wonder what your client can reasonably expect to happen.

First, it is important to understand how IDHS staff organizes their work. Most often the caseworker makes decisions on the applications based on the date

the application is received, deciding on the oldest applications first. Exceptions are sometimes made when there is a medical emergency or some other crisis. Each program has different time frames to make a decision.

Absent any exceptions, and based on work volume, the final decision is made within established guidelines for the program. All decisions made have to be in writing. The notice of decision is to include a written explanation and the chapter number of the policy that supports the decision. Following is a chart showing the program and how long your client may wait for a decision:

The Appeal Process

If your clients disagrees with the decision, or receives lower than expected benefits, s/he has the right to

file an appeal. Appeals should be filed in writing either using the State form IL444-0102 or by writing a letter that clearly states s/he wants to appeal. The appeal is filed with the office that made the decision or with the Bureau of Assistance Hearings (BAH) which is at 401 South Clinton, 6th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607. The appeal can also be faxed to BAH at (312) 793-8573. To be considered timely, the appeal must be received within:

- 60 calendar days after the decision (for cash, medical, and child care); or
- 90 calendar days (for food stamps)
- 10 calendar days if your client wants benefits to continue unchanged until the appeal hearing is held

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Decisions

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Once the appeal is filed and received....

- The caseworker and supervisor review the work to determine if any errors were made. If there was an error the caseworker can correct the error
- If no error was made, an appointment is sent for a Pre-appeal Conference. This conference is an informal meeting between the client, the caseworker and the supervisor. During the conference the caseworker explains the action taken and shows the client the policy that supports the decision. The client can explain why s/he thinks the State action is wrong. If the client agrees with what has been said, the caseworker will offer the client a chance to withdraw the appeal. I strongly recommend that if the caseworker agrees to change its decision, that whatever is agreed is written on the appeal withdrawal request. For example, if the caseworker says the application will be reopened and approved, the withdrawal could read “I am withdrawing my appeal of the denial of my application since IDHS has agreed the application will be approved and all back benefits owed will be issued.” The client should always ask for a copy of the withdrawal after it has been signed.
- If the issue is not resolved during the Pre-Appeal Conference, then the formal appeal hearing is scheduled. IDHS staff completes a Statement of Facts, which the client should receive 2 days before the hearing. This Statement provides a written explanation of the policy that

Program	Waiting Period (if any)	Decision deadline (days after the application date)	Are temporary or emergency benefits available?
TANF Cash	30 calendar days During this waiting period the client is required to look for employment.	No earlier than 20 days but not longer than 45 calendar days	-PE medical coverage is issued to children at application registration if it has not previously been received in the prior 12 months. -The caseworker can approve and issue a medical card for the whole family as soon as all verifications are received, even if the 30 day wait for cash has not expired.
TANF Crisis Assistance	No 30 day wait if the client is a victim due to domestic violence, fire, flood or natural disaster; or evicted for any reason and a request for crisis aid is filed in conjunction with the TANF application.	5 work days, and benefits are to be issued within 2 work days of the decision being made	\$250 can be provided towards rent or security deposit. In instances of fire, flood or natural disaster some household items, furniture and clothing can be provided.
Medicaid Presumptive Eligibility (MPE) or Healthy Start	None	Medical issued the date the application is received from an MPE provider.	A temporary medical card can be issued, but the person needs to ask for this.
All Kids	None	45 calendar days	-PE medical benefits issued to children when the application is registered and PE medical coverage has not previously been provided in the prior 12 months. -A temporary medical card can be issued 90 days after the application date if the decision is delayed by IDHS
Medicaid – Aged or Blind	None	45 calendar days	Available 60 days after application if delay caused by IDHS
Medicaid – Disabled	None	60 calendar days	Available 75 days after application if delay caused by IDHS
Food Stamps	None	20 calendar days	Emergency/Expedited Food Stamps are to be available to the client by the 9th calendar day after the application date.

supports the state action, as well as insight into why the caseworker believes the work was done correctly. A letter with the date and time of the appeal hearing is mailed from the Bureau of Assistance Hearings. Please be aware that the appeals are mass scheduled, so there can 20 or more other persons scheduled for an appeal hearing on the same day and time. As a result of this scheduling process, your client may have to wait a long time before his/her appeal is actually heard. Please advise your clients to make sure they are on time for the hearing (since the appeal will be dismissed if they arrive 15 - 20 minutes after the scheduled time), and that they try to not bring their children (if possible) or at least bring plenty of diapers and snacks.

