Williamson County Family Crisis Center

Our Mission: To provide safe temporary shelter to the homeless and be a support for those families and individuals who need the help and guidance which the homeless shelter provides.

Organizational Overview

The Williamson County Family Crisis Center was established in 1985 out of a grassroots effort to provide shelter and services to families and individuals in need. Although the shelter has grown and expanded over the years, our mission and goals have remained the same: Keep families together.

Our Current location in Herrin was donated, as was the land, by the City of Herrin. With donations from The Harrison Foundation and the community, the former boarding house was moved across town and renovated to provide eight bedrooms (including a bedroom for the disabled) which can house 22 adults.

Toddler beds and cribs are also available for children and infants. The house has two bathrooms, both of which contain two showers and two lavatories, and one is handicapped accessible. The shelter also has a fully equipped kitchen, a dining area, laundry facilities, a classroom with a computer, an art center, a play room for the children, and an area for adult residents to meet privately with caseworkers. The day-to-day operations of the Center are guided by the Executive Director and six staff.

U.S. Debt Deal and Appropriations: Next Steps

President Barack Obama signed S. 365, the Budget Control Act of 2011, into law on August 2. The bill allows the United States to raise its debt ceiling and avoid default on its debts while establishing requirements for massive spending cuts over the next decade. The House passed the bill by a vote of 269 to 161, the Senate by 74 to 26. Both votes had bipartisan support and bipartisan opposition.

The new law, Public Law 112-25, establishes discretionary spending limits for each of the next ten fiscal years, from FY12 through FY21. Together, these caps are supposed to reduce the federal deficit by $917 billion. All HUD and USDA low income housing programs are on the discretionary side of the federal budget; none are entitlements. The law requires cuts of $21 billion for FY12, which begins October 1, 2011, compared to FY11 across all discretionary spending. Annual savings achieved by the new spending limits ramp up dramatically.

(Continued on page 4)
The House Committee on Appropriations is expected to revise its subcommittee allocations to achieve this level of cuts. The House had issued subcommittee allocations based on its own budget resolution, but most subcommittees, including the one on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies (T-HUD), have not yet marked up individual spending bills in anticipation of the debt ceiling deal setting new goals.

The House’s T-HUD subcommittee allocation, referred to as the 302b allocation, was 36 percent below the President’s FY12 request and 14 percent below the total FY11 appropriation for the T-HUD subcommittee. The discretionary spending caps in the deficit deal for FY12 are also expected to result in significant cuts compared to FY11 funding levels.

The Senate has not passed a budget resolution nor issued 302b allocations to its 12 appropriations subcommittees. Now, subcommittee allocations based on the debt ceiling’s caps are expected in September. Given the tight timeframe, it is likely a continuing resolution (CR) or a series of CRs will be needed to fund federal programs after the October 1, the start of the next fiscal year FY12, because Congress is not expected to be able to enact all its funding bills before then.

In addition to ten years of spending caps on discretionary programs, the bill establishes the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction, a “super committee” of 12 Members of Congress, equally divided between majority and minority parties in the Senate and House. Co-chairs of the committee will be appointed by the Senate majority leader and the Speaker of the House. All members of this joint committee are to be appointed by August 16.

The goal for this committee is to reduce the federal deficit by an additional $1.5 trillion over the next ten years. The committee must vote on its deficit reduction recommendations by November 23, the day before Thanksgiving. The debt deal establishes protocol for House and Senate consideration of the committee’s recommendations, to which no amendments can be made. Both the House and Senate must vote on the joint committee’s recommendations by December 23, the Friday before Christmas. The joint committee is to consider all ways to reduce the deficit, including raising revenues and cuts to entitlement programs, as well as additional discretionary spending limits.

If the joint committee’s recommendations are enacted or Congress sends a constitutional balanced budget amendment to the states, the President could then seek an additional $1.5 trillion increase in the debt ceiling. The act requires the House and Senate to hold votes on the joint resolution for a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by December 31.

