Studies on the cost effectiveness of supportive housing from New York, California, Connecticut, and elsewhere, have shown supportive housing to be a very cost efficient and effective way to end homelessness and inappropriate housing for people facing multiple challenges. Illinois legislators told members of the Supportive Housing Providers Association that if they wanted the state to fund enough supportive housing to meet the need in Illinois, they needed to have Illinois statistics on supportive housing’s cost effectiveness. Taking this challenge seriously, the Supportive Housing Providers Association contracted with the Mid-America Institute on Poverty (MAIP), the research arm of the Heartland Alliance, to plan and implement such a study in Illinois.

After surveying all existing supportive housing in Illinois, MAIP designed a study that will compare the type and cost of services accessed by supportive housing residents two years before they entered supportive housing and two years after moving into supportive housing. The study targets supportive housing residents who have been homeless or at risk of homelessness and who have mental illness and/or have been incarcerated.

The study hypothesis is that supportive housing reduces a person’s reliance on expensive state-funded emergency services. Using service data provided by the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health and Division of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services received the study report.

(Continued on page 5)
Homeless Headlines

IHDA Rental Housing Support Training

The Illinois Housing Development Authority has scheduled the Training Sessions around the state for the Rental Housing Support Program. IHDA is ready to take in registration forms for those sessions. The registration forms are listed on the Training Sessions page: www.ihda.org/ViewPage.aspx?PageID=173

If you have any questions, please contact me at any time.

April Lasker
Manager, Rental Housing Support
Phone (312) 836-5357

2007 Advocates’ Guide Available

NLIHC’s 2007 Advocates’ Guide to Housing and Community Development Policy is now available.

The 2007 Advocates’ Guide includes more than 60 chapters describing programs and issues as well as current policy proposals including the National Housing Trust Fund. The guide represents the work of many national and local advocacy groups who have generously provided substantive information. Several appendices include information on the federal legislative process and effective lobbying strategies and tactics.

The 2007 Advocates’ Guide can be found on NLIHC’s website: www.nlihc.org/template/page.cfm?id=46

Hard copies of the 2007 Advocates’ Guide can be purchased for $15 for NLIHC members and $25 for nonmembers. Contact: Carol Vance, 202-662-1530 x221, carol@nlihc.org or publications@nlihc.org.

CSH Resources

Small Towns Toolkit - CSH’s Southern New England Program has developed the Small Towns Toolkit—an online resource for creating supportive housing in suburban and small towns. The toolkit covers areas ranging from building community support to legal issues and supportive housing finance. Funding for the toolkit was provided by the Hartford Foundation for Public Giving. To view the toolkit, visit http://homefront0207.c.topica.com/maafXuHabwTZWbUfmFReaeho8K/

Financing Supportive Housing - For information about all major federal capital, operating, and services financing sources, please visit CSH’s comprehensive Financing Supportive Housing Guide at http://homefront0207.c.topica.com/maafXuHabwTZYbUfmFReaeho8K/

For further information, contact the Corporation for Supportive Housing at the address in Headlines Directory.

Home Depot Awards

The Home Depot Foundation is currently accepting letters of inquiry for their Award of Excellence for Affordable Housing Built Responsibly. The awards are meant to recognize and showcase innovative nonprofit housing development corporations engaged in green/building or healthy home construction. For purposes of the awards and “affordable home” is defined as one for which a person making 80 percent or less of the area median income would spend 30 percent or less of their monthly income on mortgage or rent payments. Letters of inquiry are due by March 31, 2007 and projects eligible for an award must have been developed, completed, and placed in service between January 1, 2005, and December 31, 2006.

For further information, go to www.homedepotfoundation.org/awards_housing_apply.html.

Homeless Headlines and Homeless Hotline by email

Get them up to a week sooner!

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.

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For further information, go to www.homedepotfoundation.org/awards_housing_apply.html.
The USDA recently released Household Food Security in the United States, 2005, a report detailing the most recent statistics on food security of US households, as well as how much money they spent on food and how many food-insecure households participated in Federal and community food assistance programs. The report found that 89 percent of US households were food secure. Food security is defined as having access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members. The remaining 11 percent of households were food insecure at least once during the course of the year—a decrease from 2004 when 11.9 percent of households had experienced food insecurity at least once.

The average Illinois rate for food insecurity for the 2003-2005 time period was 9.1 percent. Illinois’ average rate has not varied by more than one-half percentage point from 9 percent since an average computed for the 1996-1998 time period.

