Corporation for Supportive Housing: Opening New Doors

The Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) is excited to announce its second Supportive Housing Institute: Opening New Doors. CSH is now accepting applications for this comprehensive, highly interactive project development initiative for permanent supportive housing in the State of Illinois.

The Supportive Housing Institute, established by CSH and funded by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), graduated its first class of potential supportive housing developers in March 2007, who plan to build an estimated 400 permanent supportive housing units across the state of Illinois. The program helps non-profits learn to efficiently navigate the complex process of developing housing with support services and is expected to reduce the time it takes to obtain funding for homeless housing by improving the planning process.

Opening New Doors provides targeted training, technical assistance, and pre-development financing options to development teams. Teams receive over 80 hours of training as well as individualized technical assistance and resources to assist in completing their project. In addition, experts from across the state, including IHDA, provide insight on property management, financing, and building design. Opening New Doors trainings are located downstate in both Bloomington and Springfield, Illinois. CSH is accepting applications for the second institute and applications are due to CSH by June 30th. All materials and information are available at www.csh.org/IL.

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McKinney-Vento 20th Anniversary Consensus Statement

The 20th anniversary of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act is June 22, 2007. To mark the occasion, several national advocacy organizations are calling for McKinney-Vento programs to be reauthorized in 2007 and have prepared a statement titled “The Twentieth Anniversary of the McKinney Homeless Assistance Act: A Consensus Statement on Five Fundamentals.”

The statement notes that the anniversary “calls for reflection on the persistence of mass homelessness in the United States, for consideration of what is needed to overcome homelessness, and for a new spirit of commitment and determination to eradicate this social evil.”

Four additional fundamental principles for public policy in a nation without...
New Doors
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Supportive Housing Institute: Opening New Doors Teams

Participants from CSH-Illinois’ first Opening New Doors series recently completed their 80 hours of training in March. Profiles of the participating teams from the first institute are available online at CSH’s website.

The second Opening New Doors institute will begin in September 2007 and CSH encourages all agencies to consider applying. Participation is limited to teams and organizations based in Illinois. The Institute goals are that 80% of the participants will be from outside the City of Chicago and 20% of organizations will represent minority-led organizations. Interested applicants should apply as a project team, which should include a service provider, housing developer, and property manager. However, if a team has not identified a specific partner at application, CSH staff will work with the team to obtain the final partners.

Critical to the team’s success is the designation of senior management participants who can and will commit to participating in all 11 training sessions and technical assistance visits. In addition, applicants must obtain a resolution from their board of directors signifying their commitment to developing permanent supportive housing and staff participation in the series.

The Supportive Housing Institute: Opening New Doors Trainings

Opening New Doors is comprised of 11 training sessions focusing on partnership development, project concept development, funding and financing, community support, service planning, and property management. The institute’s goal is to provide teams with the tools, knowledge, and detailed plans needed to create permanent supportive housing in their community. Over the course of Opening New Doors, development teams will work closely to develop individual supportive housing project plans.

Among the expected outcomes are:

- Memorandum of Understanding among members of the supportive housing development team, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each partner;
- Community support plan;
- Detailed program and project concepts;
- Conditions of tenancy and plan for supportive services for tenants;
- Engagement strategies designed for specific target populations;
- Tenant selection plan;
- Affirmative fair housing marketing plan;
- Management plan;
- Operating policies and protocols between services provider and property manager;
- Preliminary project proposal and budgets;
- Preliminary feasibility analysis for potential housing site, if identified; and
- Draft components of the IHDA application for funding.

Eligible Supportive Housing Projects

Supportive Housing Institute participants will be part of a unique opportunity to gain considerable expertise in providing supportive housing. Eligible supportive housing projects are those where:

- Housing is permanent, tenants hold leases and acceptance of services is not a condition of occupancy;

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National Housing Trust Fund

Major progress was made the week of March 25, 2007 toward the establishment of a National Housing Trust Fund. Financial Services Committee Chair Barney Frank (D-MA) successfully included an Affordable Housing Fund in a Government Sponsored Enterprises (GSEs) regulatory reform bill that was approved by the committee. The fund is expected to provide an estimated $500 million a year, with the funds targeted to the Gulf Coast in the first year. Included in the bill is a provision to reserve the use these funds for a future National Housing Trust Fund.

