

Homeless Headlines

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

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Housing Options for the Mentally Ill in Evanston

Housing Options was formed in 1988 by a group of Evanston citizens concerned about the lack of affordable alternatives to homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization for adults recovering from chronic mental illnesses in Evanston.

Organization and Program Overview

Housing Options serves adults, over the age of 18, who have a chronic and serious mental illness. Housing Options for the Mentally Ill, Inc. has served this population since 1990. The organization utilizes a



Transforming the Lives of People with Mental Illnesses

permanent supportive housing model and a recovery framework that includes community care, supportive housing, and supportive employment services. The goal is that all participants will be able to live a fulfilling life in the community with the help of these services. The program provides support services for 80 adults ranging in age from 32 to 72.

Community Care

The Community Care Program provides non-residential recovery-oriented support services to adults with mental illnesses living independently in the community. Services are provided by a team of six case managers and one psychiatrist. All support services are personalized based on individual goals, strengths and needs, but common services include symptom
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U.S. House Appropriations Releases HHS Funding Bill

Last Thursday, September 29, the House Appropriations Committee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education released its fiscal year (FY) 2012 draft appropriations bill. The House bill included the following approximate proposed spending levels:

- \$116 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act Programs, which represents flat funding from FY 2011

and is \$5 million below the Administration's request;

- \$224 million for Health Care for the Homeless;
- \$65 million for PATH, which represents flat funding from FY 2011; and
- \$63 million for Promoting Safe and Stable Families, which also represents flat funding from FY 2011.

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Homeless Headlines on the Internet - The Illinois Association of Community Agencies publishes both Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline on its web site at www.iacaanet.org under Media. To receive both by email, send a blank email to: headlines-hotline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. (Self service only.)

Illinois Department of
Human Services



U.S. Department of Agriculture Community Food Projects Grants

Description - To support: (1) the development of Community Food Projects with a one-time infusion of federal dollars to make such projects self-sustaining; (2) Planning Projects to assess the food security needs and plan long-term solutions to help ensure food security in communities; and (3) a project that provides Training and Capacity Building on a nationwide basis to entities interested in developing new Community Food Projects or assisting current grantees and others to effectively operate their food security projects.

www07.grants.gov/search/search.do;jsessionid=n3XDT7BTb2yJhmjyMlw6Zq17ncPLvR8JfvHGjY93hT3SDLW6QwPR!1527577127?oppId=123793&mod

House Appropriations

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Other items, such as the proposed funding level for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Homeless Services, are not available at this time.

The House and Senate are now expected to begin compromising on funding levels for all federal programs to produce final funding levels for FY 2012. For a comprehensive chart of homelessness programs and their proposed and past funding levels go to www.endhomelessness.org/section/policy/legislative_updates/federal_homelessness_appropriations 📄

Data on LIHTC Properties Through 2009

HUD released an updated version of the Low Income Housing Tax Credit Database on September 22. This resource provides detailed information on the more than two million Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) units placed in service from 1987 to 2009. Through online tools provided, you can get very specific state and local data.

The LIHTC Database has been updated every year since 1997. The new version was revised to include 1,598 properties and 112,696 units that were placed in service in 2008 and 2009, as well as close to 21,000 properties that were placed in service between 1995 and 2007, but were not included in previous versions of the database. HUD notes, however, that there were 19 state and local allocating agencies that did not submit data on properties placed in service in 2008 and 21 that failed to do so in 2009.

HUD's database is the only source of comprehensive information on LIHTC properties. It includes characteristics such as property address, number of total units, number of low income units, population served, type of credit provided, and other sources of funding included in each project. A short report was released along with the data, summarizing some of these characteristics.

The most complete data comes from 1995-2009, so the analysis in the report focuses on that time period. In those years, an average of 1,386 projects and close to 103,000 units were placed into service each year. The average number of units in a LIHTC property is 75, with more than 48% of properties containing more than 50 units. According to the data, 95% of the total units placed in

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Homeless Headlines



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Homeless Headlines by email

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Homeless Headlines on the IACAA Web Site

The current issue of Homeless Headlines and back issues are available at www.iacaanet.org/

Poverty Reaches New Heights in 2010

New data released by the Census Bureau on September 13 shows an estimated 46.2 million people lived in poverty in the United States in 2010, up from 43.6 million in 2009. This is the fourth consecutive annual increase in the poverty rate and the largest poverty estimate since the Census began to measure this variable over fifty years ago.

