Congress Releases Details of FY 2011 Budget Deal

On the evening of April 11, congressional leaders released the details of its final fiscal year (FY) 2011 funding bill. The legislation included a total of about $40 billion in cuts compared to FY 2010. Despite these cuts, it includes funding for a number of key programs related to affordable housing and homelessness, including:

- $1.905 billion for HUD’s McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program, a $40 million increase over FY 2010;
- $50 million for new HUD - VA Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program vouchers to house an estimated 7,690 additional homeless veterans;
- No funding for Housing and Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration vouchers;

(Continued on page 6)

Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities

This program provides funding for the development and operation of supportive housing for very low-income persons with disabilities who are at least 18 years old. The application deadline is June 23, 2011.

To view a synopsis with a link to the full announcement and the application, go to www.grants.gov/search/basic.do and search for Funding Opportunity number FR-5415-N-39.

For further funding announcements, see pages 6 and 7.
HUD Report:
Disability Among Households with Worst Case Needs

In 2009, 2.6 million very low income renter households had at least one non-elderly person with a disability. Nearly one million of these households (978,000) had severe housing problems and did not receive any housing assistance, HUD’s definition of households with “worst case housing needs.” These are the findings from a report released on March 24, which is itself a supplement to the 2009 Worst Case Housing Needs report released February 1 (Homeless Headlines – February 2011).

The supplemental report finds that renter households with a disabled member are more vulnerable than non-disabled households to housing problems such as severe rent burden (34 vs. 24), severely inadequate housing (4 vs. 3), and crowding, defined as more than 1 person per room (5 vs. 4). This is in part because households with disabilities have much lower incomes. Related to this, disabled households are more than two times more likely to receive rental assistance than non-disabled households, and even among very low income households they are nearly twice as likely to receive assistance. Still, together the Worst Case Needs and supplemental reports both find that nearly a third of worst case needs households are likely to have at least one member with a physical or mental limitation.

This report is the first from HUD to use a set of six new questions from the American Housing Survey (AHS), the basis of the Worst Case Housing Needs reports, to determine disability. The new questions ask respondents directly about disabilities in the household. Previously, the report used a proxy based on a household’s receipt of assistance where eligibility was associated with disability such Supplemental Security Income (SSI). Comparisons to estimates in previous years based on this proxy suggest that while the incidence of worst case needs among disabled households increased from 2007 to 2009, the rate of increase (13) was slower than in the very low income renter population as a whole where the increase in the worst case needs population was 20 over the same time period.

(Continued on page 6)
**Homeless Headlines**

**Dynamics of Poverty, 2004-2006**


Although the report does not break down the data regionally, by state, or locally it does give some useful perspective on the current national debate over federal spending priorities. It should be noted that these data pre-date the current recession.

A comparison of poverty rates measured at varying intervals provides a complex picture of poverty. For most people who entered poverty, it was a transitory state rather than a permanent state and most poverty spells were short. During the 36 months from January 2004 to December 2006, 28.9 percent of people experienced at least 1 poverty spell lasting at least 2 months (episodic poverty). About 2.8 percent of people had a poverty spell which lasted the full time period (chronic poverty). Almost half of all spells ended by 4 months. However, among the people categorized as in a poverty spell at the beginning of the 2004 Panel, almost 25 percent of people continued in poverty for the entire 36 months studied. Most poverty spells were short, but 12.4 percent poverty spells lasted more than 2 years.

The pattern of poverty by race and Hispanic origin and age varied depending on the measure used. The episodic poverty rate for Blacks was not statistically different from the episodic poverty rate for Hispanics, but Blacks had a lower (Continued on page 6)

**Making the Connection**

**Crime Victims Compensation Act**

*By Kathryn Nelson*

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

Often many of people come to your agencies reporting they have a medical or fiscal crisis. After discussion you learn the crisis was caused by their being a victim of a violent crime. If this is the case the person may be able to get some financial help through the Crime Victims Compensation Act.

