Positive Options for Survivors

In Springfield, Positive Options, Referrals and Alternatives (P.O.R.A.) operates a six bed, long term residential shelter program for female survivors of prostitution. Only a few similar programs exist in all of the United States, and all the rest are located in or near major cities. Since opening its shelter in 1997, P.O.R.A has provided safe housing, the necessities of life, and hope to over 110 women.

Executive Director, Bernie Carver said, “In many ways, all of us who deal with the poor, homeless or people with addictions are in the same business. The unique thing about our clients is that they almost always have all of these conditions concurrently. They also must endure the added burden of having a label that causes them to be shunned and ostracized by much of society, often their own family. I wish that everyone could become aware of the enormous damage done to people by the sex trade. Unless you are around it every day, it is difficult to comprehend. Calling them “survivors” is not merely a politically correct term. Anyone who listens to their stories would reasonably conclude that they are lucky to alive.”

Since an addiction to drugs or alcohol is the greatest common denominator for P.O.R.A. residential clients, applicants are required to demonstrate their commitment to recovery before admission to the program. They must complete a 30 day drug treatment regimen at the P.O.R.A. facility on 11th Street in Springfield.

(Continued on page 5)

National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act Introduced in House

U.S. Representative Barney Frank (D-MA), Chairman of the House Financial Services Committee, introduced a bill today with strong bipartisan support to establish a National Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Joining Frank in introducing the bill were Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, Representative Jim Ramstad (R-MN), and other members of Congress. At the time of the introduction of the bill, there were no co-sponsors from the Illinois congressional delegation.

The National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 will establish a National Housing Trust Fund, a dedicated source of funding for the production, preservation and rehabilitation of 1.5 million affordable homes in 10 years. At least 75 percent of the funds will be for housing for households that are extremely low income.

(Continued on page 5)
Homeless Headlines

Making the Connection
IDHS Interviews
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.

Last month I discussed the various applications that can be used to apply for cash, Medicaid, All Kids and Food Stamps. This month I will discuss the interview process, but before I do that I want to let you know about another IDHS application that is now available. Starting in July individuals can now complete and submit an application for cash, Medicaid and Food Stamps online. This process is called Illinois Web Benefits.

Applicants can access the Web Benefits on-line application directly from the DHS homepage at www.dhs.state.il.us or the Apply for Food Stamps, Cash and Medical web page at www.idshslink.com. An individual can complete the application on-line and then electronically send the application to his/her local IDHS office. The application is registered on the first work day it is received. Once the application is received, the IDHS caseworker reviews it and requests any needed information (including the signature page). In addition an interview will be scheduled in the office if it is necessary. An e-confirmation number is issued when the application is successfully transmitted. This number is used to track the application, which can be done on-line. The tracking allows the individual to follow the progress of the application from the registration to the decision. If you want to read more about this process please go to www.dhs.state.il.us/ts/fss/dhs_foodStamps_fsi.asp or read the state policy manual release MR #07.13 available at www.dhs.state.il.us/ts/cfssm/onenet.aspx?item=27807.

Once an individual has successfully filled an application, a face-to-face interview may need to be done. This policy varies based on the type of benefit being requested, as well as the individual’s situation.

- Applications for cash benefits (TANF or AABD cash and Food Stamps): usually requires that a face-to-face interview be done.
- Medical benefits only: the application can be processed and approved without any interview.

Applicants can request that another person come to the interview and be in the interview with them. In addition, if the applicant wants, s/he can write a letter requesting another person be his/her Approved Representative (PM 02-04-02-a), which allows the other person to do the interview on behalf of the applicant.

When an application is made for more than one benefit program, separate decisions are made based on the requirements of each program. For example, let’s say your client applies for Medicaid and Food Stamps. She sends all the required verification in with her application. The local office receives the application and mails an appointment letter with a date and time your client has to come into the IDHS office for the Food Stamp interview. Your client does not show or call to request the appointment be rescheduled. The IDHS caseworker is able to approve the Medicaid, since

(Continued on page 6)
Homeless Headlines

Ninth Annual

HUD Peer-to-Peer Homeless Provider Conference

September 20-21, 2006

Hilton Springfield, Springfield, Illinois

Workshop Tracks: Direct Services (DS); Housing Development and Management (HDM); Continuum of Care Issues (CoC)

