Statewide Homeless Youth Study Released

The Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH) youth committee, in collaboration with the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) have released the first statewide census of homeless youth in 20 years. The study is entitled “Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in Illinois: 2005.”

Nationally, it has been estimated that 7.6 percent of all youth age 12-17 are homeless for at least one night over a one-year period (Ringwalt, Greene, Robertson, & McPheeters, 1998). Considerably less is known about the numbers and needs of unaccompanied homeless youth and young adults (UHY) locally and statewide. The guiding purpose of the project was to assess the number of unaccompanied youth in Illinois by regional boundaries established by the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and to determine service needs of that population. The study was sponsored by the IDHS Bureau of Youth Services and Delinquency Prevention and coordinated by the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless (CCH). The University of Illinois at Chicago Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) oversaw data collection and data analysis activities.

The Chicago Coalition for the Homeless first convened the Homeless Youth Research Group (HYRG) in November of 2004. This group

Cuts Would Affect Housing and Community Development

Congress is considering an across-the-board cut in discretionary appropriations for the fiscal year that would have an adverse impact on affordable housing and community development programs. The proposed cut, reported to be one or two percent, would spell millions in losses for children and family services programs. The cut would also have a significant impact on programs funded through HUD that help stabilize the housing of low income and homeless individuals and families.

A cut of just two percent means a loss of 35,000 Housing Choice Vouchers in a program that was already cut in 2005. A two percent cut would also result in the loss of nearly $27 million to the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program that would have to be absorbed by local continuum of cares. The Housing for Persons with AIDS Program (HOPWA) would serve 1,400 fewer families under a two percent cut.

(Continued on page 4)
HUD Homeless Assistance Programs Listserv

A new HUD listserv will provide notice about policy changes, clarifications and other items of general interest regarding HUD’s Homeless Assistance Programs. To sign up see: www.hud.gov/offices/cpd.

Anti-Hunger Policy Conference

The 2006 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference will be held from February 26 through February 28th, 2006 in Washington D.C. The Food Research and Action Council (FRAC), America’s Second Harvest (A2H), and the National Child and Adult Food Program (CACFP) will sponsor the event.

Check out the 2006 Conference website www.frac.org/Conference/2006/index.html for hotel information. The Conference will be held at the Washington Court Hotel on Capitol Hill (www.washingtoncourtotel.com). Room rates at the Washington Court are $215 (for a single or double room) and can be reserved by calling 800-321-3010 and referencing the FRAC/A2H/CACFP Conference.

Conference plenary and registration will be available online shortly and we encourage you to take advantage of the early-bird and group discounts. Continue to check the conference website for updates.

Local Income and Poverty

The Census Bureau’s Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program has released 2003 estimates of poverty and income for all states, counties, and school districts in the U.S. In the absence of a direct survey to capture this information, the data are based on statistical models that incorporate such varied datasets as the Current Population Survey (CPS), tax returns from the IRS, data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis, and information on Food Stamp recipients. The SAIPE is used to provide between-census estimates to allocate funds for federal programs such as No Child Left Behind.

State and county estimates available through the SAIPE program include the total population in poverty, children living in impoverished families, and median household income. School district data include total population, the population of school-age children, and the number of children in impoverished families. Data are available from 1995-2003 (excluding 1996 and 1998 for school districts).

At the SAIPE website (www.census.gov/hhes/www/saipe/index.html) a simple form is available for producing tables for a select number of areas, or the user can download Excel files containing the full datasets. Additionally, the data used to produce the estimates – including IRS tax return data for all states and estimates of income, poverty, and the number of food stamp recipients at the state and county level – are available for download. Until estimates for all counties become available through the American Community Survey (2008), the SAIPE program data are invaluable as a source of between-census estimates of poverty and income, and their availability at the school district level will remain unique.

Homeless Headlines

Chairperson, Dwight Lucas, President & CEO, Dalitso Sulamoyo, Editor, Allan Timke, atimke@icaanet.org

The Illinois Community Action Association has published the monthly Homeless Headlines and the Homeless Hotline since 1991 under contract with the Illinois Department of Human Services.