If the joint committee fails to achieve at least $1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over the next ten years, or does not send a balanced budget amendment to the states by January 15, a sequestration process must be implemented for FY13 to FY21, beginning in January 2013. Sequestration in this case means across-the-board spending cuts.
Shelter Diversion to Reduce Homelessness

Diversion is a strategy that prevents homelessness for people seeking shelter by helping them identify immediate alternate housing arrangements and, if necessary, connecting them with services and financial assistance to help them return to permanent housing. Diversion programs can reduce the number of families becoming homeless, the demand for shelter beds, and the size of program wait lists. Diversion programs can also help communities achieve better outcomes and be more competitive when applying for federal funding.

The National Alliance To End Homelessness Center for Capacity Building has published a new paper, “Closing the Front Door: Creating a Successful Diversion Program for Homeless Families.” The paper explores how shelter diversion enables communities to reduce new entries into their homeless assistance system and use their available shelter beds more effectively. The paper describes how communities can begin diverting families from entering their homeless assistance systems. It provides information on the key elements of diversion programs, describes how to measure progress, and highlights communities using the model successfully.

The paper is part of a series. An excerpt, and the full paper can be accessed at: www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/4155

Permanent Supportive Housing Tool

On August 10, the National Alliance To End Homelessness released a new advocacy tool, “Helping Chronically Homeless People Avoid High-Cost Health Care,” designed for health policy audiences at all levels of government. This brief succinctly makes the case that permanent supportive housing should be part of health care solutions, especially where public resources are strained caring for chronically and highly vulnerable homeless people.

Designed as a handout for policymakers and interested stakeholders, this brief can serve as a starting point to tailor messages about the relationship between permanent supportive housing and health care for audiences outside the homelessness arena.

The brief can be downloaded at www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/4148

Making the Connection

Changes of All Kids

By Kathryn Nelson

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

As you all know July 1, 2011 often brings many changes to public benefit programs due to laws that are passed in the spring legislative session. Following is a quick summary of some of these changes and the impact it has on All Kids benefits:

- Effective July 1, 2011, the All Kids program now has an income limit of 300% of the federal poverty level (FPL).

Any new applications for All Kids filed after July 1, 2011 where the countable family income is over 300% FPL will be denied. If the child has a high cost medical condition, the parent can contact the local IDHS Family Community Resource Center to apply for Family Health Spenddown coverage. This will not be as affordable as the All Kids benefit, but could still ensure the child has medical coverage. The All Kids Unit provides this information in the denial letter they send, but you also need to make sure that if the family is trying to backdate medical coverage that the application has to be turned into the FCRC within 3 months of the bill. The application that is completed and sent to the All Kids Unit does not count.

If any of the families you work with are already enrolled in All Kids Premium 3-8, benefits will continue until the next redetermination, and at that time if income is over the case will be closed. Letters are being sent to families to tell them of this new policy. All cases with the higher income will close by June 30, 2012. Children can still be added to active All Kids Premium 3-8 cases. If you know a family who has been affected by this change, and their income is reduced, make sure they report the change and provide proof of the new income immediately to the

(Continued on page 6)
members, three of which have faced and overcome homelessness in their past.

The Williamson County Family Crisis Center provides both direct and indirect support, including: case management, adult education resources, employment resources, budget assistance, legal services referrals, food and nutrition training, children’s services, long-term housing referrals, rental listings, counseling and mental health referrals, clothing, household goods, and limited bus transportation. All services are provided free of charge. Williamson County Family Crisis Center is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Besides residents at the emergency shelter, the staff also works with call-in and walk-in clients to assist them in securing the services they require. Acting in a resource capacity, the Family Crisis Center is able to supply access to services quickly and efficiently, thus helping to prevent future homelessness. By way of these services, the Williamson County Family Crisis Center assists over 1500 people in need a year.

Two facts have remained constant for the Williamson County Family Crisis Center:

- The facility is at its maximum capacity 95 percent of the time, and
- The shelter must turn away between two and three times the number it is able to house in a given year.

