On October 10, the House of Representatives passed H. R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007. The bill passed on a vote of 264-148, with 41 Republicans joining all Democrats in support of the bill. The bill was introduced on June 28 by House Committee on Financial Services Chair Barney Frank (D-MA) with 16 bipartisan co-sponsors.

House Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity Chair Maxine Waters (D-CA) said that the bill targets its resources where the need is the greatest. “It has been 17 years since the federal government last enacted a major housing program,” Mrs. Waters said. “The time has long since passed to enact another one.”

Representative Christopher Shays (R-CT), an original cosponsor to the bill, said “The construction of new housing is overdue. We cannot push the problem away. Without federal assistance, we’ll have a perpetual problem of people paying 50, 60, 70 percent of their incomes on housing.” This legislation, Mr. Shays said, “addresses the problem in a creative way” and that “the results will be directly and quickly realized in our communities.”

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA) issued a statement after the House passed the bill saying, “The bill will assist cities and states address the most urgent affordable housing needs in their communities while keeping our promise of fiscal responsibility to (Continued on page 4)

Building on its success in passing legislation to establish and fund a national housing trust fund out of the U. S. House of Representatives (see Memo, 10/12, 9/21, and 5/25), the National Housing Trust Fund Campaign has turned its attention to the U. S. Senate. A companion bill to H. R. 2895, the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund Act of 2007, has been drafted and is in circulation among Senators who are considering becoming original cosponsors.

The National Housing Trust Fund Campaign is committed to bipartisan co-sponsorship of the Senate bill at introduction, replicating the bipartisan support of the House bill. Housing advocates in key states are meeting and communicating with their Senators about the housing needs in their states, how the national housing trust fund would help, and requesting that they agree to be original cosponsors. The campaign expects to have a bill (Continued on page 4)


**Homeless Headlines**

**Working Families Housing Report**

A new working families report from the National Housing Conference finds that since the 1990s critical housing needs worsened in 27 of 31 metro areas. The Housing Landscape for America’s Working Families 2007, released on August 30, looks at the trend in severe housing cost burden and other critical housing problems over the past two decades utilizing the American Housing Survey (AHS). While a number of recent studies have looked at trends in the national data, this report stands out by emphasizing trends in the 31 metro areas surveyed as part of AHS, also comparing conditions in suburban and urban areas within these areas. Along with finding that conditions worsened in most areas surveyed, the report also indicates that the incidence of critical housing needs among working families was similar in suburban areas and the urban cores most often associated with housing problems.

As in past working families reports, data are presented for a variety of households but the focus is on working families, or households with at least one member working the equivalent of a full-time job and earning at least the annual minimum wage of $10,712, but no more than 120% of the median income in their area.

Along with a published report, the report’s website provides a summary of the key findings as well as metropolitan area rankings and profiles. The report can be found here: www.nhc.org/pdf/pub_landscape2007_08_07.pdf.

**Preserving Rural Rental Properties**

The Summer 2007 edition of Rural Voices, the Housing Assistance Council’s magazine, is devoted entirely to rural rental housing preservation successes and challenges. “More Than Housing At Stake” contains articles that review preservation policy, consider barriers and opportunities, report on USDA’s multifamily preservation initiative and summarize state preservation activities.


**Preventing Homelessness**

A number of articles on prevention of homelessness has been published in the August 2007 edition of the Journal of Primary Prevention. One article focuses on the role of discharge planning. Assessment and treatment, planning for discharge, and service coordination and integration are the three primary strategies outlined to help prevent homelessness among those with special needs leaving an institutional setting and returning to the community. This study also looks at innovative strategies used in various ten year plans and provides recommendations for future discharge planning strategies.

The full article and a range of other articles on preventing homelessness are available for download at: www.springerlink.com/content/p73365543k8m.
Be an Advocate to End Homelessness: Attend Housing Action Illinois’ Annual Meeting

Housing Action Illinois’ Annual Meeting provides an opportunity for education, advocacy, and networking. A significant amount of this year’s meeting will be focused on Housing Action’s efforts to increase state resources to end homelessness.

The Annual Meeting will be held between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. on Thursday, November 15 at the Abraham Lincoln Hotel, 701 E Adams Street in Springfield. The meeting is free to Housing Action Illinois members. Lunch will be provided.