In addition, Mr. Frank and Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA) introduced a Federal Housing Administration (FHA) modernization bill that includes another funding source reserved for the National Housing Trust Fund that would provide an estimated $300 million a year.

Finally, the House Budget Resolution passed that same week includes the Affordable Housing Fund.

The goal of the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign is enactment of a National Housing Trust Fund, a dedicated source of revenue to build and preserve 1.5 million homes primarily for extremely low income people over 10 years.

GSE Bill Including Money for Trust Fund Passes Committee

On March 29, the House Financial Services Committee approved H.R. 1427, the Federal Housing Financial Reform Act of 2007, by a vote of 45-19 with 13 Republicans supporting it. The bill includes an Affordable Housing Fund.

The bill, which would establish a new regulator for the GSEs, was introduced on March 9 with bipartisan support.

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Making the Connection

General Assistance Part IV

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.

This is the final article in my series on General Assistance (GA) benefits. Over the past few months I have talked about who is eligible for the benefit, how to apply, and what needs to be done to receive this benefit. Today I want to discuss what you can do if you believe someone has been denied General Assistance, or has had their benefits terminated, reduced, or even not been provided the chance to file an application.

I want to stress that all public benefits require that individuals be permitted to apply for the benefit. They also have to be advised in writing of the decision on the application, be notified in writing of any changes in benefits and be informed of the right to appeal. General Assistance benefits are no different from any other public benefit and Individuals applying and receiving General Assistance have these same rights.

Individuals are entitled to file an appeal regarding the action or inaction of the local government. To be quite honest, appeals are not frequently filed regarding township benefits. In fact, when I was talking with a township worker, they said they had not seen an appeal in the past 10 years and suddenly two were filed and no one knew what to do when it happened.

When discussing township appeals it is important to understand how the appeal process works. Townships located within the same county work together to hear appeals. So if you know one township’s appeal process it should be the same throughout your area.

The appeal hearing is conducted and decided by a committee that is called the “Public Aid Committee”. Who serves on this committee is established by state statute (305 ILCS 5/Art. XI). Statute establishes an appeal process that is based on the type of county government that is in place. In counties that have a commission form of government, the Public Aid Committee

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**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Trainings**

**Location:**
Illinois Community Action Association
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704

*Registration is required.* For the registration form and brochure, go to www.icaanet.org.

**All trainings will be held in Chicago at a date yet to be determined.**

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**Wednesday, May 30**
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Annual Performance Report Training

**Abstract:**
**Annual Progress Report (APR)**
The purpose of the Annual Progress Report is to track program progress and accomplishments in HUD’s competitive homeless assistance programs. The APR provides the grantee and HUD with information necessary to assess each grantee’s performance. The APR training will show you how to prepare an acceptable APR report for submission to HUD, identify the proper due date(s) and determine how to document matching contributions for operations, supportive services and construction activities.

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**Thursday, May 31**
9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Rent Calculation Training
1:00 p.m. - 4:30 p.m
SHP Grant Financial Training

**Abstracts:**
**Resident Rent Calculations** Each resident of HUD funded supportive housing programs may be required to pay as rent an amount determined by the recipient which may not exceed the highest of: 1) 30 percent of the family’s monthly adjusted income; 2) 10 percent of the family’s monthly gross income; or 3) Welfare assistance from a public agency, where a part of the payments, is specifically designated by the agency to meet the family’s housing costs. The training will guide you through the rent calculation process and provide guidance on how to determine income, make income adjustments, identify utility allowances and describe record keeping responsibilities.

**SHP Grant Financial Training:**
SHP Grant Financial Training: This training will cover all you need to know about the Financial requirements of your SHP grant. This training is *mandatory* for all 2006 first-time SHP grantees and is *optional-highly recommended* for renewal grantees and those current grantees with new grants and/or staff. We suggest that you send staff members that are involved in the day-to-day operations of your program. This includes those involved in managing your program, client record keeping and those who verify the homeless eligibility requirement.