The Crime Victim Compensation Act was established in 1973 and was meant to help reduce the financial burden many victims of violent crime and their families experience. The Office of the Attorney General processes the claims. Besides accepting the application for compensation, the Attorney General’s office investigates the claim and recommends to the Court of Claims whether the claim should be approved or denied. The final decision to issue help is made by the Court of Claims, a division of the Secretary of State’s office. If eligible the Crime Victim Compensation Program provides victims and their families up to $27,000 in financial assistance. Some types of expenses that could be reimbursed are lost wages, funeral and burial, medical expenses, relocation and transportation or counseling.

Individuals who apply for help under this act have to meet a single qualifier, be a victim of a violent crime. There is no income, asset, or citizenship qualifiers like there are for so many other programs. So who may be a crime victim under this act?

Person killed or injured in Illinois as a result of a violent crime or while attempting to assist a crime victim. Parent of a person killed or injured in Illinois as a result of a violent crime. Individual who personally witnessed a violent crime in Illinois. Person under the age of 18 who is the sibling, child or stepchild of a person killed or injured in Illinois (for mental health treatment only). Illinois resident who became a victim of a violent crime in a country that does not have a compensation fund for crime victims.

(Continued on page 5)
Online registration for the 2011 National Conference on Ending Homelessness is now open. The conference will be held at the Renaissance Washington, DC Hotel from July 13-15, 2011. Go to https://help.endhomelessness.org/events/17

HUD Publishes NOFA General Section

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has published the General Section of the notices covering all HUD Notices of Funding Availability (NOFAs) for 2011.

The General Section describes HUD’s FY2011 policy priorities and requirements applicable to all of HUD’s NOFAs published in FY2011. The General Section provides overall guidance and direction to applicants regarding HUD’s Policy Priorities and their relationship to HUD’s Strategic Goals as stated in the Department’s Strategic Plan for FY2010-2015. For detailed information on HUD’s Strategic Plan for FY2010-2015 visit HUD’s website. To view the notice, go to http:/portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD and click on Program Offices > Chief Human Capital Officer > Grants > Funds Available. Under 2011 Notices on that page, click on Policy Requirements and General Section. If you have difficulty accessing the full announcement electronically, please contact:

Dorthera Yorkshire
Office of Grants Management and Oversight
Program Analysis
Phone 202-708-0667

HUD’s Strategic Plan for FY2010-2015 and HUD’s Policy Priorities set forth a roadmap of actions to help transform communities through the implementation of HUD’s programs. Each program NOFA will contain specific activities, requirements, policy priorities, and outcomes or measures of success that will be used to evaluate submitted applications. In each case, the outcomes described in the program NOFA will support the measures of success described in HUD’s Strategic Plan.

Each program NOFA will also describe additional procedures and requirements that apply to the individual program NOFAs, including a description of the eligible applicants, eligible activities, threshold requirements, factors for award, variations from the General Section requirements, and any additional program requirements or limitations. To adequately address all of the application requirements for any program, applicants should carefully read and respond to both this General Section and the individual program NOFAs.

Basic Income Needed to Achieve Economic Security

A new report that takes into account child care, transportation costs, assets and savings, taxes, rent, and utilities among other variables finds that a working single-parent paying for childcare without employment benefits requires a wage of $29.84 to maintain economic security.

The report from Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW) is based on the concurrently released Basic Economic Security Tables Index (BEST), a budget-based approach to calculating the hourly wage that households of various compositions, all with at least one worker, need in order to maintain economic stability. The calculations are based on assumptions about basic household expenses and required savings. Housing cost assumptions are based on HUD’s Fair Market Rents (FMRs).

WOW developed the BEST index, in part, to increase awareness among policymakers and advocates about the housing cost burdens families face. For families without children, rent and utilities are often the most costly household expense. The report finds that low income households often have lower rental cost burdens because of rental subsidies, but their lack of assets still contributes to their economic instability.

In the report, The Basic Economic Security Table for the United States 2010, WOW also analyzed the availability of emergency savings, level of education, availability of unemployment insurance, and future job growth to assess potential
Crime Victims

(Continued from page 3)

Survivor of domestic violence, their minor children or person who witnessed the violence.

Violent crimes are: First or second degree murder, battery, criminal sexual assault or abuse, assault, involuntary manslaughter, hate crime, exploitation of a child, reckless conduct, stalking, violation of an order of protection, child pornography, kidnapping, driving under the influence, domestic battery, arson, or hit and run of pedestrians.

