South Suburban Sanctuary

Homeless mothers in South Suburban Cook County have an opportunity to regain stability, income, independence, and a sense of accomplishment at the Sanctuary.

In the late 1990’s staff at South Suburban Family Shelter (SSFS), a comprehensive domestic violence agency serving victims and their families, noted that some of their counseling clients experienced multiple barriers to housing. For example, some of the women who sought counseling for domestic violence also had substance abuse and mental health issues which prevented them from being served by agencies that focused on only one aspect of need. The domestic violence agencies wanted to have the substance abuse and mental health problems resolved prior to entering DV counseling, while the substance abuse treatment facilities wanted mental health concerns addressed prior to a 28 day inpatient treatment, and so on.

The idea germinated that families in our south suburban community needed a program that would address these multi-layered concerns simultaneously by providing a housing program that offered clients access to help in all these areas at the same time and the same location. Thus the Sanctuary was conceived as a holistic approach to provide transitional housing and comprehensive support services to

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HUD On Costs of First-Time Homelessness

HUD Press Release #10-055

When an individual or a family becomes homeless for the first time, the cost of providing them housing and services can vary widely, from $581 a month for an individual’s stay in an emergency shelter in Des Moines, Iowa to as much as $3,530 for a family’s monthly stay in emergency shelter in Washington, D. C. On March 25, the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released three studies on the cost of ‘first-time’ homelessness; life after transitional housing for homeless families; and strategies for improving access to mainstream benefits programs.

HUD’s cost study is the most comprehensive research on the price tag associated with first-time homelessness and creates a foundation to compare the costs of various homeless interventions. Taken

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NLIHC’s Out of Reach 2010 Report

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) annual Out of Reach report, which offers a side-by-side comparison of average rents and wages in every county, metropolitan area, combined rural area, and state in the country, was released on Wednesday, April 21, and is available at www.nlihc.org. Illinois data may be viewed at www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2010/area.cfm?state=IL. The report is the source of the often-cited Housing Wage, which shows the hourly wage that one must earn to afford a modest market-rate rental home.

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

HUD Updates NHTF State Allocations

The Office of Policy Development and Research (PD&R) at HUD has new estimates of the allocations that each state and insular area will be awarded once the National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) is funded at $1 billion. These estimates come from an update to the regulatory impact analysis that was first posted in December 2009. This update was completed in order to incorporate more recent data and to make some corrections to the procedures that were used in the original analysis. The original estimates were based on a special tabulation of 2000 census data known as the Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, but the CHAS data were recently updated; they are now based on American Community Survey data from 2005 through 2007.

The original allocation for Illinois was $43 million. (See the November 2009 issue of Homeless Headlines at www.iacaanet.org/homeless_headlines.php.) The new data yields a $45.9 million allocation for the state.

Advocates should be aware that these allocations are still estimates; final numbers will likely be released once the money is appropriated to the NHTF. However, the use of more current data and the corrections made by PD&R in this analysis should provide a much closer estimator to what the final allocations will actually be. The updated analysis, including the new state allocation estimates, is available at: http://www.huduser.org/portal/periodicals/cityscpe/vol12num1/ch7.html.

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

NHTF Campaign Sign-On Letter

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) is circulating a letter to Congress. The letter will be sent to every Senator and Representative. See adjacent article to see an update on what Illinois stands to gain from the Trust Fund.

The letter proposes that $1.065 billion be provided immediately to the NHTF: $1 billion to capitalize the NHTF and $65 million for project-based vouchers to couple with NHTF capital grants.

Local, state, and national organizations, including nonprofits, congregations, labor unions, corporations, and government agencies are asked to sign the letter at: www.nlihc.org/sign.

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.
Restoration of Section 202 and 811 Funding

The National Low Income Housing Coalition (NLIHC) joined other organizations in sending a letter to Senate and House appropriators urging them to fully fund the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly and Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities programs in the FY11 budget. The President’s FY11 budget proposes cutting the capital advance programs of both programs, and instead would provide funding only for operations of the existing units.