At one morning session, “Be an Advocate to End Homelessness!” attendees will finalize Housing Action’s advocacy and organizing plan for the coming year to increase funding for the State Emergency Food and Shelter Program. Working with providers around the state, Housing Action was able to secure a 6% budget increase for the program in the fiscal year 2008 budget—the first increase in more than 5 years.

An afternoon session, “Your Role in our 2008 Advocacy Agenda”, will highlight the ways members and allies supported Housing Action’s work in 2007 and present opportunities to get involved in 2008.

In addition to the advocacy sessions, training sessions will be offered in the areas of housing development, and housing counseling.

Housing Action’s membership fees are on a sliding scale from $35 to $300 based on your organization’s budget and groups can always ask for a membership fee waiver.

More information is available at www.housingactionil.org. You can also contact Devin Ross at devin@housingactionil.org or (312) 939-6074 x 107.

Making the Connection

Public Benefits and Incarceration

Contributor: Kathryn Nelson

The authors of this column welcome your comments and questions. See contact information at the end of the article.

First of all I want to say how much I enjoyed being at this year’s Peer to Peer conference in Springfield. It was great having the opportunity to see many of you. While at the conference, I had the chance to attend a few of the consumer panels. One issue that was raised during the panels was the impact incarceration has on so many aspects of an individual’s life, and that often individuals continue to “serve time” after release through restrictive policies and limited access to services. I want to use the next few columns to discuss the impact incarceration has on public benefits, as well as to let you know about some initiatives targeted to ex-offenders.

Most of us are aware that when an individual is incarcerated, most public benefits are stopped. Following is what you can reasonably expect to happen, but remember there are always exceptions to every rule, so make sure you contact the agencies that issue the benefits whenever you are in doubt.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income

If your client is arrested and awaiting trial, regular Social Security benefits will not be stopped. These benefits usually continue until the individual is actually convicted, and will be incarcerated for more than 30 continuous days. The 30 day period can consist of partial months and cross over two calendar months. Since the benefits are only suspended, upon release, the benefits are able to be re-instated the month after the month of release. For example, John is released in October; benefits could be received as early as November. Restarting benefits can be facilitated through pre-release agreements between the area jail/prison and Social Security. With the pre-release process the re-instatement process can begin 30 days prior to the release. The pre-release agreements can be formal, or in formal. If a formal written agreement exists between the prison/jail Social Security is able to provide training as well as an internal contact to facilitate the re-instatement process. Note: benefits to dependents (Continued on page 6)
House Trust Fund

(Continued from page 1)

taxpayers with no new deficit spending.”

The White House issued a statement of administration policy on the bill on October 9, saying, “... if H. R. 2895 were presented to the President, his senior advisors would recommend that he veto the bill.” The statement called the national housing trust fund “largely redundant” of the HOME program, said that Federal Housing Administration (FHA) receipts being funneled into the trust fund had already been claimed and that the bill would create and “undue and counterproductive reliance on Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac by tying targeting requirements outlined above are met.

The House has already passed two funding sources for the housing trust fund, H. R. 1427, the Government Sponsored Entities (GSE) reform bill, and H. R. 1852, the Federal Housing Administration modernization bill. Together, these sources would pump about $800 million to $1 billion a year into the housing trust fund.

The National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF) Campaign reached this critical milestone because of the hard work of thousands of low income housing advocates to educate elected officials about the critical shortage of affordable housing for the lowest income people in our country. The strong bipartisan vote in the House provides great momentum going into the Senate. In the next few weeks, a bill very similar to H. R. 2895 is expected to be introduced in the Senate with bipartisan support.

The bill text and roll call votes for H.R. 2895 can be found here: http://thomas.loc.gov/

The White House statement of administration policy can be found here: www.whitehouse.gov/omb/legislative/sap/110-1/hr2895sap-r.pdf

Speaker Pelosi’s statement can be found here: http://speaker.house.gov/newsroom/pressreleases?id=0362

The Financial Services Committee press release and information on the bill can be found here: www.house.gov/apps/list/press/financialsvcs_dem/press1010072.shtml

The NHTF Campaign/NLIHC’s press release on House passage can be found here: www.nlihc.org/detail/article.cfm?article_id=4628&id=61

More information can be found at www.nhtf.org or by contacting the National Low Income Housing coalition at the address in Headlines Directory.
Incarceration
(Continued from page 3)

are not be affected by incarceration of the primary wage earner.