Thursday, September 20

8:30am-9:15am  Registration
9:15am-10:15am  Opening Session  
  Dalitso Sulamoyo, President/CEO, Illinois Community Action Association
  Joseph P. Galvan, HUD Regional Director, Chicago
  Ray Willis, Community Planning and Development Director, Chicago
  Doug Shenkelberg, Associate Director, Heartland Alliance
10:15am-10:30am  Break
10:30am-11:30am  Breakout Sessions

DS Consumer Panel
DS Crisis Intervention Approaches
DS Framework for Understanding Poverty
11:30am-1:00pm  Lunch on your own
1:00pm-2:00pm  Breakout Sessions

DS Consumer Panel
HDM Rural Housing Development Resources
DS Youth Consumer Panel
2:00pm-2:15pm  Break
2:15pm-3:45pm  Breakout Sessions

DS Accessing Mainstream Benefits
HDM Housing 101
CoC Transportation
3:45pm-4:00pm  Break
4:00pm-5:00pm  General Session

National Housing Trust Fund
Linda Couch, National Low-Income Housing Coalition
5:30pm-7:00pm  Reception
7:00pm  Dinner on your own

Friday, September 21

7:30am-8:00am  Registration
8:00am-9:00am  General Session
9:00am-9:15am  Break
9:15am-11:30am  Tours (descriptions in brochure)

DS Salvation Army + St. John’s Breadline
HDM PORA + Mercy Communities
DS Springfield Housing Authority + Contact Ministries
DS Fifth Street Renaissance + Helping Hands Housing
11:30am-12:30pm  Lunch on your own
12:30pm-2:00pm  Breakout Sessions

DS Harm Reduction Approaches in Permanent Supportive Housing
HDM Collaboration and How it Works
CoC Women, Girls and Trauma: Approaches to Gender-Neutral Social Services
10:15am-10:30am  Break
10:30am-11:30am  Breakout Sessions

DS Organizing Providers Around Employment
HDM Collaboration with Public Housing Authorities
CoC Rural Homelessness Issues
11:30am-12:30pm  Lunch on your own
12:30pm-2:00pm  Breakout Sessions

DS Health and Disability Benefit Advocacy
HDM Permanent Housing for Chronically Homeless
CoC HUD McKinney Programs 101
2:15pm-2:30pm  Closing Remarks

* Registration Required *

Registration brochure and form are available at www.icaanet.org

Hotel Information

Hilton Springfield
700 East Adams Street
Springfield, Illinois,
Tel: 217-789-1530

* Room Block expires on August 29 *

Room rates are $89/single or double + 10% tax (rate includes full breakfast buffet and free parking). Call 217-789-1530 for reservations under the HUD Peer-to-Peer block.

[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.]
Income Housing Coalition, said. “With Crowley, President of the National Low Modest rental homes,” Sheila elderly or disabled people on fixed of families of low wage earners and 2007 is a signal of hope for the millions Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of The introduction of the National area’s median income.

(Continued from page 1) 

Effective case management series is designed to provide case managers with the critical tools and information needed to assist their clients in becoming self-sufficient. Learn to work with the complexities of various situations in a skillful and resourceful way. Trainees will discuss case studies, participate in interactive role-plays, and dialogue with social service professionals. CEU/Es will be offered for each training. Each training is 3 CEU/Es.

**August 3**  
**Models and Systems - AM** - Case management models and systems provides a basic training on the task and processes of effective case management. Participants will interactively review the models of case management and use real life scenarios to define their functions.  
**Intake and Assessment - PM** - Provides trainees with information on the procedures and tools of intake and assessment. Participants will explore the difference between screening, intake, and assessment and gain experience in writing appropriate assessment statements.  

**August 10**  
**Motivating Clients and Ourselves - AM** - Trainees will identify and practice strategies that address ambivalence, resistance and denial with clients. Trainees will also discover strategies that motivate staff.  
**Goal Setting - PM** - Goal setting with clients presents information and concepts on the development of a service plan. Trainees will explore effective ways to assist clients in transforming a problem into a problem statement.  

**August 17**  
**Documentation 101 - AM** - Documentation 101 provides an introduction and review of effective and efficient documentation practices for human services providers. Trainees practice reporting by utilizing progress notes and incidents report forms.  
**Making an Appropriate Referral - PM** - Networking and referrals training examines creating effective referrals and developing a comprehensive network. Trainees will practice integrating referrals into a service plan for clients.  