- Once your client gets into the actual appeal hearing, the appeal officer swears in your client and the IDHS

caseworker (just like you see in the court), the appeal officer clarifies the issue under appeal and will then hear testimony from both sides. The entire process is tape recorded.

- The decision is mailed to your client, and will include a summary of what was said in the hearing. If the final decision is not favorable to your client, and your client still disagrees with the decision, an appeal can be filed with the local Circuit Court.

Hint: Appeals can be filed if your client misses an appointment, fails to return requested verification, or the verification was received late after the application had already been denied. If an appeal is filed timely, IDHS will be able to use the original application and will not need to do a new interview. This can save a lot of time for your client, since there won't need to be a new application, interview and waiting

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McKinney

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Solutions Program.” The new ESG program would receive 20% of homeless assistance funding. At least 40% of that amount would be for homelessness prevention and housing stabilization, including payment of short- or medium-term housing costs and re-housing related services. Prevention and housing stabilization could serve people who are homeless, doubled up, living in hotels or motels or living in other precarious situations.

In addition, the bill as amended by the committee would, among other things: modify the definition of chronic homelessness to include unaccompanied youth and people temporarily in institutional care; require confidentiality for victims of domestic violence; classify any rental or leasing assistance or supportive services provided under this act as exempt from counting toward eligible basis in the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Program; create a Special Assistant for Veterans Affairs at HUD; allow HUD to announce the awards no later than five months after applications for funding are submitted; clarify that low population states, as well as communities, can qualify as “rural” for purposes of the new rural competition; authorize \$8 million a year for three years to test effective ways of addressing family homelessness; clarify that emergency homeless shelters may not exclude families with children; and increase the authorization for McKinney funds to \$2.2 billion, an increase of over \$700 million over the current funding level.

The bill now moves to the Senate floor for an as yet unscheduled vote. Advocates are encouraged to call their Senators to express support for S. 1528 and to urge that bill be brought for a vote as soon as possible.

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

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Norte, and a young women sponsored by the Delta Center in Cairo. Both panels provided unique perspectives on homelessness and homeless services to those attending, and a great deal on inspiration as well.

Local agency tours were highlighted again this year. The tour of P.O.R.A seemed to draw special attention. The agency is one of only a few in the country that works specifically with women who are survivors of

prostitution, helping them to overcome multiple problems, establish a new start and sustain recovery for the long term. A graduate of P.O.R.A also participated in the Consumer Panel.

The conference is sponsored by the HUD Chicago Regional Office and is the brainchild of HUD’s Ray Canchola. The Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies has contracted to

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2007 Peer-to-Peer Advisory Panel		
Panelist	Agency	City
Ray Canchola	HUD	Chicago
Darrel Bugajsky	HUD	Chicago
Al Timke	IACAA	Springfield
Sara Ratcliffe	IACAA	Springfield
Lore Baker	Homeward Bound	Decatur
Mike Wasserberg	South Suburban PADS	Homewood
Sharon Hess	Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless	Marion
Mary Sue Cox	Illinois Department of Human Services	Springfield
Amy Harris	Chestnut Health Systems	Granite City
Melissa Huffstedtler	Springfield Housing Authority	Springfield
Catherine Gillis	Interfaith Housing Development Corporation	Chicago
David Harrison	Madison County Community Development	Edwardsville
Angie Hunt	Hope of East Central Illinois	Charleston

Trust Fund

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specific purpose, it will be simply new revenue to the Federal Treasury.

A bill to establish such a housing trust fund, H. R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, is expected to be considered by the full House in early October. The bill would establish dedicated sources of funding for the production, preservation and rehabilitation of 1.5 million affordable homes in 10 years. At least 75% of the funds will be for housing for households that are extremely low income, earning less than 30% of an area’s median income.

Two amendments to H. R. 1852 were offered during the floor debate that would have struck the funding for an

affordable housing trust fund, but both were soundly defeated.

The bill also includes zero and lower down payment loans and increased funding for housing counseling. It directs the FHA to provide mortgage loans to higher risk, but qualified, borrowers without fee hikes and increases FHA loan limits for both single-family and multifamily loans.