When incarcerated, SSI benefits are suspended if incarceration (even while pending trial and not yet convicted) is less than one year, and terminated if incarcerated for over a year. If the benefits are suspended, they can usually be re-instated the month after the month of release. Prior to restarting benefits, Social Security will need to assess the individual’s financial status to ensure he remains income and asset eligible. (Remember SSI is a needs based program, which is why the financial reassessment has to be done.) If the SSI benefits have been terminated, the process can take a few months. Either way, it is best to have established a pre-release process. In instances benefits are terminated, this process will allow the inmate to begin to plan to reapply for SSI a few months before the planned release date.

Medicare

While incarcerated, Medicare Part A continues, however, to keep the supplemental programs (Part B or D), the inmate needs to continue paying the premiums that are charged. Since the premiums are typically deducted from the monthly benefit, and the benefit is suspended or terminated, the inmate will need to contact Social Security to set up a payment plan. If he does not do this, or he is not able to make the payments, Part B and D will terminate. If coverage ends due to premiums not being paid, re-enrollment can only occur at the next General Enrollment Period which is January through March each year. At the time of enrollment any unpaid past-due premiums have to be paid (so if incarceration is for 2 years, and the inmate is released in September, he has to wait to January to enroll and when he

Key Findings:

- Housing agencies began recently to assist more low-income families, reversing somewhat the loss of 150,000 Section 8 vouchers during 2004-2006.

- The President’s budget for fiscal year 2008 would fail to renew 80,000 housing vouchers likely to be used by families in 2007, and the House appropriations bill would fail to renew 55,000 vouchers. In contrast, the Senate bill would fund all vouchers in use in 2007.

- The potential cuts under the House bill are due primarily to the less efficient formula it uses to allocate voucher funding among housing agencies, which fails to account for recent increases in voucher use. The House bill also provides less funding for vouchers than the Senate bill. Both bills provide more than the President.

- Because the House bill does not fully fund its voucher formula, agencies would receive a pro rata reduction in renewal funding of about 3 percent. As a result, agency funding would be insufficient to keep pace with inflation in rents and utility costs, and one-quarter of agencies would receive less funding in 2008 than in 2007.

- The Senate funding formula is more cost-effective: for every given dollar of renewal funding allocated by Congress, the Senate formula would renew more vouchers than the formula prescribed by the House bill. The Senate bill also would encourage agencies to use available funds to assist more families. In contrast, the House bill would adversely affect agencies that improved their performance in 2007 and discourage agencies from performing better in 2008.

A summary of the report and the full report can be accessed at www.cbpp.org/9-28-07hous.htm

For further information, contact the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities or the National Alliance To End Homelessness at the addresses in Headlines Directory.
Incarceration  
(Continued from page 5)
enrolls, he will owe premiums for the past 2 years 4 months)

If the Medicare card is lost the inmate can call 1-800-772-1213 to request a letter showing proof of coverage until the card can be replaced. To apply for a new one, the individual can do this at www.ssa.gov and a new card will be sent in 30 days.

VA Benefits

Benefits are not reduced if a veteran receiving Veterans Compensation (a benefit which is based on injury that occurred while in service), is convicted of a misdemeanor. If the veteran is convicted of a felony, he continues to receive full benefits for up 60 days after conviction, an on the 61st day of incarceration benefits are reduced. If the benefit was based on a rating above 10%, the benefit is reduced to the 10% amount. If the rating was 10% the payment will be half the benefit for a full 10% rating. A reduced benefit amount is paid if convicted of a felony or the incarceration will exceed 12 months. If family benefits are being issued, the benefit can continue to be received by the family. A request needs to be made to the VA to have the compensation apportioned for the family members.

If the veteran is receiving a Veterans Pension benefit, which is based on a disability that is not service connected, and is convicted either of a felony or misdemeanor, the benefit terminates after 60 days of incarceration. Dependents are able to request that the pension benefit be apportioned to meet their needs if the veteran is incarcerated.

Compensation or pension benefits can be resumed effective the date of release from incarceration, as long as the Department of Veterans Affairs is notified of the release within at least 1 year following the release. If the request to re-instate is received after 1 year, benefits are issued from the date of the application. The VA may need to do a disability review to assess if the disability has improved.