The national poverty rate rose to 15.1 percent in 2010, up from 14.3 percent in 2009. The share of Americans living in poverty reached the highest level since 1993. Since 2007, the start of the recession, the poverty rate has increased by 2.6 percent.

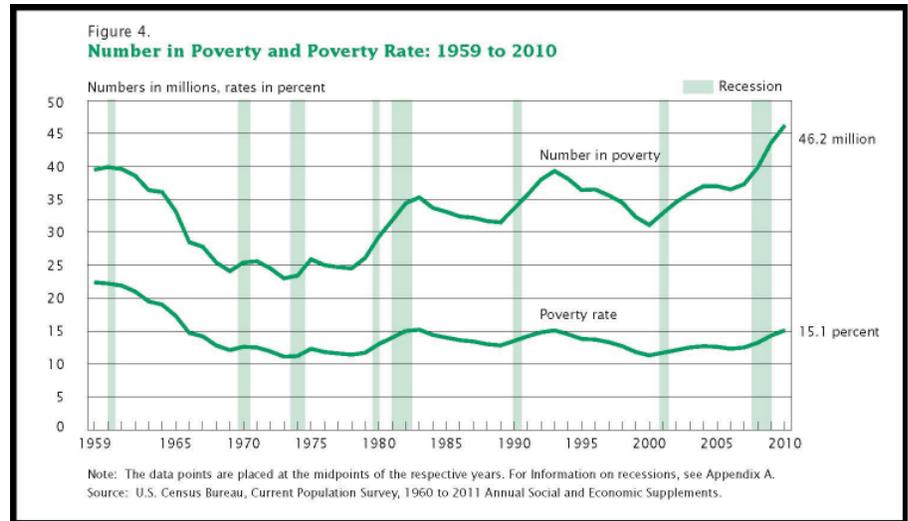
Real median household income fell to \$49,445 in 2010, providing further indication of financial stress across households. Median household income

declined 7.1 percent from peak income levels recorded in 1999.

Falling incomes have not affected all Americans equally. The poverty rate for female-lead households rose to 31.6 percent from 29.9 percent in 2009. The poverty rate among children rose to

22.0 percent in 2010 from 20.7 percent in 2009. Nearly 60 percent of all children under the age of 6 in families with a female head householder lived in poverty as of 2010. Children continue to account for a disproportionately

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Making the Connection

Updates to Veterans Benefits

By Kathryn Nelson



The authors of this column welcome your comments and questions. See contact

The VA provides cash benefits to veterans who have disabilities that are associated to time in service. This benefit is Veterans Compensation and is available to an eligible veteran regardless of their income or assets. The financial benefit that is issued often can mean a homeless veteran could now have an income for housing and also will have access to VA health care.

The Department of Veterans Affairs continues to expand outreach to veterans so they can advise them of important changes to services available through the VA. Many veterans who are homeless, however, do not receive VA notices that are mailed to their last address. Often it is up to each of us to keep them informed. Following are a few of the changes made:

- Over the past couple of years the VA has been identifying more illnesses associated with military service, particularly for Vietnam era and Gulf War veterans. Currently the VA is reviewing applications for benefits that were filed by Vietnam era veterans based on illnesses such as ischemic heart disease, Parkinson's, hairy-cell

leukemia or other chronic B-cell leukemia. The VA has notified 89,000 veterans or their families that they are reversing their decision to deny benefits and are issuing back benefits. They continue to review thousands of other applications to see if the prior decision should be reversed. The VA encourages survivors of Veterans whose death may be due to one of the three diseases to file a claim for dependency and indemnity compensation. For new claims, VA may authorize up to one year of retroactive benefits if a Veteran can show that he or she has experienced one of those conditions since

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Homeless Headlines

Housing Options

(Continued from page 1)



Claire House, one of Housing Options six residences.

and medication management training, independent living skills support and housekeeping skills training. For clients unable to find an affordable psychiatrist with whom they are comfortable, Housing Options also provides psychiatric services. Clients meet with Housing Options' consulting psychiatrist for counseling and medication monitoring as needed.