To be able to qualify for this compensation crime victims are required to:

Cooperate with law enforcement in the investigation, apprehension and prosecution of the crime. The offender does not have to be apprehended to qualify for compensation just that cooperation occurs.

Report the crime to law enforcement with 72 hours of the offense except for sexual offenses where individuals have up to 7 days of the offense to report the crime. Going to the hospital to have a sexual assault evidence collection kit performed or obtaining an Order of Protection or a Civil No Contact Order meets the notification requirement. If a minor (under age 18) was the victim of the sexual assault for purposes of the Compensation Program, the “crime date” is the date the sexual assault is reported to a parent, teacher or other responsible party. A domestic violence victim meets this reporting requirement by obtaining an Order of Protection after the incident (a copy of the Order will need to be provided to the Attorney General’s office).

File an application for compensation within 2 years of the date of the crime or within 1 year of the criminal indictment, whichever is later.

If you believe you have a client who may qualify for benefits under the Compensation act have them call the Crime Victims Compensation Bureau at (800)-228-3368 (TTY: (877) 398-1130) or download the application at www.illinoisattorneygeneral.gov/victims/cvc.html to begin the process. Another option is to contact the Crime Victims Project with the Legal Assistance Foundation. LAF can assist with short term counseling, and help before the Illinois Court of Claims.

If you live on the West or North sides of Cook County/City of Chicago or live outside of Cook County call LAF at (312)423-5903

If you live on the Southside of Chicago or the South Suburbs of Cook County call LAF at(708)271-4988

If approved for compensation payments they are issued by the Illinois Comptroller’s Office.

Reimbursement is made directly to the victim for out-of-pocket expenses or paid directly to service providers, such as hospitals, doctors, funeral homes and others, for expenses incurred as a result of the crime.

Many crime victims are informed of this benefit by police personnel or hospitals, but it is always helpful for you to remind individuals of this benefit during your contacts. It is not a fast process, but if not started quickly after the crime, many of your clients can lose valuable benefits.

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@dupagefederation.org

Economic Security

(Continued from page 4)

economic risks and challenges households may face in meeting future basic needs. Overall, their findings suggest that single-parent households headed by minority women without postsecondary education and with children in daycare have the highest risk of economic insecurity.

For more information on the basic income needs of American households, visit www.wowonline.org/documents/BESTIndexforTheUnitedStates2010.pdf.

For background information on budget based measures of self-sufficiency and housing affordability see this report from NLIHC www.nlihc.org/doc/AffordabilityResearchNote_2-19-08.pdf

Homeless Headlines

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Poverty

Continued from page 3

poverty exit rate and a higher chronic poverty rate than Hispanics.

Annual poverty rates have generally shown a decline in elderly poverty rates since the 1960s, the dynamics of poverty are more complex for adults 65 years and over. Adults 65 years and over were least likely to be in poverty, but once poor, they were as likely to remain in poverty as children under 18 years, the age group most at risk to be in poverty. (The elderly were least likely to be poor for 2 or more months, but their poverty exit rate was not statistically different from that for children.)

All measures in this report show that people in female-householder families were more likely to be in poverty than people in married couple families. People in female householder families also had longer poverty spells and those experiencing a poverty spell at the beginning of the 2004 Panel were the most likely to remain in poverty for the entire period.

Data from 2001 and 2004 paint a picture of poverty for the period of the economic expansion that started in November 2001 and ended in December 2007. Over this period, the episodic poverty rate declined for almost all demographic groups but the chronic poverty rate increased for the overall population and for several subpopulations. The median length of a poverty spell increased for the overall population and for children and Hispanics.

Budget Deal

Continued from page 1

- $116 million for Runaway and Homeless Youth Act (RHYA) programs, equal to the FY 2010 level;
- $18.4 billion for Section 8 Tenant-Based Rental Assistance, enough to fund all existing vouchers; and
- $3.3 billion for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), a $650 million decrease from FY 2010.

The House is expected to vote on the legislation Wednesday, April 13, and the Senate will likely vote on the bill on Thursday, the 14th. The legislation is currently expected to pass both chambers and be signed into law by the President.