VA medical coverage does not end when a veteran is incarcerated, however, the VA does not provide care to the inmate during the incarceration. Once the inmate is released, he is immediately eligible. He needs to contact the VA health facility he will use once released. In addition the VA has a program called Healthcare for the Reentry of Veterans (HCRV) and liaisons are being established to work with incarcerated veterans. If you want to find out who the representative is for your area, go to www1.va.gov/homeless/page.cfm?pg=39. Services include:

- Outreach and pre-release assessments services
- Referrals and linkages to medical, psychiatric, and social services, including employment services
- Short term case management assistance

State Benefits

If an individual is receiving state issued benefits (Food Stamps, TANF, Medicaid, cash help as Aged, Blind or disabled),

- Benefits will stop if incarcerated on the first day of the fiscal month and the incarceration continues through the last day of the fiscal month
- Continue will continue for the month, if the inmate is eligible on the first day of the fiscal month.

Note: a Fiscal Month is not a calendar month. If an individual is receiving medical, or cash due to being Aged, Blind or Disabled (AABD) the fiscal month is the 1st through the last day of month. If the person is receiving TANF or Food Stamps and his last name begins with an A through GH the fiscal month is 1st through the last day of the month, and if GI through Z the fiscal month is the 16th through 15th of next month. Here is an example of what this means: Mary Z., who receives TANF is picked up and incarcerated for shoplifting on November 18th. Mary is held until December 14th when her family is able to post bond. Since Mary was not incarcerated on the 16th (the first day of her fiscal month), and she is released before the 16th of the next month, her TANF benefit should not be stopped or reduced.

The Illinois Department of Corrections has established a pre-release protocol with IDHS and will help to file applications for benefits up 30 days prior to release. Jails can also work with the area local office to establish agreements with each local office to facilitate applications at discharge.

Next: Identity Verification, Crimes that limit benefit access, and Expungement

Source for this article: Serious Medical and Mental Illness, Incarceration, and Federal Disability Entitlement Programs, July 2005, Marilyn Moses, National Institute of Justice and IDHS PM 03-23-01

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.
Doris & Victor Day Foundation, Inc.

1705 2nd Ave., Ste. 424
Rock Island, IL 61201-8718

Telephone: (309) 788-2300
Contact: Alan L. Egly, Exec. Dir.
E-mail: day.rauch@sbcglobal.net
URL: http://www.dayfoundation.org

Type of Grantmaker: Independent foundation.
Total Giving (2006): $703,501

Fields of Interest: Children/youth, services; Education; Employment, services; Employment, training; Health organizations; Homeless; Homeless, human services; Human services; Israel; Mental health/crisis services; Public affairs. Geographic Focus: Illinois and New York. Types of Support: Building/renovation; Emergency funds; Equipment; General/operating support; Program development; Seed money. Limitations: Giving primarily in Chicago, Illinois.

Application Information: Letter of inquiry form and application guidelines available on foundation Web site. (If organization’s goals are within the foundation’s guidelines, a letter of inquiry may be submitted online or by mail). All requests for funding from outside the City of Chicago are by invitation only. Application form required. Applicants should submit the following: 1) statement of problem project will address; 2) name, address and phone number of organization; 3) copy of IRS Determination Letter; 4) brief history of organization and description of its mission; 5) copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990; 6) detailed description of project and amount of funding requested; 7) contact person; 8) copy of current year’s organizational budget and/or project budget; 9) staff salaries; 10) additional materials/documentation

Initial approach: Brief letter of inquiry, online preferred. Copies of proposal: 1 Board meeting date(s): April/May and October/November Deadline(s): Submit proposal preferably in March or August; deadlines April 1 and September 1. Final notification: Within 2 months.

Irvin Stern Foundation

25 W. Hubbard St., 4th Fl.
Chicago, IL 60610-8172
Telephone: (312) 321-9402
Contact: Christine Flood, Grants Admin.
E-mail: christine@irvinstern.org
URL: http://www.irvinstern.org

Type of Grantmaker: Independent Foundation
Total Giving (2006): $910,500

Areas of Interest: Community/economic development; Education; Food services; Homeless, human services; Human services; Israel; Mental health/crisis services; Public affairs. Geographic Focus: Illinois and Iowa. Types of Support: Building/renovation; Emergency funds; Equipment; General/operating support; Program development; Seed money. Limitations: Giving primarily in Chicago, Illinois.