A March 18 letter from the Elderly Housing Coalition, and the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force urged appropriators to continue funding the capital advance portions of the Section 202 and Section 811 programs at FY10 levels. The letter urges Congress to “recognize that affordable supportive housing, linked with the growing array of federal and state funded home and community based services, should be and is an essential part of the continuum of care.” The organizations also remind appropriators that no other housing production programs exclusively serve very low income seniors or persons with disabilities.

HUD cites needed program reforms as its reason for not requesting funding for the Section 202 and 811 capital programs. The Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is currently considering S. 118, which would reform the Section 202 program, and S. 1523, which would reform the Section 811 program. NLIHC President Sheila Crowley testified before the Banking Committee in support of these bills in October.

Read the letter from the Elderly Housing Coalition and the Consortium of Citizens with Disabilities Housing Task Force at www.nlihc.org/doc/EHC-CCD-letter.pdf

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

Making the Connection

What Does SNAP Categorically Eligible Mean?

By Kathryn Nelson

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

As of April 12, 2010 the state has made a major change in SNAP eligibility criteria. Assets are no longer a factor in determining SNAP eligibility for most households. By not considering assets, more households will qualify for SNAP benefits. For many of our clients this hopefully encourages them to save or retain assets. Households that qualify under this new expanded eligibility criteria are called SNAP Categorically Eligible households.

So who qualifies for this expanded SNAP eligibility?

Individuals to qualify have to be given a new document called the Guide to DHS Services. Many offices are giving these brochures during the interview. In addition to being given this document the person also has to have income at or below the gross income requirements. Following are the income levels to qualify:

- A family applying for food SNAP assistance without a qualifying member must have a gross income at or below 130 percent FPL (Federal Poverty Level). If the family passes this first test, the caseworker will determine eligibility for SNAP benefits without considering or obtaining information about assets. After all allowable deductions are given, if the net income is within limits then SNAP benefits will be issued. For example: Joe applies for SNAP benefits for himself, his wife and 2 children. Joe’s only income is from unemployment and he receives $2200 a month (this is below the $2389 limit). He has $4,000 in the bank (this is what is left over from his severance benefits). Previously Joe would be denied SNAP benefits because his assets were over the $2,000 limit, however, due to the change in policy Joe and his family can receive food help.
- A family applying for SNAP benefits with a qualifying member has to have a gross income at or below 200 percent FPL. A qualifying member is someone who is 60 and older, or receives one of the following benefits:

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Sanctuary
(Continued from page 1)

homeless women with children and assist them in making a successful homeless-to-work-to permanent housing transition.

The Sanctuary opened its doors in 2000 thanks to generous grants from HUD and the State of Illinois. The program serves mothers with up to four minor children in their custody who have lived in south suburban Cook County either during or immediately prior to their homelessness. Each family must be referred by an agency with which they have been working for thirty days regarding their homelessness. Referrals to the Sanctuary may be made by emergency shelters, domestic violence shelters, community service providers, schools, IDHS, communities of faith and many other sources. Families can stay for up to two years at the Sanctuary.

A Partnership

The Sanctuary is a partnership between several community agencies. The lead agency is SSFS which provides a wide range of services such as crisis intervention, a 24 hour bilingual hotline, counseling, legal and medical advocacy to victims of domestic violence at no charge. SSFS also provides community outreach, violence prevention in schools, and abuser treatment for perpetrators of domestic violence. All services are offered in English and Spanish.

Another Sanctuary partner is The South Suburban Council on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, which provides substance abuse education and treatment. Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center provides health education and nursing services. Grand Prairie Services provides mental health counseling and access to psychiatric services. Rich Township offers access to their food pantry and youth services. Prairie State College provides adult basic education and ESL classes. The Sanctuary staff members also provide case management, employment preparation, budgeting classes, parenting education, housing location services and children’s activities.

What and How?

The Sanctuary building is located in Matteson, Illinois. Each family has its own two bedroom apartment with private kitchen and bath. All apartments are fully furnished, and include kitchen supplies and linens. Families only need to bring their clothing and small personal items with them. The Sanctuary has an apartment equipped for persons with disabilities, and also has a computer lab for residents, a child care area, staff offices and meeting space. The goal is to provide as many services as possible in one location so residents can readily participate in all aspects of the program.