With unwavering demand for the Family Crisis Center services, the shelter is an essential part of the Williamson County community. The Crisis Center is unique in that unlike other shelters in the region, for the last quarter of a century its main focus is keeping a family unit facing homelessness together and functioning as a unit allowing enough time for them to succeed.

Although there are other area shelters such as Anna Bixby in Harrisburg and The Women’s Center in Carbondale, they are for abused women and their children. The only other shelters in the area that accept older boys with their mothers, and men is The Good Samaritan House in Carbondale and the Lighthouse shelter in Marion. However, Opportunity, Illinois Department of Human Services, the United Way (Marion, Herrin and Franklin County), and donations from area churches, organizations, and individuals.

The financial status of the State of Illinois as well as the Federal Government has caused concern that these funding sources may not continue. Some Requests for Proposals have not been issued and other sources have contracts with reduced funding and shorter grant periods.

Because of these concerns, the Center is shifting it’s funding emphasis to private sources. A web site is available with donation options for those wishing to donate, www.familycrisiscenterherrin.org.

**Program Descriptions**

The overall goal of the Williamson County Family Crisis Center is to assist individuals and families facing homelessness in becoming independent, stable, and self-sufficient. In order to achieve these goals, the shelter provides its residents not only with safe housing, but also with life skills training, personalized case management, tailored goals and financial management.

Upon arrival at the Center, potential residents meet with an on-duty staff member and present information concerning their family, employment, income and special needs. Following intake, the clients are read the shelter rules, which include responsibilities of the participants, benefits they will receive as clients, confidentiality, objectivity and equality policies, as well as grievance procedures.

Upon agreement, the new residents are shown around the facility and introduced to various items and services immediately available to them, including food, phones, clothing, and toiletries. The family is then shown to
Family Crisis Center
(Continued from page 3)

their private room, where prepared beds and towels await.

All of the services, provided free of charge by the shelter, are designed to keep families intact and functioning as a unit. During a stay at the shelter, clients are provided access to a kitchen stocked with food which has been collected from government commodities, food banks, and private donations. Families prepare their own meals and may use their LINK card to supplement the food provided. This system not only permits families to choose their meals, but allows them to keep their food allotment in place and save as much as possible to use when they reestablish independent housing.

In addition to making meals, residents are responsible for keeping their area clean as well as contributing to the cleanliness of the entire shelter. The mandatory chores and volunteer hours, which may include mowing the lawn, vacuuming, sweeping the sidewalk, taking out the trash, or dusting, is the client’s ‘payment’ to the center. These housekeeping contributions keep the shelter functioning smoothly while providing residents with tasks to keep them engaged.

In the course of their stay at the shelter, clients are taught how to interact with and assist case workers, how to fill out forms and applications, and how to determine what actions and measures they need to take in order to help them avoid future emergency situations. Throughout their days or weeks at the Center, residents participate in a number of required activities to assist them on their path to independence. Families and individuals are required to attend weekly case management meetings to establish goals and evaluate progress. The case manager discusses the client’s goals and helps determine the calls and/or visits that need to be made in order to request services, locate housing, and/or search for a job prior to the next meeting. The sessions stress growth and forward progress and emphasize the Center’s “You Can Do It!” motto.

The Family Crisis Center is also a referral agency. As a member of the Southern Illinois Continuum of Care network, a group which works to evaluate the needs of the homeless in the area and find the best way to provide support and housing, the Crisis Center staff works closely with continuum agencies to ensure easy access to the services clients need. Additionally, clients have access to a variety of health related services including, immunizations, HIV testing, and WIC. With help from other linkages, the emergency shelter is also able to provide legal services referrals, children’s services, tutoring, adult education information and testing, rental listings, and transportation.

As a temporary facility, the shelter allows residents who follow the shelter rules and regulations to stay up to thirty days. However, if they are actively looking for work and housing and are unable to succeed in one month, they may stay longer.