This is self-service only. If you would like to receive Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline by email, send a blank email to headlines-hotline-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. When the confirmation message comes, just click on the reply and send buttons in your email program. If your address changes, unsubscribe (headlines-hotline-unsubscribe@yahoogroups.com) and submit a new subscription.
A study by the Housing Assistance Council examines how housing assistance programs funded by the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program are being implemented and assessed whether they are reaching rural households in need. The report finds that rural households in need of assistance face a unique set of challenges, and that, where they exist, the TANF-funded housing programs are working address these issues.

The report says that rural participation rates are linked to the existence of a network of local providers. For example, Oregon, which had the highest proportion of rural housing clients, utilized the network of community action agencies to refer clients and provide local context to address the varying levels of need among potential clients. Accessibility also lack good transportation and often have credit difficulties. In order to address these challenges, state agencies have provided job-training and job-hunting assistance, small transportation grants, and housing and financial counseling.

In reviewing previous studies, the report finds that housing assistance has been linked to increased job stability, lower welfare usage, and decreased financial stress, consequently this type of assistance is especially significant for families leaving welfare.


Bringing America Home Act Reintroduced

On November 16, Representatives Julia Carson (D-IN) and John Conyers (D-MI) reintroduced to Congress the Bringing America Home Act (BAHA), H. R 4347. The comprehensive bill includes numerous provisions related to such issues as housing security, economic security, health care security, and civil justice.

The housing security provision addresses several different programs, including the National Housing Trust Fund and Section 8. The bill includes the entire legislative language of H. R. 1102, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2003 (not enacted). In addition, there is language that would increase the number of Section 8 vouchers by 1.5 million over the next ten years.

Also included in the housing security section is authorizing language that would create an Emergency Rent Relief Fund, directing the Secretary of HUD to provide grants for emergency rent relief payments to landlords on behalf of tenants facing eviction. Additional language would require any units demolished with federal dollars be replaced with a new unit, which would result in no net loss of housing.

The bill would authorize increases in appropriations to several housing programs, including rural housing programs, veteran housing programs, HOME, CDBG, and Sections 202 and 811. Also included is a sense of Congress supporting the basic human right to housing.

BAHA would reauthorize all McKinney-Vento programs for a five-year period, and would authorize the financing of permanent housing project renewals from the Housing Certificate Fund. The bill also would authorize permanent housing as an eligible use of surplus federal property under Section V of the McKinney-Vento Act. In addition, there is language mandating Continua of Care to coordinate and collaborate with local school districts and homeless liaisons, as well as mandating the consideration of school stability of children when shelter placements are made.

The economic security provision of the bill addresses training programs and Supplemental Security Income (SSI). The bill would authorize a “homebuild” program, in which assistance such as apprenticeship programs and other training is offered to address employment barriers. Also included is a Sense of Congress resolution supporting a universal living wage.

The bill includes a number of health care provisions. A Sense of Congress resolves to guarantee that every person in the United States have (Continued on page 6)
**Section 8 Homeownership Guide**

The Housing Assistance Council (HAC) has published Section 8 Homeownership: A Guide for Rural Housing Practitioners. The guide provides an overview of the Section 8 Homeownership Program, describes the potential for creating partnerships among nonprofits, PHAs, and other agencies, and profiles rural homeownership programs in Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, and Vermont. The 29-page guide is available at: www.ruralhome.org.

**REDF Social Impact Report 2005**

This report looks at the long-term impact of enterprise employment. It highlights key findings regarding the impact of enterprise employment up to two years after hire. The report shows the enterprises have been able to achieve real, measurable social impact in a range of outcome areas, including employment and academic/vocational enrollment status, housing stability, criminal conviction rates, receipt of public assistance and educational achievement.


Source: www.creativeconsultingsolutions.com/Newsletters.html

---

**MetLife Foundation Awards**

This week The Enterprise Foundation released “MetLife Foundation Awards for Excellence in Affordable Housing.” The publication features case studies of six best practices in supportive housing and property and asset management who were award-winning projects in 2005. The publication offers detailed information on the award-winning programs including program design, services offered, physical building features, funding sources, neighborhood impact, and contact information.

For more information and to read the publication, visit www.enterprisefoundation.org/metlife.

**Cuts (Continued from page 1)**

Other housing programs that would be adversely impacted include the Section 811 program which provides housing for low income people, Section 202 which provides housing for low income seniors and the HOME program.

The Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP) released a report on December 8 highlighting how budget cuts in the FY 2006 combined with a one percent across-the-board cut would affect programs serving low income families and individuals. The report includes a state-by-state analysis indicating how each state would be impacted by budget cuts. To view the report, please visit www.cbpp.org/12-8-05bud2.htm.