One of the Sanctuary’s most popular programs is offering summer activities to the resident children, many of whom are out of school for the summer without supervision, structured activities or learning opportunities in which to participate. Since the mothers at the Sanctuary cannot afford to send their children to day care or camps, staff members raise funds that allow the children to participate in a variety of structured, supervised activities during the summer offered by other entities such as park districts, schools and community organizations. Thus a wide array of opportunities such as day camps, professional tutoring, sports leagues, swimming lessons and more are available to the children free of charge. The Sanctuary also provides a vehicle for parents and children to get involved in their communities and build relationships with their neighbors.

Outcomes

Since its inception in 2000, the Sanctuary has served over 100 families including more than 230 children. Some mothers have completed educational and vocational programs that have increased their earning potential while in the program. A handful of families have purchased their own homes. Some have received substance abuse treatment and started a new sober lifestyle. The philosophy upon which staff members operate is to meet clients where they are, help them identify goals and work with them to achieve independence. In this 10th anniversary year, we are saddened by the continued need for shelter for homeless families but celebrate the resources we have to help them recover and regain their dignity and independence.

Please contact the Sanctuary for further information at www.sanctuary1.org or (708) 283-1421.

SNAP Eligible
(Continued from page 3)

for SNAP work and training requirements.

SNAP units that have a work sanction or an IPV and there is no qualifying member in the home, must have income at or below 130 percent FPL, income at or below the allowable net income and must now also have assets at or below the asset limit of $2000. SNAP units with a qualifying member that have a work sanction or an IPV must meet the maximum net income standard and the $3000 asset limit to receive SNAP benefits.

Please make sure the people you work with know about this important change. As you may have already figured out the earlier we can get food help for our clients, and they don’t have to exhaust their assets to cover a basic need, the
Homeless Headlines

First Time
(Continued from page 1)

together, HUD’s three studies released will inform policy discussions on what are the most effective strategies for assisting homeless persons and families in the future.

“These studies expand our knowledge of the true costs of homelessness and raises other questions that go far beyond dollars and cents,” said HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan. “Now we need to have a serious discussion over what strategies are not only most cost effective, but how we can help individuals and families from falling into homelessness in the first place.”

HUD’s study, Costs Associated with First-Time Homelessness for Families and Individuals, examines how much it costs to house and serve nearly 9,000 individuals and families in six areas of the country. The report studies the cost of first-time homelessness among individuals in Des Moines, Iowa; Houston, Texas; and Jacksonville, Florida. In addition, the Department looked at the cost of first-time family homelessness in Washington, DC; Houston, Texas; Kalamazoo, Michigan; and a large area of upstate South Carolina.

HUD is currently investing $1.5 billion in funding through the Recovery Act’s Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP), to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly re-housed and stabilized.

This report reveals that most of those individuals and families studied experience homelessness only once or twice and use emergency shelter for a limited period of time at fairly low cost. However, HUD also found that some of these households experience longer periods of homelessness and use more expensive programs. While overnight emergency shelter for individuals have the lowest costs, these shelters offer the fewest services in the least private settings and are often open only during evening hours. By contrast, transitional housing is the most expensive model for individuals, frequently offering more privacy and a comprehensive range of on-site services.

HUD’s cost study found:

- Average costs for individuals are much lower than for families, with overnight stays at an emergency shelter for individuals having the lowest daily costs;
- For individuals, transitional housing proves more expensive than permanent supportive housing largely because services for transitional housing were usually offered directly by on-site staff than by mainstream service providers;
- For families, emergency shelters are usually equally or more expensive than transitional and permanent supportive housing because family shelters often offer 24-hour access and private units;
- In the three sample areas studied, first-time homeless individuals were predominantly male averaging between 39-41 years old; and
- Female individuals had fewer stays, but used homeless programs 74 percent longer than their male counterparts.