The national rate of very low food security, however, remained the same (3.9 percent) from 2004 to 2005. Very low food security means the eating patterns of one or more household member were disrupted and their food intake was reduced at times during the year because the household lacked money or other resources with which to procure food.

Again, the average Illinois rate for very low food security has not varied by more than one-half percentage point from 3 percent since the 1996-1998 period. For the 2003-2005 period, the average was 3.2 percent.


For further information, contact the Food Research and Action Center at the address in Headlines Directory.

The previous two articles provided you some key information about General Assistance in Illinois. This month I will provide some general information about the General Assistance application process. It is important to note that the actual process can vary between townships and county governments, but there are basic actions that each governmental unit needs to meet, so these are what I will focus on. See the state law at www.ilga.gov 305 ILCS 5/Art. VI

To make an application for General Assistance you need to take the following steps:

1. Request an application for GA. This application should be given to you upon request. You can pick it up at the local government office or ask for one to be mailed (not all locations will mail an application, but it never hurts to ask, particularly if distance or health prevent you from going to the office.) Regardless of how the local government issues the application, everyone must be allowed to fill out an application!

2. Fill out the application and submit it to the appropriate office. The date the application is received by the local government starts the “clock”. A decision on the request for help has to be made within 30 days of the signed application being received by the correct local government. So complete and leave the application as soon as possible.

3. Participate in the interview. Usually this is done in person, but some local governments may permit the interview to be done by phone due to health, distance, etc, so ask if this is possible. You will be asked questions about information on the application, including employment history, income, assets, residency, citizenship, and the status on any requests for other public benefits.

4. Provide the requested information. Information usually requested includes: Identification, proof of residency, birth certificates for children (if they are included on the application), Social Security cards, proof of any income and/or assets, and proof of citizenship.

(Continued on page 5)
Housing Gap in American Community Survey

The primary finding of a new NLIHC research note released on February 21 is that the American Community Survey (ACS), a new survey to replace the 2010 long form of the Census, can provide advocates with useful annual assessments of the gap between what housing people can afford and what is available both nationwide and at the state level. More local analysis should be possible as more data become available in future years.

The ACS analysis, in keeping with past analyses, shows the greatest shortage of affordable units is among the lowest income households. Though there is significant variation across states, with the relative shortage most severe in California and least severe in South Dakota, all states show a significant shortage of units affordable to the lowest income families. In addition, all but a few states show the shortage easing for households above the extremely low income threshold (30% of the state median family income). No state shows a statewide shortage of units for households earning above the low income threshold (80% of the state median family income).

The research note provides tables and maps of the national and state level results from this research.

NLIHC Research Note #07-01, American Community Survey Estimate Shows Larger National, State Affordable Rental Housing Shortages, can be found at: www.nlihc.org/doc/RN07-01.pdf

Budget Resolutions

(Continued from page 1)

The Senate proposal would provide only $7.3 billion in new domestic discretionary spending, once inflation is taken into account. The National Low Income Housing coalition (NLIHC) seeking at least $450 billion in domestic discretionary funding for FY08. While the committee’s amount is a vast improvement over the President’s domestic spending plan for FY08, it is not enough to begin to meet the many pressing human needs, including housing, that have been neglected for the past six years. An effort will be made to increase the amount of discretionary funding on the Senate floor and in the House.

The Senate’s FY08 resolution would set up a reserve fund for the Affordable Housing Fund within the government sponsored enterprises (GSEs) legislation. A reserve fund would allow the committee chair to revise committee figures for deficit-neutral legislation like the Affordable Housing Fund. The Affordable Housing Fund is deficit-neutral because its revenues come from the GSEs, not from the Treasury.

Senate Budget Committee documents also state that the resolution would reject the President’s proposal to cut the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. The committee’s resolution would fund CDBG at its FY07 funding level plus inflation, or $3.8 billion.

The Senate’s resolution would also reject the President’s proposal to cut the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP). The committee would fund LIHEAP at $2.45 billion, $250 million above the inflation-adjusted FY07 level.

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

Bank of America Grants Initiative

Through the Neighborhood Excellence Initiative, Bank of America is currently accepting applications for grants from neighborhood builders, local heroes, and student leaders. The Initiative offers leadership training and general operating support for growing nonprofits. To be considered for the Neighborhood Builders program, applicant organizations must be tax exempt under section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. The deadline for applications is June 29, 2007.