**August 24**  
**Effective Client Advocate - AM** - Advocacy training allows trainees to distinguish between case coordination and advocacy and to develop an effective understanding of the components of advocacy and strategies to employ it.  
**Substance Use Disorders - PM** - Substance abuse disorders focuses on understanding the role of the case manager in addressing substance use and abuse in social service agencies. Trainees will review the pharmacology, trends, signs and symptoms of abuse.  

**August 31**  
**Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault - AM** - Domestic Violence training provides an overview of domestic violence and sexual assault and information and resources that will promote continued learning. Trainees will gain an awareness of the cycle of violence and how power and control contribute to that cycle.  
**Relationship Termination And Closure - PM** - Trainees will learn valuable termination techniques and identify issues in transition and closure with clients.

For further information and registration, contact:  
Erin Keiper  
Heartland Alliance  
1415 N. Dayton St. , Suite 3M  
Chicago, IL 60622  
Phone: 312-660-1860  
E-Mail: ekeiper@heartlandalliance.org

**Trust Fund**  
*(Continued from page 1)*

income, earning less than 30 percent of an area’s median income.

“The introduction of the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007 is a signal of hope for the millions of families of low wage earners and elderly or disabled people on fixed incomes who cannot afford even the most modest rental homes,” Sheila Crowley, President of the National Low Income Housing Coalition, said. “With this bill, new resources will be dedicated to expand the supply of rental homes that the lowest income people can afford.”

There is an acute lack of affordable housing. Nationwide, there are only 6,187,000 homes renting at prices affordable to the 9,022,000 extremely low income renter households - a shortage of 2,835,000 homes. Not a single Congressional district has enough rental housing affordable and available to extremely low income families. Housing is considered affordable if it costs no more than 30 percent of household income.

Housing trust funds already have been established by more than 600 state and local governments and have proven to be a successful approach to funding affordable housing programs. “Housing is the foundation of thriving communities, and this bill reflects the valuable experience of states and localities that have committed

*(Continued on page 6)*
Survivors  
(Continued from page 1)  
program prior to their admission. Over 
the last five years that the policy has 
been in place, experience shows that 
those who stay in the program six 
months or more have a better than 80% 
chance of living independently, 
learning to cope with their addictions, 
and staying out of trouble with the law.

Women who participate in P.O.R.A.’s 
residential program literally rebuild their 
lives as they move through the 
progressive programming offered over a 
9 to 24 month period. The women 
receive things they may never have 
experienced before in their lives: 
healthy food, safe and comfortable 
housing, compassion, and hope. In 
addition to having their basic needs 
met, residents also begin or 
recommit to services to address their 
physical and mental health, 
and also begin or recommit to 
freedom from drugs and alcohol, a 
change in their ability to make positive, 
lasting changes in their lives and 
recovery. Residents must attend a 
minimum of seven meetings a week 
throughout their stay. They are also 
required to donate a minimum of two 
hours per week by volunteering to 
serve others in the community.

As residents move into the second 
phase of programming, they participate 
in a variety of educational programs 
designed to assist them in becoming 
healthy, responsible, self-sufficient 
adults. These programs range from 
daily living skills, interpersonal skills, 
budgeting, parenting and  skills needed 
to succeed in the world of work. Based 
on their goals, residents may also 
broaden their knowledge and skills by 
attending GED classes or pursuing 
post-secondary education and training 
opportunities.

When residents are job-ready, P.O.R.A. 
staff provide the support they need to 
seek and maintain employment.

Employed residents continue to live at 
the residential facility with P.O.R.A. 
staff assisting them in managing their 
finances and addressing any challenges 
they face. During the final phase of 
programming, residents transition out 
of the P.O.R.A. residential home into 
their own apartment/house. P.O.R.A. 
provides ongoing counseling and 
support to ensure that residents 
continue to work toward their goals and 
remain focused on their recovery.