HUD also released two additional homeless studies:

Life After Transitional Housing for Homeless Families

This study follows 195 families in 36 transitional housing programs in five communities for three, six and 12 months after leaving the program. Given the significant investment HUD makes in transitional housing programs, and in light of the program’s costs mentioned above, it is important to understand the effectiveness of these programs. The five study communities were Cleveland/Cuyahoga County, Ohio; Detroit, Michigan; Houston and Harris and Benton Counties, Texas; San Diego City and County, California; and Seattle/King County, Washington. Among the study’s findings:

- Participants in smaller transitional housing programs were more likely to have their own place to live after moveout and more likely to live with the same household members at the beginning and end of the follow-up year. Participants in larger programs experience higher levels of educational attainment at moveout.
- In some respects, longer stays in transitional housing produced important benefits including higher levels of educational attainment and employment and a greater likelihood of continued employment during the follow-up year. Families spending more months in

![Average Monthly Cost by Program Type](image)

(Continued on page 6)
transitional housing were significantly more likely to have a place of their own for an entire year after leaving the program.

While transitional housing programs produced increasingly positive outcomes for families with longer stays, HUD found the number of barriers facing families did not impact outcomes. Given the significant costs associated with service-intensive transitional housing programs, HUD’s report brings into question whether this housing model is the most appropriate intervention for those families who do not have significant barriers to housing.

HUD studied seven communities (Albany/Albany Co., NY; Albuquerque, NM; Metropolitan Denver, Miami-Dade Co., FL; Norfolk, VA; Portland, ME; and Pittsburgh/Allegheny Co., PA) to document how communities mobilized to improve homeless people’s access to mainstream benefits and services in light of HUD’s goal of dedicating a larger portion of HUD homeless assistance funding to housing.

Communities that experienced the greatest success had a strong central organization intent upon improving access of homeless individuals and families to mainstream service. Typically, communities were successful at reducing structural barriers to benefits, such as physical access, complexity and length of application processes, and rules for documenting eligibility. In addition, the study finds evidence that people exiting HUD-funded programs were likely to be connected to mainstream benefits at rates that exceeded national rates for 2007. These communities had the most success enrolling persons and families for food stamps and General Assistance. However, communities struggled with overcoming barriers that were beyond their control, such as eligibility requirements of programs, such as TANF and Medicaid, and capacity barriers, such as an insufficient number of slots available in mainstream treatment programs for substance abuse or mental health services.

UD is the nation’s housing agency committed to sustaining homeownership; creating affordable housing opportunities for low-income Americans; and supporting the homeless, elderly, people with disabilities and people living with AIDS. The Department also promotes economic and community development and enforces the nation’s fair housing laws. More information about HUD and its programs is available on the Internet at www.hud.gov and espanol.hud.gov.

SNAP Eligible

SSI/SSDI, AABD cash or medical assistance, VA disability compensation based on a 100 percent disability rating (other benefits are listed in the state policy manual PM 05-06-01: Qualifying Member Definition). For example: Mary lives alone and has a CD worth $10,000. Her only income is from Social Security disability of $1500 a month. Since her income is below the 200 percent FPL her assets are not considered. Previously Mary would have been denied food help due to her assets exceeding the $3000 limit for a qualifying member household.

A SNAP unit in which every person in the unit receives TANF, SSI or GA. These families still have to meet the asset rules for the TANF, SSI, and GA programs.

So who does NOT qualify for the expanded eligibility? People who do not qualify for this expanded SNAP eligibility are:

· Qualifying member units whose gross income exceeds the 200 percent FPL. For example Mary has a CD worth $10,000. She receives an income of $1800 a month from her Social Security and a pension. Since her income is over 200 percent FPL of $1733, her asset disqualifies her since it is more than the allowable $3000 limit.

· SNAP households where someone has been convicted of an Intentional Program Violation (IPV). Persons who have an IPV have been investigated by the Bureau of Investigations for not telling the truth or misleading the state about any facts that affect eligibility, which includes intentionally withholding information, as well as saying something they know is not true, or illegally using SNAP benefits. The person either has signed a statement agreeing to this violation or a hearing officer or court has ruled on the violation.