For further information, go to www.bankofamerica.com/foundation/
Supportive Housing
(Continued from page 1)

Services, and the Illinois Department of Corrections, the study will track individuals’ reliance on state services during the two years before they entered supportive housing, comparing it to their reliance on state services during the two years after they entered supportive housing. Eighteen providers in eleven counties agreed to participate in the study, accounting for 31 supportive housing projects and a total of 1,261 supportive housing units. Resident enrollment in the study began in the beginning of 2006 and lasted seven months. Researchers made 33 enrollment visits, enrolling 476 residents out of a population of 1,261, a response rate of 39 percent. There were only 49 refusals, a nine percent refusal rate.

This study, which began in January 2005, will inform policymakers, funders, and others about the importance and cost effectiveness of supportive housing in Illinois. The first interim report, The Snapshot of Supportive Housing Residents in Illinois, was released in January 2007. Next Fall, the second interim report will explore the cost and kind of services individuals accessed two years before they moved into supportive housing. In December 2008, the final study report will compare cost and type of public services used before and after moving into supportive housing.

The Chicago Community Trust has provided the lead funding for the Study of Supportive Housing in Illinois. Other funders include Michael Reese Health Trust, the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health, LaSalle Bank, Chase Bank, the Community Foundation of Northern Illinois, and Pfizer.

The following are some of the findings of the first interim report, profiling the 476 residents enrolled in the Study of Supportive Housing in Illinois.

Supportive Housing Resident Characteristics
(All discussion of supportive housing resident characteristics in this article refer to the 476 residents enrolled in the study.)

Fifty-four percent of supportive housing residents are male and 46 percent are female. A majority (70.1 percent) of residents are African American, and one quarter are White. The rest identify as Latino (3.4 percent), Asian (0.4 percent), and Other (0.8 percent). The average age of supportive housing residents is 46.4 years. A majority of residents (53.2 percent) were between the ages of 31 and 50 at the time of enrollment. More than four in ten residents report experiencing mental illness. Over one third report having a history of drug abuse and more than one third report having chronic physical health problems. Over one quarter report being physically disabled, and more than one in five has spent time in prison.

Chart 1: Age of Residents (n=476)

Table 1: Populations Represented (n=476)

(Continued on page 7)
The Wells Fargo Foundation
(formerly Norwest Foundation)
550 California St., 7th Fl.
San Francisco, CA 94104
Telephone: (415) 396-5947
URL: www.wellsfargo.com/donations
Additional address: 333 S. Grand Ave., E2064-200, Los Angeles, CA 90071, tel.: (888)886-1785

Contact: Timothy G. Hanlon, Pres.

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation.

Geographic focus: National

Total Giving: $65,007,124 (2005)

Purpose and activities: The Wells Fargo Housing Foundation supports organizations involved with job creation and job training, housing, human services, and economic development. The foundation supports programs designed to construct or rehabilitate homes for low- to moderate-income homebuyers; provide homebuyer education and counseling as well as post-purchase and foreclosure prevention counseling; and help low- to moderate-income homeowners make small home repairs or perform necessary upgrades. Fields of interest: Economic development; Education; Employment, services; Federated giving programs; Housing/shelter; Human services.

Types of support: Annual campaigns; Continuing support; Employee matching gifts; General/operating support; Program development.

Limitations: Giving primarily in areas of company operations; giving on a national basis for the Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. No support for religious organizations not of direct benefit to the entire community or fraternal organizations. No grants to individuals, or for conferences, tickets, or travel; no loans.

Application information: Initial approach: two copies of proposal to application address for Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. Deadline(s): February 1, May 1, August 1, and November 1 for Wells Fargo Housing Foundation. Final notification: three months for Wells Fargo Housing Foundation Application address for Wells Fargo Housing Foundation: Kimberly Jackson, Exec. Dir., Wells Fargo Housing Fdn., MACN9305-192, 90 S. 7th St., Minneapolis, MN 55479, tel.: (612) 667-2146

The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc.
P.O. Box 1074
Morehead City, NC 28557-1074
Telephone: (252) 240-2788
Application address: 4900 Raudall PKWY, STE H, Willington, NC 28403
Tel: (910) 397-7742
URL: www.sunshineladyfdn.org

Contact: Doris B. Buffett, Pres.

Type of Grantmaker: Independent foundation. Geographic Focus: National

Total Giving: $6,438,859 (2005)

Areas of Interest: Education; Family services, domestic violence; Health care; Higher education; Human services; Youth development.

Note: Although this grantmaker does not specifically identify issues of homelessness or housing as a focus, they have a history of giving to organizations with this focus and organizations located throughout Illinois. Types of support: Matching/challenge support; Program-related investments/loans; Scholarships—to individuals.