**For further information**, contact the National Alliance To End Homelessness at the address is Headlines Directory.

---

**HIV Prevention**

On November 30, the National AIDS Housing Coalition released a new study, “Housing is the Foundation of HIV Prevention and Treatment.” The report is a result of the National Housing and HIV/AIDS Research Summit held in June. The report calls for a new HIV prevention and care system based on “proven effectiveness of and primary importance of housing as a structural HIV prevention and treatment intervention.”

Nancy Bernstine, NAHC executive director and NLIHC board member, said, “These powerful findings provide the basis for a public health response to the housing needs of persons living with HIV/AIDS, and of persons whose homelessness places them at heightened risk of HIV infection.” The report notes that there are strong correlations between improved housing status and reduced HIV risk, improved access to medical care and better health outcomes. The report also discusses the evidence that housing is a cost-effective prevention and treatment intervention.

The report calls for these policy actions:

- Make subsidized, affordable housing (including supportive housing for those who need it) available to all low income people living with AIDS.
- Make housing homeless persons a top prevention priority, since housing is a powerful HIV prevention strategy.
- Incorporate housing interventions as a critical element of HIV healthcare.
- Continue to collect and analyze data to assess the impact and effectiveness of various models of housing as an independent structural HIV prevention and healthcare intervention.

The report may be found at www.nationalaidshousing.org.
Homeless Youth

*Continued from page 1*

consisted of representatives from across the state, including service providers. SRL worked with HYRG to develop a study design appropriate for conducting a statewide enumeration and assessment and met regularly with this group throughout the conduct of the study. This report describes our research questions, methods, and findings.

Executive Summary

Introduction

This document reports the findings from a study designed to (1) assess the needs of unaccompanied homeless youth (UHY) in Illinois and (2) provide statewide estimates of the number of these youth in Illinois. For the purposes of this project, an unaccompanied homeless youth was defined as an individual age 21 or younger who, at the time of data collection, was not primarily in the care of a parent or legal guardian and who lacked a safe or stable living arrangement. Wards of the state or youth who had formed stable private living arrangements did not fit our definition.

This study included two main data collection efforts: (1) a representative survey of service providers in Illinois who provide assistance to unaccompanied homeless youth and (2) a representative survey of UHY currently receiving services in Illinois.

Statewide Estimates of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in Illinois

A total of 215 Illinois providers of services to youth responded to a survey seeking information regarding the numbers of unaccompanied homeless youth using services at a specific point in time (April 26, 2005) and over the course of a full year. This information was weighted to also represent nonresponding providers in order to estimate the total number of UHY receiving services in the state. Using information from another statewide survey of the general population, estimates of the proportions of homeless youth who do and do not use available services were constructed, and this information was employed to estimate the total numbers of UHY. Key findings include the following:

- The total number of unaccompanied homeless youth who received services in Illinois on April 26, 2005, was estimated to be 1,411.
- It also was estimated that approximately one-third of all UHY access services, and two-thirds spend their time while homeless doubled-up with friends or relatives or living in motels, single-room occupancy hotels, with strangers, or on the streets.
- The total number of children of unaccompanied homeless youth estimated to be receiving services on April 26, 2005, was 651. The total number of children of UHY estimated to be in Illinois on this date was 1,891.

Service Needs of Unaccompanied Homeless Youth in Illinois

The service needs of unaccompanied homeless youth in Illinois were assessed using a questionnaire that was administered to a sample of UHY who were interviewed at 32 service sites across the state. A total of 169 interviews were completed between June and October 2005. Key findings include the following:

- About two-thirds were currently staying in a shelter or similar facility at the time they were interviewed.
- The youth ranged in age from 12-21; the average age 18.8 years old.

(Continued on page 6)
Homeless Youth

(Continued from page 5)

- Sixty-five percent were female, and 55 percent were African American.
- The average number of years of education completed was 11.5 years.
- Approximately 40 percent had one or more children of their own.
- Roughly one-third of UHY cited family conflicts as a reason why they first became homeless (29 percent). Other common reasons included running away from home (14 percent) and physical or sexual abuse by a parent or family member (10 percent).