**Registration is required.** For the registration form and brochure, go to www.icaanet.org.

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**Friday, June 1**
9:00am - 2:30pm
Start-Up Training

**Abstract:**
**Start-Up Training** The training will be geared to the SHP basics - how to establish an operating year, documentation of payment requests, annual progress reports (APR), client record keeping requirements, program components, tenant rent calculations and homeless eligibility. This training is *mandatory* for all 2006 first-time SHP grantees and is *optional-highly recommended* for renewal grantees and those current grantees with new grants and/or staff. We suggest that you send staff members that are involved in the day-to-day operations of your program. This includes those involved in managing your program, client record keeping and those who verify the homeless eligibility requirement.

**Registration is required.** For the registration form and brochure, go to www.icaanet.org.

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The work that provided the basis for this publication was supported by funding under an award with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. The substance and findings of the work are dedicated to the public. The author and publisher are solely responsible for the accuracy of the statements and interpretations contained in this publication. Such interpretations, do not necessarily reflect the views of the Government.

For further information, contact Darrel Bugajsky of the HUD Regional Office in Chicago at 312-353-1696 Ex 2716.
General Assistance
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consists of three members of the County Board of Commissioners. In counties under township organization (except Cook County), the Public Aid Committee consists of the County Board Chair and four township supervisors. When the appeal is regarding benefits issued by a township whose supervisor is a member of the Public Aid Committee, then an alternate supervisor is appointed. In Cook County the Public Aid Committee consists of two township supervisors and three persons who are knowledgeable in GA.

The local government is to schedule, hear and decide on your appeal within 60 days of the date the appeal was filed. Following is the general appeal process that is used:

1. If benefits are denied, reduced, or cancelled, a notice is to be sent advising of the decision or action. You have up to sixty days from the date of the denial (date on the letter, or postmark on the envelope – whichever is the latest date) to file an appeal if you disagree with the decision. There is no time limit for filing an appeal if a notice is never sent.
2. The Public Aid Committee schedules and sends a notice of the hearing. This notice should be sent at least seven days prior to the hearing date. Individuals who are appealing can present the case themselves or may have a representative (such as legal aid attorney, close friend, relative, etc.) present the case.
3. If an individual is unable to attend the hearing on the date scheduled s/he can request the appeal be rescheduled. The request usually has to be received within 10 days of the scheduled hearing and has to be for a good reason.
4. Following the hearing, the Committee meets and makes a decision and issues the Final Administrative decision in writing. If the decision is favorable to the client, the local government has to take any needed actions or corrections by no later than ninety calendar days from the date the appeal was received by the Committee.
5. The appeal decision is to be provided in writing, and is to include information about the right to appeal to the Circuit Court if the decision is unfavorable.

Since the appeal process can be complex, you may want to advise your clients that they can obtain legal assistance from organizations such as Land of Lincoln, Prairie State Legal Services and the Legal Assistance Foundation, to name a few. Assistance can also be provided by these legal groups if you believe you have not been given the right to even start the appeal process.

New Doors
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Comprehensive case management services are accessible by tenants where they live and in a manner designed to maximize tenant stability and self-sufficiency;
A minimum of 25% of the units are made available to people who have disabilities and are homeless or who are at risk of homelessness;
Housing meets financial feasibility standards;
Housing is of good quality and accessible to transportation; and
Housing is affordable to the target population.

Projects must be single site development models. Sponsors seeking to pursue supportive housing in a scattered site leasing model only are not eligible in this round of the Institute, and proposals to develop transitional or shared housing will not be considered.

Applying for the Supportive Housing Institute: Opening New Doors

Interested teams should submit a Supportive Housing Institute application to CSH-Illinois by June 30, 2007. Applications can be emailed to liz.drapa@csb.org or mailed to 203 North Wabash, Suite 410, Chicago, IL 60601.

A Word version of the application is available online at www.csh.org/il. If selected, participants will pay an Institute fee of $600 for each team. Trainings will be held over the course of six months (September 2007 – March 2008) in Bloomington and Springfield.