Supportive Housing

The Supportive Housing Program provides a safe, dignified alternative to homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization by offering residents permanent living arrangements in agency owned or leased apartments coupled with supportive services. The Supportive Housing Program provides the same support services that Community Care Program does, but in addition, the program provides affordable, fully furnished housing in one or two bedroom apartments in professionally maintained buildings and scattered site apartments in eight of Evanston's nine wards. Currently, there are six buildings

and eighteen scattered site apartments located throughout Evanston. Clients receive fully furnished, affordable apartments located in small buildings, primarily two and three flats, scattered throughout Evanston. Apartments come fully equipped with household items that a client will need and are set up by Housing Options' two housing coordinators, who are also available to help clients move in and assist them in learning how to use appliances and care for their new home.

Housing Options also offers a range of mental health and daily living skills groups. Groups build on skills developed with case managers and offer clients the opportunity to work together to develop specific recovery and daily living skills that interest them. Also available are a range of group activities such as a writing group, monthly group dinners, and volunteer opportunities. These activities help to acclimate our clients and provide them with a first step towards entering community life independently.



Scattered site apartment leased by Housing Options.

I-Work(Supportive Employment)

The I-WORK program provides supported employment services and benefits counseling to all Housing Option's participants who express an interest in working full or part time.

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Housing Options Mission:

- ✿ *Develop housing opportunities for adults recovering from chronic mental illnesses*
- ✿ *Provide a network of support services so that each person can live as independently as possible*
- ✿ *Advance understanding of mental illnesses and the need for supportive housing.*

Housing Options Core Beliefs:

- ✿ *We believe that individuals can recover from mental illness and homelessness and live to their full individual potential.*
- ✿ *We believe that every individual has the right to safe and secure housing.*
 - *We believe that every individual should have the opportunity to enjoy and participate fully in their community.*
- ✿ *We believe that every individual has the right and responsibility to make their own life choices.*



Veterans Benefits

(Continued from page 3)

August 31, 2010. To apply based on any of the illnesses associated with Agent Orange exposure the veteran or their dependent is encouraged to use <https://www.fasttrack.va.gov/AOFastTrack/>. For questions about Agent Orange, Veterans may call VA's Special Issues Helpline at 1-800-749-8387 and press 3.

☸ Notices are also being sent to Vietnam era Navy and Coast Guard veterans to advise them that they have been exposed to Agent Orange due to transport or handling of this chemical. The VA has posted the names of the ships that were involved in the transport of Agent Orange at <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/shiplist/index.asp>.

☸ Retroactive VA benefits due to traumatic injuries were previously restricted to veterans who served in the Iraqi (OIF) or Afghani (OED)

conflicts. The VA has just announced that it is extending retroactive traumatic injury benefits to Service members who suffered qualifying injuries during the period Oct. 7, 2001 to Nov. 30, 2005, regardless of the geographic location where the injuries occurred. Beginning Oct. 1, the Service members' Group Life Insurance (SGLI) Traumatic Injury Protection benefit, known as TSGLI, is payable for all qualifying injuries incurred during this period. This retroactive benefit is payable whether or not the Service member had SGLI coverage at the time of the injury. These benefits are also available to many Service members who suffered serious traumatic injuries while serving stateside or in other areas outside of OEF/OIF during this time period. National Guard and Reserve members who were injured during the retroactive period and suffered a qualifying loss are also eligible for a TSGLI payment, even if the cause was not

related to military service, such as a civilian automobile accident or severe injury which occurred while working around their home. For more information or to apply for a TSGLI payment, Service members and Veterans should go to <http://www.insurance.va.gov/sgliSite/TSGLI/TSGLI.htm>

To keep up to date on many of the services available to homeless veterans go to <http://www.va.gov/homeless/>

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 📧

Poverty in 2010

(Continued from page 3)

higher percentage of the population in poverty (35.5 percent) even though they compose only a quarter of the total population.