The full text of the legislation is available at http://rules.house.gov/Media/file/PDF_112_1/Floor_Text/FINAL2011_xml.pdf

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

Mentoring Youth with Disabilities

The program invites community mentoring partnerships or collaboratives that target youth with disability-related challenges that heighten their risk for delinquency to apply. This initiative builds upon the foundation of evidence-based practices for effective mentoring and encourages communities to implement and enhance mentoring programs for youth with disabilities. These mentoring efforts will integrate best practices and proven principles into mentoring service models, including efforts to systematically recruit, train, and support mentors in their efforts to encourage individual youth to maximize personal strengths and to develop compensatory skills in specific areas of disability.

Due date: May 16, 2011

For a synopsis, the full announcement, and the application, go to www.grants.gov/search/basic.do and search for funding opportunity number OJJDP-2011-2981.

HUD Report

Continued from page 2

The report also concludes, however, that these numbers represent an undercount of the disabled among the worst case needs population. A comparison in the report to data sources such as the National Health Interview Survey (NHIS) and the American Community Survey (ACS) suggests the number and rate of disability among the very low income renter population is substantially higher than the AHS reports. In particular, the report finds that while the AHS asks about six types of activity limitation and disability, the NHIS asks about nine.

National Farmworker Jobs and Housing Assistance Programs

The Federal Register for March 17, 2011 (Pages 14694-14695) announces two grant opportunities from the U.S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration that benefit farmworkers. One grant is for the National Farmworkers Jobs Program (NFJP). The other is for the NFJP Housing Assistance Program.

National Farmworker Jobs Program (NFJP)

The NFJP is a nationally-directed, locally-administered program of job training and employment assistance for migrants and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) and their dependents. Services include classroom and on-the-job training, as well as some supportive services such as nutrition, health care, child care, and temporary shelter. The services available for assisting MSFWs include 1 WIA-defined core, intensive, training, and related assistance services.

The closing date for receipt of applications is May 2, 2011. For further information, contact: Jeannette Flowers, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N4716, Washington, DC 20210; telephone: 202-693-3322. You can download a synopsis, full announcement, and application by doing a search for Funding Number SGA-DFA-PY-10-05 at http://www.grants.gov/search/basic.do

NFJP Housing Assistance Program

The NFJP Housing Assistance Program is a supportive service offered to assist migrant and seasonal farmworkers (MSFWs) to retain employment, or enter into or complete training. The closing date for receipt of applications is May 3, 2011. For further information contact: Eileen Banks, 200 Constitution Avenue, NW., Room N4716, Washington, DC 20210; telephone: (202) 693-3403. You can download a synopsis, full announcement, and application by doing a search for Funding Number SGA-DFA-PY-10-05. You can also download a synopsis, full announcement, and application by doing a search for Funding Number SGA-DFA-PY-10-08 at http://www.grants.gov/search/basic.do

HUD Section 202
Supportive Housing for the Elderly

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban development (HUD) provides capital advances and contracts for project rental assistance in accordance with 24 CFR part 891. A total of $371 million is available nationwide.

Capital advances must be used for the construction or rehabilitation of a structure, or acquisition of a structure with or without rehabilitation. (See Section IV. E. 3, for additional information on calculating the capital advance amount.) Capital advance funds bear no interest and are based on development cost limits in Section IV. E. 3. Repayment of the capital advance is not required as long as the housing remains available for occupancy by very low-income elderly persons for at least 40 years.

Project Rental Assistance Contract (PRAC) funds are used to cover the difference between the tenants’ contributions toward rent (30 percent of adjusted income) and the HUD-approved cost to operate the project. PRAC funds may also be used to provide supportive services and to hire a service coordinator in those projects serving frail elderly residents. The supportive services must be appropriate to the category or categories of frail elderly residents to be served.

Private nonprofit organizations and nonprofit consumer cooperatives that meet the threshold requirements are eligible to apply. The application deadline is June 01, 2011.

To view a synopsis, the full announcement, and the application, go to http://grants.gov/ and search for 14.157, the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance number. Grant Opportunity: National Farmworker Jobs and Housing Assistance Programs
HOMELESS HEADLINES

ILLINOIS ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY ACTION AGENCIES
3435 LIBERTY DRIVE
SPRINGFIELD, IL 62704