“Thanks to the State’s investment, we can generate new momentum for the creation of supportive housing in Illinois. The teams learn everything from budget development, service planning and property management during their training sessions and also received one-on-one technical assistance tutorials. Without this grant, we would not have been able to set up the Institute to empower local nonprofits so that they can better help the State’s most at-risk populations. We have every confidence our graduates will go on to make a difference in addressing the State’s homelessness needs.” Sue Augustus, director of...
Homeless Headlines

Private Resources

by Pamela M. Salela, Coordinator, Central Illinois Nonprofit Resource Center
telephone: 217-206-8633 - email: psale2@uis.edu - url: library.uis.edu/findinfo/grants/index.html

Alcoa Foundation

Alcoa Corporate Ctr.
201 Isabella St.
Pittsburgh, PA 15212-5858
Telephone: (412) 553-2348
E-mail: alcoafoundation@alcoa.com

Contact: not specified

Type of Foundation: Company sponsored

Total giving (2005): $22,749,270

Areas of Interest: Abuse prevention; Child abuse; Domestic violence; Disabilities, people with; Education; Employment; Environment; Health care; Mental health/crisis services; Minorities; Public health; Women

NOTE: While they do not specifically state an interest in homeless issues, they do have a history of giving in this area.

Types of support: Annual campaigns; Building/renovation; Conferences/seminars; Continuing support; Emergency funds; Employee matching gifts; Employee-related scholarships; Equipment; Fellowships; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Program-related investments/loans; Research; Scholarship funds; Seed money.

Initial approach: Complete online application form for national and international organizations; E-mail proposal to nearest company division for organizations located in the U.S.; mail letter of inquiry to nearest company division for organizations located outside the U.S.

Copies of proposal: One

Board meeting date(s): Monthly

Deadline(s): Contact nearest company division (see http://www.alcoa.com/global/en/about_alcoa/map/globalmap.asp?lc=7&state=IL)

Anderson Foundation

480 W. Dussel Dr.
P.O. Box 119
Maumee, OH 43537-0119

Application address: c/o Ms. Fredi Heywood, 608 Madison Ave., Ste. 1540, Toledo, OH 43604, tel.: (419) 243-1706

Telephone: Not provided

Email: not provided

URL: None provided

Type of Foundation: Independent

Total giving (2005): $460,567

Areas of Interest: Children/youth, services; Community development; Education; Federated giving programs; Government/public administration; Higher education; Human services; Secondary school/education.

Geographic focus: Illinois (Champaign); Indiana; Michigan; Ohio

Types of support: Annual campaigns; Building/renovation; Capital campaigns; Conferences/seminars; Emergency funds; General/operating support; Matching/challenge support; Program development; Publication; Research; Scholarship funds; Seed money.

Application information: Application form not required. Applicants should submit:

1) Qualifications of key personnel;
2) Statement of problem project will address;
3) Copy of IRS Determination Letter;
4) Copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990;
5) Listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations;
6) Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested;
7) Contact person;
8) Organization’s charter and by-laws;
9) Copy of current year’s organizational budget and/or project budget;
10) Listing of additional sources and amount of support.

Initial approach: Proposal not exceeding five pages. Copies of proposal: One; Board meeting date(s): March, June, September, and December, usually the 3rd Monday of the month. Deadline(s): three weeks before board meetings; Final notification: Generally three months; depends on completeness of proposal

Trust Fund
(Continued from page 3)

from Mr. Frank (D-MA) and cosponsors Representatives Mel Watt (D-NC), Richard Baker (R-LA) and Gary Miller (R-CA).

During the two-day committee markup, a major step was taken toward the establishment of a National Housing Trust Fund. Mr. Frank offered an amendment that would lay the financial groundwork for a National Housing Trust Fund and said he soon plans to introduce a bill to create the trust fund. Mr. Frank’s amendment would allow the funds that the GSEs are required to provide to the Affordable Housing Fund to be transferred to any new legislation that only provides grants to provide affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership opportunities. Mr. Frank said the amendment was needed to preserve the committee’s authority to use these funds when a National Housing Trust Fund bill is considered. An estimated $500 million per year would be available from the GSEs, with all of the money in the first year of the fund targeted to housing for very low and extremely low income families in the Gulf Coast communities devastated by Hurricane Katrina. The amendment was accepted by a vote of 45-19 with one Republican, Steve LaTourette (OH), voting in support.

Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) offered an amendment to move the administration of the Affordable Housing Fund to HUD to be managed through the current HOME program. Mr. Frank argued against the measure saying that he soon plans to introduce the National Housing Trust Fund legislation and will hold, along with Housing and Community Opportunity Subcommittee Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA), several days of hearings when administrative options can be reviewed. Ms. Biggert’s amendment was rejected by a vote of 35-20.

Representative Ruben Hinojosa (D-TX) successfully offered an amendment that would provide financial literacy and pre-purchase housing counseling to homebuyers who earn less than 50% of the median income prior to entering into a loan agreement. The amendment would not require any funding from the Affordable Housing Fund; current HUD funding and state run programs would carry out this requirement. The amendment was approved voice vote.

H. R. 1427 is expected to be considered by the full House in late April.

Additional Trust Fund Money in FHA Bill

On March 29, Mr. Frank and Ms. Waters introduced legislation titled Expanding Homeownership Act of 2007. The bill would modernize and update the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) programs in a variety of ways including down payment simplification, extension of mortgage terms and establishing mortgage premiums for zero and low down payment mortgages.

The bill also includes a provision that would produce another source of funding for the National Housing Trust Fund. The bill mandates that any savings resulting from a provision that permanently eliminates the current statutory volume cap on FHA reverse mortgage loans shall be used for grants to provide affordable rental housing and affordable homeownership. It is expected that $300 million would be available from this source for a National Housing Trust Fund.

Affordable Housing Fund in House Budget Resolution

In the House Budget Resolution passed on March 29, a provision is included that would allow for a deficit-neutral Affordable Housing Fund for fiscal years 2007 to 2017, five years longer than the Senate budget resolution’s affordable housing fund provision authorizes.

New Doors
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CSH’s Illinois office.

The Governor’s Housing Task Force, chaired by IHDA’s Executive Director, identified the housing needs of the homeless and those at risk of homelessness as among six priority populations. IHDA’s support of the Supportive Housing Institute will result in many more viable and successful units being built across the State to address the Governor’s priorities. Illinois’ affordable housing work is guided by the Governor’s annual Comprehensive Housing Plan, compiled by the Task Force. The recently released Affordable Housing Dimensions: Illinois’ 2007 Comprehensive Housing Plan continues this work. All Housing Plans are available at www.ihda.org.

For further information, contact Liz Drapa at (312) 332-6690, ext. 19, or liz.drapa@csf.org.

McKinney-Vento
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mass homelessness are noted in the statement:

- The supply of affordable housing must be dramatically increased if homelessness is to be abated;
- Health care, education and social services must be provided to all who need them;
- Personal incomes must be sufficient to pay for the necessities of life; and
- Discrimination against homeless persons must be prevented.

The full statement can be found at www.nhchc.org/McKinneyConsensusStatE5F93.pdf.

For further information, contact the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in 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) 522-7024
Fax: (217) 522-7016
http://www.icaanet.org

Corporation for Supportive Housing
203 N. Wabash, Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 332-6690
Fax: (312) 332-7040
Email: il@csah.org
www.csah.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 60601
Telephone: (312) 935-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
http://www.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) 788-1939
Fax: (217) 788-1939
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 W. Lawrence, 2C
Springfield, IL 62762
Telephone: (217) 782-1317
Fax: (217) 524-6029
http://www.state.il.us/dco/

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/dhs/

Illinois Food Bank Association
P.O. Box 8293
Springfield, IL 62703
Telephone: (217) 522-4022
Email: 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://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
E-mail: info@nchv.org

National Housing Fellowships Program
727 15th St., NW, #900
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 628-8866
Fax: (202) 628-9800
E-mail: info@nchv.org
http://www.nhfp.org

National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty
918 F Street NW 3412
Washington DC 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-2535
Fax: (202) 628-2737

National Law-Income Housing Coalition
& National Law 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) 393-3229
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
3417 North Monticello
Chicago, IL 60618
Telephone: (773) 388-0827
Fax: (773) 267-1294
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) 353-5417
http://www.hud.gov/local/chicago/chihome.html