Application Information: Letter of inquiry form and application guidelines available on foundation Web site. (If organization’s goals are within the foundation’s guidelines, a letter of inquiry may be submitted online or by mail). All requests for funding from outside the City of Chicago are by invitation only. Application form required. Applicants should submit the following: 1) statement of problem project will address; 2) name, address and phone number of organization; 3) copy of IRS Determination Letter; 4) brief history of organization and description of its mission; 5) copy of most recent annual report/audited financial statement/990; 6) detailed description of project and amount of funding requested; 7) contact person; 8) copy of current year’s organizational budget and/or project budget; 9) staff salaries; 10) additional materials/documentation

Initial approach: Brief letter of inquiry, online preferred. Copies of proposal: 1 Board meeting date(s): April/May and October/November Deadline(s): Submit proposal preferably in March or August; deadlines April 1 and September 1. Final notification: Within 2 months.

Homeless Headlines

Woodward Governor Company Charitable Trust

5001 N. 2nd St.
Rockford, IL 61125-7001
Contact: Pam Johnson, Chair., Contribs. Comm.

Type of Grantmaker: Company-sponsored foundation.
Total Giving (2006): $902,925

Areas of Interest: Adult education—literacy, basic skills & GED; Arts; Children/youth, services; Community/economic development; Crime/violence prevention, youth; Disabilities, people with; Economically disadvantaged; Education; Education, reading; Food services; Health care; Homeless; Homeless, human services; Housing/shelter; Human services; Minorities; Minorities/immigrants, centers/services; Residential/custodial care, hospices; Vocational education. Geographic Focus: Colorado; Illinois; Wisconsin. Types of Support: Annual campaigns; Capital campaigns; Continuing support; Emergency funds; Equipment; General/operating support; Seed money. Limitations: Giving primarily in areas of company operations, with emphasis on Fort Collins, Colorado, Rockford, Illinois, and Stevens Point, Wisconsin. No grants to individuals, or for endowments, research, scholarships, fellowships, special projects, publications, or conferences; no loans; no matching gifts. Application information: Application form required. Applicants should submit the following: Application form not required. Applicants should submit the following: 1) copy of IRS Determination Letter; 2) detailed description of project and amount of funding requested Initial approach: Proposal; Proposal copies: 1; Board meeting date(s): As required Deadline(s): March or July is preferred; Final notification: 8 weeks

Headlines Directory

Center for Community Change
1536 U Street NW
Washington, DC 20009
Telephone: (202) 339-9380
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: (202) 339-9300
http://www.cbpp.org

Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities
300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 522-7016
Fax: (217) 522-7024
http://enteract.com/~cch/index.htm

Corporation for Supportive Housing
203 N. Wabash, Suite 410
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 332-6690
Fax: (312) 332-7040
Email: IL@حضار.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 60601
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
http://housingactionil.org

Housing Assistance Council
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 842-8600
Fax: (202) 347-3441
http://www.ruralhome.org

Illinois Coalition to End Homelessness
Matthew Hanafee, Executive Director
P.O. Box 3956
Oak Park, IL 60306-3956
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 E. Adams, CP6-3
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone (217) 785-6142
Fax: (217) 782-1206
http://www.commerce.state.il.us/

Illinois Department of Human Services
Homeless Services and Supportive Housing
400 W. Lawrence, 2C
Chicago, IL 60660
Telephone: (312) 836-5286
Fax: (312) 836-5222
http://www.hdsa.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 410
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-4646
E-mail: nchv@nchv.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 Homeless Providers
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 546-1969
Fax: (202) 546-2063
E-mail: info@nchp.org
http://www.nchp.org/home.html

National Coalition to End Homelessness
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3406
Telephone: (202) 737-6444
Fax: (202) 737-6445
http://nch.ari.net/

National Community Reinvestment Coalition
1012 14th Street NW, Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005-3406
Telephone: (202) 737-6444
Fax: (202) 737-6445
http://nch.ari.net/

National Law-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) 393-3229
Fax: (202) 393-3054
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 60637
Telephone: (773) 588-0827
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/chis/chihome.html