Homeless Youth Service Needs

- The most commonly cited basic service needs were finding a stable place to live (78.0 percent), finding a job (75.7 percent), getting regular transportation (64.5 percent), finding an apartment (62.1 percent), and getting food on a regular basis (44.6 percent).
- Educational and other service needs included learning how to budget money, pay rent, and deal with a landlord (51.5 percent); going back to school (48.5 percent); and help getting an ID or Social Security card (34.3 percent).
- Commonly mentioned health and safety needs were finding someone to talk to about problems or things that worried them (41.4 percent) and getting personal medical care (40.2 percent) and dental care (34.9 percent).
- Service needs of the children of unaccompanied homeless youth included getting day care (55.2 percent), medical care (22.4 percent) Head Start/early Head Start services (8.1 percent) and protection of children from violence (7.5 percent).

Unmet Service Needs

- Basic unmet service needs during the past year included needing help finding an apartment (reported by 29.6 percent of all UHY), finding a job (28.4 percent), getting regular transportation (18.9 percent), and finding a stable place to live (14.8 percent).
- Unmet health and safety needs included getting personal medical care (15.4 percent) and dental care (14.8 percent).
- Unmet needs for education and other services included going back to school (17.2 percent) and learning how to budget, pay rent and deal with a landlord (14.8 percent).
- Among those UHY with children of their own, 14.9 percent reported needing help getting day care or someone to watch their children.

Other Experiences of Homeless Youth

- Three in five reported being the victim of violence, such as theft, burglary, and physical or sexual assault, during the past 12 months.
- Half reported ever carrying a weapon for protection.

For a full copy of the report, go to www.chicagohomeless.org/youthreport.pdf.

For further information, contact:

Julie Dworkin, Associate Director of Policy
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
1325 S. Wabash, Suite 205
Chicago Illinois 60605
(312)435-4548
julie@chicagohomeless.org

America Home

(Continued from page 1)

access to comprehensive, quality, and affordable health care. There is also language to reauthorize and strengthen Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) and Grants for the Benefit of Homeless Individuals (GBHI), programs that provide mental health, addiction, and other services.

In the civil justice section of the legislation, language is included that would ensure communities receiving McKinney-Vento homeless assistance funds do not have laws and ordinances criminalizing homelessness. This section also authorizes restrictions on communities receiving CDBG and HOME funds, including that such cities cannot pass ordinances that have a disparate impact on people who are homeless or that punish people who are homeless for carrying out life sustaining practices in public spaces when no alternative public spaces are available. There is also a requirement that the U. S. Postal Service provide post office boxes at no charge to people experiencing homelessness.

The bill has been referred to the House Committees on Financial Services, Agriculture, Energy and Commerce, Education and the Workforce, Government Reform, Veterans’ Affairs, and Ways and Means, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

Readers can learn more by visiting www.bringingamericahome.org or contacting the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.
**Private Resources**

**The Square One Foundation**
9666 Olive Blvd., Ste. 710
St. Louis, MO 63132-3026

**Areas of Interest:** Giving for social services with emphasis on agencies that provide assistance to disadvantaged women and their children. Children/youth services; economically disadvantaged; family services-domestic violence; housing/shelter development; human services; women; women centers/services.

**Limitations:** Giving limited to southern Illinois and MO. No support for missionary purposes. No grants to individuals, or for scholarships, conferences, or endowment funds.

**Application Information:** Requests are limited to one application per 501(c)(3) agency in a single year. An application form is required. Initial contact should be a FAX or letter requesting guidelines and application form. Eight copies of the proposal are requested; the deadline is January 15; board meets in March; and final notification – April 1. Application address: P.O. Box 16809, St. Louis, MO 63105

---

**The PMI Foundation**
3003 Oak Rd.
Walnut Creek, CA 94597
Telephone: 800-288-1970

**Contact:** Laura Kinney, Manager

**Areas of Interest:** Children/youth services; education; health organizations; housing/shelter development; human services

**Limitations:** Giving on a national basis, with some emphasis on California. No grants to individuals.

**Application Information:**
Applicants should submit:

1) Detailed description of project and amount of funding requested.
2) Copy of IRS Determination Letter

Initial contact requested is a letter. No deadline is stated. **Note:** The PMI foundation was established in 2000 in CA and is a company-sponsored foundation.

---

**Reading**

Source: www.hrsa.gov/homeless/main_pages/ta.htm

**Systems Change**


**Rural Issues**