Women who graduate from P.O.R.A.’s 
residential program, as well as those 
who reside in the P.O.R.A residential 
home for an extended period of time, 
undergo a powerful, life-changing 
experience. When they leave P.O.R.A., 
they are well on their way to becoming 
healthy, self-sufficient individuals who 
are connected to the support systems 
they need to help them enhance their 
mental and physical health. They are 
often able to reunite with their families 
and develop healthy personal 
relationships that support their 
continuing growth. Those women who 
spend a limited amount of time in 
P.O.R.A.’s residential home also benefit 
because their experience at P.O.R.A. 
has “planted a seed” that may someday 
grow into a desire to make changes in 
their lives.

In addition to the operation of its 
residential shelter, P.O.R.A. provides 
services to over 1,200 constituents each 
year. It operates a small food pantry 
every Monday that supplements the 
nutritional needs of over 120 
households per month. P.O.R.A. is also 
a U.S. Department of Health and Human 
Services grantee to conduct outreach to 
potential victims of human trafficking. 
Free HIV and hepatitis counseling and 
referrals as well as free HIV testing are 
available at P.O.R.A.’s office or in the 
field through its street outreach 
program. P.O.R.A. facilitates weekly 
support groups for the incarcerated, 
homeless, HIV+, and the recovery 
community.

P.O.R.A. is a 
Certified Agency of 
the United Way of 
Central Illinois and a 
member of The 
Heartland 
Continuum of Care and The Illinois 
Association of Extended Care. More 
information about the agency is 
available at www.P.O.R.A.home.org, or 
by calling (217) 522-3822.
**IDHS Interviews**

(Continued from page 2)

this program does not require an interview (and remember, your client mailed all the verification needed to establish eligibility). A letter is sent advising the Food Stamp interview was missed and advises the person that the interview needs to be rescheduled. If the person does not call to reschedule, the application is denied 30 days after it is filed (PM 02-06-01-c).

Like most rules with public programs there are always exceptions. This is true of the rule regarding face-to-face interviews. The state policy manual chapter PM 02-06-01-b discusses these exceptions. The application (IL-444-2378B) has a section where the individual can indicate if coming into the IDHS office for the interview creates a hardship. Examples hardships include, but are not limited to:

- Problems related to health, transportation, ongoing severe weather; or
- Hours of work or educational activities that conflict with local office hours; or
- Lack of necessary child care.

IDHS staff is instructed to accept the applicant’s statement of the hardship. In instances where there are two adults in the home, IDHS is expected to ask if the 2nd adult can come to the interview instead. If the second adult is unable to attend or where no adult can come to the office, the IDHS office is to arrange to conduct the interview by phone or in the applicant’s home. Conducting the interview by phone or in the office can delay receipt of benefits due to the extra time that is needed to schedule and conduct the interview, however, the IDHS office is still obligated to comply with regulations that require a decision to be made for Food Stamps within 30 days of the date of the application and within 45 days for TANF and Aid to the Aged or Blind, and within 60 days for Aid to the Disabled.

If the applicant wants a phone or home interview and the local office does not have written phone or home interview procedures, IDHS staff is required to get permission to conduct the interview from the Local Office Administrator (LOA) or his/her designee.

It is important that when your clients want the office interview waived, a phone number and an address where the person can be reached have to be provided. If your client is homeless, you may want to use your agency address and phone number on the application as the contact point, especially if your client comes into your office regularly for other services. If your policies prohibit this, then talk with your client about how s/he can be reached by phone or mail.

The interview process requires the IDHS caseworker to review information on the application to ensure clarity, and to ask other questions about the household circumstances. The caseworker will record, or copy documents and gets any information needed to figure out if a person qualifies. If further information is needed after the interview, the worker will provide a written request. The request for additional information is always to be in writing and should contain a due date for return (this is usually 10 calendar days after the interview). If your client needs help obtaining any of the needed information, or needs more time to collect the requested information, make sure s/he contacts the IDHS caseworker before the due date to request an extension. If unable to reach the worker by phone, the request can be made in writing (I would recommend that the request be sent by certified letter).

Please note, when doing interviews for TANF and All Kids Assist IDHS caseworkers have to begin to gather information about any absent parents of children for whom benefits are requested. This process requires the worker to ask very sensitive questions about the sexual relationship with the missing parent. You may want to warn your clients of this and possibly recommend that the children not come to the interview (the IDHS offices do not have day care centers so the children are usually with the parent hearing the questions and the responses).