In addition to the emergency shelter, the Crisis Center also has five low-income permanent housing units. The Center’s affordable apartment building contains three one-bedroom units and two two-bedroom units, all of which are rented at less than half of the fair market rent for the area. These are permanent, non-supportive units for low income individuals/families. We try to rent to families leaving the shelter, but because they are permanent units they don’t open often. Families stay a long time because so many jobs in the area do not pay a living wage. The emergency shelter combined with the low-income independent housing, complement each other by providing needed services and allowing for progressive development.

Conclusion

The Williamson County Family Crisis Center provides vital services to homeless families and individuals. Each service offered through the Crisis Center addresses complex issues that are often, in part, responsible for a family becoming homeless. Through referrals and direct support, the Crisis Center helps individuals help themselves in obtaining an independent and self-sufficient lifestyle.

For further information, contact Peggy Russell at homeless@mchsi.com
**Appropriations**  
*(Continued from page 2)*

If the joint committee achieves only some portion of the $1.2 trillion savings, the sequestration process would make up the difference, up to the $1.2 trillion mark.

These across-the-board cuts would have to be equally divided among non-security and security programs, including discretionary and entitlement spending. According to a summary of the act by Speaker of the House John Boehner (R-OH), this deal differs from previous debt deal proposals. “The one difference between this and [the earlier, House-passed bill]: the House bill had a firewall that separated defense from non-defense spending. Now the firewall separates security spending from non-security spending. This would be for FY12 and FY13, and allows Republicans to protect defense funding while cutting other security spending, such as foreign aid,” the summary says.

The act’s sequestration protocols would protect certain programs from across-the-board cuts, including Social Security, Medicaid, Children’s Health Insurance Program, SNAP (food stamps), child nutrition programs, Supplemental Security Income, refundable tax credits such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, veterans’ benefits, and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.

An August 4 paper from the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that a non-defense sequestration of $55 billion, which the bill would require between FY13 and FY21, would result in cuts of approximately 9 percent in non-exempt entitlement and discretionary programs.


---

**All Kids**  
*(Continued from page 3)*

All Kids Unit so the records can be changed. If income increases, eligibility will continue until the end of the enrollment period.

Prior to July 1, 2011, if a family did not timely pay their All Kids premium, the All Kids case would be cancelled for a full 3 months. A new state law eliminates the 3-month ineligibility period for families who had unpaid premiums. If the family makes sure the past due premiums are received by the end of the month the case was cancelled, the state can restart benefits without the family having to complete an all new application or have a penalty wait period.

As you may be aware families can apply for All Kids through either their local IDHS Family Community Resource Center (FCRC) or through the All Kids Unit in Springfield. As of August 1, 2011 when a family applies for All Kids at the FCRC the income of the stepparent will now be used to when eligibility is determined for undocumented noncitizen children in the home. In mixed status families, where some of the children are documented and some are undocumented, this could create some confusion, since this change can result in the documented or U.S. citizen children being eligible for different medical coverage from their sibling. The All Kids Unit will continue to use the stepparent’s income when determining eligibility for all children in the home, regardless of their citizenship or immigrant status and All Kids program.

**Example:** An All Kids application is completed for the W family; Mr. W (stepparent), Mrs. W (parent), Mrs. W’s daughter Liz and son Ivan. Liz is an undocumented noncitizen. Ivan is a U.S. citizen. The family income consists of Mr. W’s gross earnings of $2,200 per month and Mrs. W’s gross earnings of $490 per month. The W family’s countable income is $2,510 (after a $180 employment deduction is given). The $2,510 is more than the All Kids Assist Standard of $2,477 but less than the All Kids Share Standard of $2,794. Since the children are not eligible for All Kids Assist due to the combined income of the parent and stepparent, the FCRC then determines Assist eligibility for Ivan separately. Since Mr. W is not Ivan’s father his income is now no longer considered and Ivan is eligible for All Kids Assist (medical coverage with no premium costs). Liz is enrolled in All Kids Share since both the parent and stepparent income is used to decide the benefits she can receive.