· SNAP units which include a person who is work sanctioned. Currently SNAP cases do not have work sanctions since the state is exempt

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Lincoln Financial Foundation
(formerly Lincoln Financial Group Foundation)
1300 S. Clinton St.
P.O. Box 7863
Fort Wayne, IN 46801-7863
Contact: Sandi Kemmish
Fax: (260) 455-4004
E-mail: sandi.kemmish@lfg.com

Type of Grantmaker: Operating foundation
Limitations: Giving limited to areas of company operations, with emphasis on areas including Chicago. No support for religious organizations, public or private elementary or secondary schools or school foundations, hospitals, hospital foundations, or fraternal, political, or veterans’ organizations. No grants to individuals, or for endowments, continuing support, general operating support, capital campaigns, debt reduction, marketing programs, sporting events or tournaments, or fundraising for national organizations; generally, no grants for tickets, corporate tables, or testimonial events.

Financial Data (Year ended 12/31/08):
Total giving: $10,693,128
Giving activities include: $9,546,178 for grants; $1,146,950 for 1,708 employee matching gifts; $1,381,768 for 1 foundation-administered program.
Estimated financial data for year ending 12/31/09: Grants: $10,283,000
Number of Staff: 1 full-time professional; 5 part-time professional; 1 full-time support.


The Timken Company Charitable Trust
1835 Dueber Ave. SW
P.O. Box 6927
Canton, OH 44706-2728
Telephone: (330) 471-3071
Contact: Kathy Schooley, Admin.
Fax: (330) 471-4381
E-mail: Timken.trust@timkentrust.org
URL: www.timkentrust.org/

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation
Limitations: Giving primarily in areas of company operations, with some emphasis on GA, IL, NC, NH, OH, SC, and VA. No grants to individuals.

Financial Data: (Year ended 12/31/08):
Total giving: $977,360
Giving activities include: $977,360 for 118 grants (high: $255,000; low: $400)
Number of Staff: 3 full-time professional; 3 full-time support


SNAP Eligible
(Continued from page 3)
better it is for them. Their limited funds will now be able to be used to meet other critical housing costs.

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, Center for Governmental Studies. Questions can be directed to knelson@dupagefederation.org
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) 522-7016
http://www.ccdionline.org

Corporation for Supportive Housing
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Floor
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 1601
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
http://www.housingactionil.org

Housing Assistance Council
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 347-3441
http://www.ruralhome.org

Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
http://www.icaaa.net

Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence
801 S. 11th
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 789-2830
Fax: (217) 789-1939
http://www.ikadv.org

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
620 E. Adams, CFS-3
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone (217) 783-6142
Fax: (217-782-1206
http://www.commerce.state.il.us/

Illinois Department of Human Services
Homeless Services and Supportive Housing
800 W. Lawrence, 2C
Springfield, IL 62702
Telephone: (217) 782-1137
Fax: (217) 524-5810
http://www.dhs.state.il.us

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, # 410
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-4664
Email: 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
Email: ncvh@ncvh.org
http://www.ncvh.org/home.html

National Coalition for Homeless Veterans
2201 “P” St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033
Phone: (202) 462-4822 x234
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: info@nchv.org
http://www.nchv.org/home.html

National Community Reinvestment Coalition
727 15th St., NW, #900
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 628-8866
Fax: (202) 628-9800
TDD: (217) 403-6222
Fax: (217) 403-6231

Southern Illinois Coalition for the Homeless
300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 522-7016
Fax: (217) 522-7042
http://www.ccdionline.org

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Office of Community Planning and Development
77 W. Jackson 24th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
Telephone: (312) 353-5229
Fax: (312) 353-3013
http://www.hud.gov/chi/chihome.html

National Low-Income Housing Coalition & National Low Income Housing Information Service
727 15th St NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 325-1530
Fax: (202) 393-1973
Email: info@nlihc.org
http://www.nlihc.org

National Rural Housing Coalition
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite B50
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
http://www.nrhcweb.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
212 E. Ohio Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 773-935-4663, ext.123
supportivehousing@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) 353-3013
http://www.hud.gov/chi/chihome.html