The poverty threshold for a family of four is \$22,314, as defined by the Office Management and Budget for 2010. The poverty estimates in the report compare the poverty threshold to income before taxes, not including noncash benefits. This threshold does not take into account the rising costs of living, but this factor will be taken into account when the new Supplemental Poverty Measure is released by the

Census Bureau in October of 2011.

According to the report findings, the number of doubled up households increased by two million since the start of the recession in 2007. Doubled-up households are defined as those that include at least one person not enrolled in school and over the age of 18, who is not the cohabiting partner of the primary householder. By spring of 2011, the number of doubled-up households totaled 21.8 million and represented 18.3 percent of all households.

Among young adults (ages 25-34), a total of 5.9 million (14.2 percent) lived with their parents as of spring 2011. Among young adults living with their

parents, 45 percent have an income below the poverty threshold for a single individual and would add substantially to the number of households in poverty if they lived independently.

These findings, and many more, are documented in the report, *Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2010* and reflect data collected as part of the 2011 Current Population Survey (CPS).

The report can be found at: <http://www.census.gov/prod/2011pubs/p60-239.pdf> and the press release from the Census Bureau summarizing the findings is available at: http://www.census.gov/newsroom/releases/archives/income_wealth/cb11-157.html 📧

Funding Resources

Source: Foundation Center Online <http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/>

Caesars Foundation

(formerly The Harrah's Foundation)

1 Caesars Palace Dr.

Las Vegas, NV 89109-8969

Telephone: (702) 880-4728

Contact: Lisa Mariani, Admin.

Fax: (702) 407-6520

E-mail: caesarsfoundation@caesars.com

URL: www.caesarsfoundation.com

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation

Limitations: Giving primarily in areas of company operations including Illinois. No grants to individuals.

Financial Data (Year ended 12/31/09):

☼ Total giving: \$9,300,727

☼ Giving activities include: \$9,300,727 for 91 grants (high: \$2,200,000; low: \$5,000)

\$30,002,237 for set-asides

Estimated financial data for year ending 12/31/10: Grants: \$9,000,000

Purpose and Activities: The foundation supports programs designed to help older individuals live longer, healthier, and more fulfilling lives; promote a safe and clean environment; and improve the quality of life in communities where Caesars operates.

Fields of Interest: Aging, centers/services; Developmentally disabled, centers & services; Environment; Food services; Health care/clinics/centers/patient services; Higher education; Human services; Mental health/crisis services; Nutrition; Public affairs; Youth, services.

Population Groups: Aging. Types of Support: Building/renovation; Capital campaigns; Continuing support; Employee volunteer services; General/operating support; Program development; Scholarship funds; Sponsorships. Application Information:

The foundation generally funds programs and projects of \$10,000 or more. Application form not required. Applicants should submit the following: Copy of IRS Determination Letter; Brief history of organization and description of its mission; Copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990; Listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations; Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested; Copy of current year's organizational budget and/or project budget; Listing of additional sources and amount of support; Plans for acknowledgement. Initial approach: Proposal to nearest company facility. Copies of proposal: one. Board meeting date(s): Quarterly. Deadline(s): None.

Caterpillar Foundation

100 N.E. Adams St.

Peoria, IL 61629-1480

Telephone: (309) 675-5941

Contact: Jennifer Zammuto

E-mail: Foundation@cat.com

URL: www.cat.com/foundation

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation.

Limitations: Giving primarily in areas of company operations on a national basis, with some emphasis on IL. No support for fraternal organizations or exclusive membership societies, hospitals, political action committees or candidates, private foundations, or religious organizations not of direct benefit to the entire community. No grants to individuals, or for graduate student scholarships or fellowships, capital campaigns, building construction, debt reduction, development or production of books, videos, films, or television programs, research papers or articles in professional journals, endowments,

general operating or agency programs funded by the United Way, political causes, research, sponsorships, tickets, or advertising for fund-raising, or travel; no product or service donations; no loans.