If you want to read the full text of these policy changes go to [www.dhs.state.il.us](http://www.dhs.state.il.us) and then link to the section that says Cash, SNAP and Medical Manual.

*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. Center for Governmental Studies. Questions can be directed to knelson@...
Homeless Headlines

Funding Resources
Source: Foundation Center Online http://fconline.foundationcenter.org/

William T. Kemper Foundation
c/o Commerce Bank
118 W. 47th St.
Kansas City, MO 64112-1692
Telephone: (816) 234-2568

Type of Grantmaker: Independent foundation
Limitations: Giving primarily in the Midwest with emphasis on MO
and surrounding areas. No support for private foundations or for politically partisan purposes. No grants to individuals, or for tickets for dinners, benefits, exhibits, sports and other event activities, advertisements, endowment funds, or fundraising activities.

Financial Data: (Year ended 10/31/09):
Total giving: $13,569,389
Giving activities include: $13,569,389 for 375 grants (high: $1,000,000; low: $500; average: $5,000-$100,000)
Number of Staff: 7 shared staff (shared with The Commerce Bancshares Foundation, David Woods Kemper Memorial Foundation, Oppenstein Brothers Foundation, Richard J. Stern Foundation for the Arts, Norman J. Stupp Foundation)

Purpose and Activities: Giving primarily for education, health, human services, civic improvements and the arts.

Fields of Interest: Community/ economic development; Education; Health care; Human services.

Types of Support: Annual campaigns; Building/renovation; Capital campaigns; Conferences/ seminars; Continuing support; Curriculum development; Equipment; General/operating support; Program development; Seed money;

Technical assistance. Application Information: Guidelines available upon request. Application form not required. Initial approach: Proposal with proof of nonprofit status. Copies of proposal: One. Board meeting date(s): Quarterly. Deadline(s): Three weeks before board meetings. Final notification: two to four months. Additional information: A grant of longer than one year is conditional, based on review and evaluation of the contributions committee. Recipients will be asked to submit periodic written progress reports. The recipient must submit a written narrative report and an accounting of all disbursements on an annual basis.

The Joyce Foundation
70 W. Madison St., Ste. 2750
Chicago, IL 60602-4344
Telephone: (312) 782-2464
Contact: Prog. Staff
Fax: (312) 782-4160
E-mail: info@joycefdn.org
URL: www.joycefdn.org
Type of Grantmaker
Independent foundation

Limitations: Giving primarily in the Great Lakes region, including IL, IN, MI, MN, OH, and WI; No support for religious activities, or for political organizations. No grants for endowment campaigns, scholarships, direct service programs, or capital proposals.

Financial Data: (Year ended 12/31/09):
Total giving: $36,046,443
Giving activities include: $36,046,443 for grants
Staff: 14 full-time professional, 1 part-time professional, 9 full-time support

Purpose and Activities: The foundation supports efforts to reform the system of financing election campaigns.

Fields of Interest: Crime/violence prevention, gun control; Education; Employment; Environment; Public affairs, finance; Public affairs, political organizations. Types of Support: Conferences/seminars; Continuing support; Employee matching gifts; General/operating support; Program development; Program evaluation;

Application Information: Program policy and grant proposal guidelines reviewed annually in December. Proposals in all program areas will be considered at each board meeting. Applicants are encouraged to submit their proposals for the April or July meeting, since most grant funds will be distributed at those times. Proposal cover sheet available on foundation Web site. Online proposals will not be considered. Application form required. Initial approach: Contact foundation for application guidelines prior to submitting two to 3 page letter of inquiry. Copies of proposal: One. Board meeting date(s): April, July, and December. Deadline(s): Letter of inquiry required at least six to eight weeks before proposal deadlines. For formal proposals: December 11 (for April meeting); April 16 (for July meeting); Aug. 15 (for December meeting). Final notification: 2 weeks after meeting.