**Next month:** Verifications Needed

The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform, a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization focused on advocacy and planning in DuPage County, Illinois and designer and trainer of Making the Connection: A Guide to Accessing Public Benefits. The DuPage Federation is affiliated with Northern Illinois University, Regional Development Institute. Questions can be directed to knelson@dupagefederation.org or cking@dupagefedertion.org

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**Trust Fund**

(Continued from page 4)

dedicated sources of revenue to address their housing problems,” Crowley said.

Bills to establish a National Housing Trust Fund were introduced in the 106th, the 107th and the 108th Congress by Senator John Kerry (D-MA) in the Senate and Congressman Bernie Sanders (I-VT), who is now the new Senator from Vermont, in the House.

More information about the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign can be found here at www.nhtf.org, or by contacting the National Low Income Housing Coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.
Private Resources

by Pamela M. Salela, Coordinator, Central Illinois Nonprofit Resource Center
telephone: 217-206-6833 - email: psale2@uis.edu - url: library.uis.edu/findinfo/grants/index.html

Citi Foundation
(formerly Citigroup Foundation)
850 3rd Ave., 13th Fl.
New York, NY 10022-6211
Telephone: (212) 559-9163
Contact: Rebecca Van Sickle, Grants Mgr.
FAX: (212) 793-5944
E-mail: citigroupfoundation@citigroup.com
URL: www.citigroupfoundation.org

Type of grantmaker: Operating foundation.
Total Giving (2004): $68,436,019
Purpose and activities: The foundation supports organizations involved with education, health, employment, housing, disaster relief, financial counseling, human services, community development, and economically disadvantaged people.
Areas of interest: Children, day care; Community development; Disasters, preparedness/services; Economically disadvantaged; Education; Employment; Health care; Higher education; Housing/shelter; Human services; Human services, financial counseling; Minorities; Women; Youth. Geographic focus: National; international
Types of support: Continuing support; Curriculum development; Emergency funds; Employee matching gifts; Employee volunteer services; General/operating support; Income development; Management development/capacity building; Program development; Scholarship funds; Seed money; Technical assistance. Limitations: Giving on a national and international basis, with emphasis on areas of company operations. No support for political candidates or religious, veterans’, or fraternal organizations not of direct benefit to the entire community. No grants to individuals, or for political causes, fundraising events, telethons, marathons, races, or benefits, advertising, sponsorships, dinners or luncheons, or membership fees. Application information: Visit Web site for nearest company facility. Application form required. Initial approach: Contact nearest company facility for application form.

Dominion Foundation
(formerly Consolidated Natural Gas Company Foundation)
625 Liberty Ave.
Pittsburgh, PA 15222-3197
Telephone: (412) 690-1430
Contact: James C. Mesloh, Exec. Dir.
FAX: (412) 690-7608
URL: www.dom.com/about/community/foundation/index.jsp

Type of grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation.
Total Giving (2005): $9,221,372
Areas of Interest: Education, health, human services, community development. Geographic focus: National
Types of support: Annual campaigns; Building/renovation; Capital campaigns; Conferences/seminars; Continuing support; Curriculum development; Employee matching gifts; Equipment; General/operating support; In-kind gifts; Matching/challenge support; Program development. Limitations: Giving on a national basis in areas of company operations. No support for churches or other sectarian organizations, fraternal, political, advocacy, or labor organizations, or discriminatory organizations. No grants to individuals, or for religious programs, general operating support for individual United Way agencies, fundraising events, golf tournaments or other sporting events, benefit or courtesy advertising, travel or student trips or tours, or memorial campaigns. Application information: A password to access an online application form will be sent following receipt of a passing eligibility quiz. Proposals should be no longer than 1 page for Dominion Educational Partnership Mini Grant requests under $1,000 and 2 pages for Dominion Educational Partnership Grant requests over $1,000. Multi-year funding is not automatic. Organizations receiving support are asked to provide a final report. Applicants should submit the following: 1) copy of IRS Determination Letter, 2) copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990, 3) listing of board of directors, trustees, officers and other key people and their affiliations, 4) listing of additional sources and amount of support. Web site provides complete application guidelines. Initial approach: Complete online eligibility quiz; proposal for Dominion Educational Partnership. Copies of proposal: 1 Board meeting date(s): Varies Deadline(s): None; Final notification: 2 to 6 months