Financial Data (Year ended 12/31/09):

☼ Total giving: \$31,239,085

☼ Giving activities include: \$31,239,085 for 1,242 grants (high: \$3,388,000; low: \$50)

Purpose and Activities: The foundation supports programs designed to advance knowledge and education; protect the environment and conservation of resources; and promote access to basic human needs. **Fields of Interest:** Community/economic development; Education; Environment, natural resources; Health care; Higher education; Human services; Public affairs. **Types of Support:** Annual campaigns; Building/renovation; Capital campaigns; Curriculum development; Employee matching gifts; Employee volunteer services; Equipment; General/operating support; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Scholarship funds. **Application Information:** Proposals should be brief. Application form not required. Applicants should submit the following: Timetable for implementation and evaluation of project; Qualifications of key personnel; Statement of problem project will address; Population served; Name, address and phone number of organization; Copy of IRS Determination Letter; Brief history of organization and description of its mission; Copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990; How project's results will be evaluated or measured; List of company employees involved with the organization; Explanation of why grantmaker is considered an appropriate donor for project; Listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations;

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Homeless Headlines

Housing Options

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Housing Options believes that working is an essential part of recovery for adults with mental illnesses, and that I-WORK provides participants the support necessary to take this essential step towards independence and self-esteem.

The overall goal of I-WORK is to provide the support that will lead to sustainable, open market employment for participants. The program operates under the assumption that everyone can work, and everyone can support themselves. Benefits counseling is also provided to each client as a part of the intake process in order to maximize clients' income, and close the gap between earnings and basic expenses, including nutritious food.

The core of I-WORK components include:

- ✿ Initiation of job search within 30 days from resident expressing interest in gaining employment through I-WORK;
- ✿ Integration of I-WORK into the clinical services provided to clients;
- ✿ Employment opportunities driven by clients' interests, strengths, and preferences;
- ✿ Community business engagement for competitive employment opportunities;
- ✿ Vocational assessment integration at intake and at regular intervals going forward; and
- ✿ Continuous I-WORK support to clients who are employed, until they decide it is no longer needed or wanted.

Advocacy and Education

For the past twenty years Housing Options has worked to reduce the stigma of mental illness and the barriers stigma creates in our community. It all started in 1988 when the founders of the organization worked to change restrictive housing laws in Evanston and has continued through today. Currently we are working to educate, enlighten and erode the stigma of mental illness through our website, participation in community events, newsletters and presentations to civic groups we hope to change people's attitudes about mental well being.

For further information about Housing Options, contact Heather Leet at hleet@housingopt.org 📧

Housing Options

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service from 1995-2009 are reserved for households with incomes of 60% the area median or below.

The two subsidies most often used in conjunction with LIHTCs are tax-exempt bonds and Rural Housing Service Section 515, with 21.5% and 9.4% of LIHTC properties, respectively, also using these programs. The percentage of LIHTC properties with RHS Section 515 loans has dropped steadily since 1995 as the funding for that program has decreased.

For more information about the database, to download the entire database, to use the interactive system for accessing specific data, and to download the report on the updated data, go to www.huduser.org/portal/datasets/lihtc.html 📧

Funding Resources

(Continued from page 6)

Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested; Contact person; Copy of current year's organizational budget and/or project budget; Listing of additional sources and amount of support; Additional materials/documentation. Initial approach: Proposal to nearest company facility. Copies of proposal: one. Board meeting date(s): December 1.

HOMELESS HEADLINES



ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGEN-
CIES
HOMELESS HEADLINES
3435 LIBERTY DRIVE

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.entereact.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.ccdionline.org>

Corporation for Supportive Housing
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 332-6690
Fax: (312) 332-7040
Email: il@csch.org
www.csch.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 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>

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3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
<http://www.iacaanet.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 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) 524-5800
<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, 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 1/2 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
2201 "P" St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033
Phone: (202) 462-4822 x234
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: info@nationalhomeless.org

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

**National Law Center
on Homelessness & Poverty**
918 F Street NW #412
Washington DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-2535
Fax (202) 628-2737

**National Low-Income Housing
Coalition
& National Low Income Housing
Information Service**
727 15th St NW, 6th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 662-1530
Fax: (202) 393-1973
E-mail: info@nlihc.org
<http://www.nlihc.org>

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

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

Southern Illinois Coalition for the
Homeless
P.O. Box 955
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
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>