H.R. 2895 is now expected to go to the House floor sometime during the week of October 8.

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

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help organize the conference for HUD since its inception. Beginning in 2005, an advisory panel has helped to plan the conference. The 2007 members are listed in the accompanying table.

For further information, contact Ray Canchola at (312) 353-1696, ext. 2714. 📠

2007 HUD Peer-toPeer Homeless Provider Conference



Private Resources

by **Pamela M. Salela**, Coordinator, Central Illinois Nonprofit Resource Center
telephone: 217-206-6633 - email: psale2@uis.edu - url: library.uis.edu/findinfo/grants/index.html

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.

(formerly The Enterprise Foundation)
10227 Wincopin Cir., Ste. 500
Columbia, MD 21044-3400

Contact: F. Barton Harvey, III, Chair.
and C.E.O.

FAX: (410)964-1918

E-mail: mail@enterprisefoundation.org

Telephone.: (800)624-4298

URL: www.enterprisefoundation.org

Type of Grantmaker: Public Charity
Total Giving (2005): \$17,422,826
Areas of Interest: Housing/shelter, development; Housing/shelter, public housing. **Geographic Focus:** National
Types of Support: Building/renovation; General/operating support; Land acquisition; Program-related investments/loans; Technical assistance.

Application Information: See Web site for additional application information. Application form required. *Initial approach:* Download application form. *Board meeting date(s):* January, April, July, and October

Decisions

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period. Also your client may be able to receive benefits based on the original application date. (PM02-07-02-a)

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. The DuPage Federation is affiliated with Northern Illinois University, Regional Development Institute. Questions can be directed to knelson@dupagefederation.org or cking@dupagefedertion.org ■

Assurant Foundation

(formerly Fortis Foundation)
1 Chase Manhattan Plz., 41st Fl.
New York, NY 10005-1420

Contact: Kristy Hall, Admin.

E-mail: kristy.hall@assurant.com

Additional contact: Taryn Moskowitz,
E-mail:

Taryn.Moskowitz@assurant.com

URL: www.assurant.com/inc/assurant/
community/new-york.html

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation.
Total Giving (2005): \$409,232
Areas of Interest: Education; Health care; **Housing/shelter**; Human services; Nutrition.
Geographic Focus: National
Types of Support: Employee matching gifts; Employee-related scholarships; General/operating support.
Limitations: Giving on national basis. No support for religious or political organizations. No grants to individuals (except for employee-related scholarships), or for lobbying or fundraising. **Application information:** Application form required. Applicants should submit the following:
1) principal source of support for project in the past; 2) copy of IRS Determination Letter
3) copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990; 4) listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations; 5) detailed description of project and amount of funding requested; 6) copy of current year's organizational budget and/or project budget
Initial approach: Download application form and mail to foundation
Copies of proposal: 1 *Deadline(s):* None

The Oak Foundation U.S.A.

511 Congress St., Ste. 800
Portland, ME 04101-3478

Contact: Karen Phair, Asst. to the Pres.

E-mail: info@oakfnd.org

URL: http://www.oakfnd.org

Type of grantmaker: Independent foundation.

Total Giving (2005): \$23,351,564

Fields of Interest: Africa; Asia; Central America; Crime/violence prevention, child abuse; Environment; Environment, global warming; Environment, natural resources; Environment, water resources; Europe; **Housing/shelter, homeless**; International human rights; Latin America; Learning disorders; South America; Women; Zimbabwe..

Geographic focus: National & international
Types of support: Building/renovation; Continuing support; Equipment; General/operating support; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Program evaluation; Research. **Limitations:** Giving on a national basis with emphasis on IL. No support for religious organizations. No grants to individuals. **Application information:** Application form not required. *Initial approach:* Inquiry via e-mail or letter. *Copies of proposal:* 1 *Deadline(s):* None *Final notification:* Two months

Citations Source: *Foundation Center. (2007) Foundation Directory Online Professional. See: fdncenter.org for more including subscription information.* ■



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

203 N. Wabash, Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 332-6690
Fax: (312) 332-7040
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 410
Washington, D.C. 20005
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@nlhlc.org
<http://www.nlhlc.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
801 N. Market
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>