Limitations: Giving on a national basis. No grants for endowments or deficit funding.

Application information: Unsolicited requests for grants are not accepted. See foundation Web site for program application information. Organizations must be recommended by ‘sunbeams’, volunteers that are situated in various communities throughout the country. Emailing addresses for further information can be found at: www.sunshineladyfdn.org/contact.html.

Elizabeth S. Baker Trust
c/o Bank & Trust Co.
401 N. Madison, P. O. Box 410
Litchfield, IL 62056-1925
Telephone: (217)324-3935

Type of Grantmaker: Independent foundation. Geographic Focus: Illinois

Total Giving (2005): $129,700

Background: Established in 2000 in IL. Fields of interest: Education; Human services. Limitations: Giving primarily in Illinois. Application information: Application form required. Deadline(s): None NOTE: Human service giving has included giving in the area of family emergency funding.
Supportive Housing

(Continued from page 5)

Most supportive housing residents (96.2 percent) had some type of income at the time of enrollment. A majority of residents (64.3 percent) receive Food Stamps. Almost half (48.3 percent) receive some type of monthly disability income (SSI or SSDI). Over one third of residents receive Medicaid. Very few residents receive family income supports like TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) or child support. Over one in five residents were employed at the time of enrollment. A majority of the employed residents in the sample (59.3 percent) work part time.

Income and Supports of Supportive Housing Residents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Income Source</th>
<th>Percent of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Supplemental Security Income</td>
<td>34.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employment Income</td>
<td>21.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security Disability Insurance</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Public Assistance</td>
<td>7.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social Security</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran's Benefits</td>
<td>2.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary Assistance for Needy Families</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment Benefits</td>
<td>0.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Food Stamps</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicaid</td>
<td>38.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medicare</td>
<td>13.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Support</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Populations Represented (n=476)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Identifying With...</th>
<th>Percent of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mental Illness</td>
<td>49.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of drug-related problems/issue</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic physical health problems</td>
<td>35.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History of alcohol-related problems</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical disability</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formerly incarcerated</td>
<td>22.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Victimization of domestic violence</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Developmentally disabled</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Veteran</td>
<td>8.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living with HIV/AIDS</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Residency in Supportive Housing

At the time of enrollment, the average tenure in supportive housing was 5.7 years and ranged from one day of residency to 19 years of residency. Just over one quarter have resided in supportive housing for one year or less. More than seven out of ten residents have lived in supportive housing for more than a year.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Resident Tenure</th>
<th>Percent of Sample</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 1 month</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1-2 months</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-6 months</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7-12 months</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 months - 24 months</td>
<td>16.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25 months - 3 years</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 years - 5 years</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 years - 7 years</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 years - 10 years</td>
<td>5.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&gt; 10 years</td>
<td>3.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3: Resident Tenure (n=476)

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

Connection

(Continued from page 3)

When applying for benefits at other offices, ask for a receipt so you can prove you did what was required. Also you have to comply with the other benefit program requirements and participate in all interviews in order to get the other benefits. GA programs will not assist you if you are denied benefits due to not cooperating with the application process of other government agencies.

6. Watch for a written decision. Once all the required information is returned the local government unit determines eligibility. The GA office must provide a written notice of decision. If the benefit is denied, the notice includes the GA policy citation that supports the decision, as well as informs you of your right to appeal.

DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform

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@dupagefederation.org

Next month: Appeals

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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@csf.org
www.csh.org

Food Research and Action Center
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 540
Washington, D.C.  20009
Telephone: (202) 986-2200
Fax: (202) 986-2525
foodresearch@frac.org

Housing Action Illinois
11 E. Adams, Suite 1501
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-0704
Fax: (312) 939-0711
http://housingactionil.org

Housing Assistance Council
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 841-8800
Fax: (202) 347-3441
http://www.nationalhome.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.illinois.org

Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
1518 K Street, NW, Suite 206
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-4664
E-mail: mail@naeh.org
http://www.endhomelessness.org/

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 62701
Telephone: (217) 222-0027
E-mail: il@csf.org

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 206
Washington, D.C. 20009
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 to End Homelessness
Matthew Hanafee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3956
Oak Park, IL 60303-3950
Telephone: (708) 263-3590
Email: ILHomeless@aol.com

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) 393-3054
http://www.nrhweb.org

Rural Development
2118 W. Park Ct, Suite A
Champaign, IL 61821
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