Collinsville Connections

Collinsville Connections is a program of Chestnut Health Systems in Collinsville, Illinois. The program provides supported housing services for persons with a serious mental illness/co-occurring disorder.

Collinsville Connections officially opened and served our first consumer on November 24, 2009. The program has partnered with the Madison County Housing Authority, Madison County government, the Department of Mental Health, and the Madison County 708 Mental Health Board in providing affordable housing and onsite mental health services.

Connections has a primary location that is staffed 24/7 with a variety of on-site services, as well as several scattered-site locations that allow for more resident independence. The primary location is staffed with two housing specialists per shift, who are the front line staff.

At the scattered sites, community support specialists will see the consumer perhaps one or two times per week to assist them with tasks, teach skills, ensure that they are taking meds, keeping appointments, and keeping their apartment clean and safe.

Primary site program services include: medication training, monitoring, and medication administration, as well as psychiatric evaluation and follow-up. We also teach consumers how to perform such tasks as: money management/budgeting (or provide payeeship services), meal planning and preparation, grocery shopping, laundry, keeping his/her apartment

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Changes in the HUD Definition of Homeless

HUD has issued a draft regulation to implement changes to the definition of homelessness contained in the Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing Act. Comments are due by June 21. The definition affects who is eligible for various HUD-funded homeless assistance programs. The new definition includes four broad categories of homelessness:

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution where they temporarily resided. The only significant change from existing practice is that people will be considered homeless if they are exiting an institution where they resided for up to 90 days

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HUD as a Funder for Homeless Youth

The National Alliance To End Homelessness (NAEH) released a new brief entitled “Reapproaching HUD as a Funder for Homeless Youth Housing and Services: Reauthorized McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program.” The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) continues to be the primary, federal funder for homeless services and supportive housing. Yet community nonprofit organizations assisting homeless youth have primarily relied on the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act to fund transitional housing. This brief encourages homeless youth service providers to become involved in the Continuum of Care (CoC) process and apply for McKinney-Vento funding to design housing programs that meet the needs of homeless youth as an increase in available funding and changes in statutory language that allow greater flexibility emerge. The issue brief offers a review of statutory changes made to McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Grants program and their impact on homeless youth populations.

You can download the brief at www.endhomelessness.org/content/article/detail/2721

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

Input Sought on Poverty Measure

The Bureau of the Census (Census Bureau) issues this notice to request comments on the approach to developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) presented in a report entitled “Observations from the Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure,” which was recently released by the Interagency Technical Working Group on Developing a Supplemental Poverty Measure (Working Group). This report was produced as part of an effort by the Working Group to suggest how the Census Bureau, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Labor’s Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), should develop a new Supplemental Poverty Measure. The report provides

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Rise in Elderly Homelessness

Homelessness among the elderly will likely increase by 33 percent over the next 10 years, and more than double over the next 40 years, according to a recent projection released by the Homelessness Research Institute. This projection is part of a paper examining the impact that elderly homeless will have on homeless providers and housing organizations. The paper also finds that the primary “pathway” toward homelessness for the elderly is from stable housing to a loss of housing due to job loss, health problems, and the disintegration of relationships, as well as the generally decreasing availability of public assistance programs.

The report concludes that because older Americans are economically vulnerable to homelessness, they require more preventive action, including the support that comes from federal programs. “Federal housing programs are fundamental in reducing the economic hardship experienced by the elderly whose only income is often Social Security and/or Supplemental Security Income,” the authors note. The increase in the elderly population will require additional federal resources and programs to increase the supply of affordable housing; create permanent housing with supportive services for the chronically homeless; and conduct further research to better understand homelessness among the elderly.

Nationwide, the number of homeless senior citizens is currently 44,172; the authors estimate that this number will grow to 58,772 by 2020 and to 92,572 by 2050. The authors base their projection of increasing homelessness among the elderly on the Census Bureau’s projection of the increase in the elderly population.

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Human Trafficking in Illinois

By Kathryn Nelson and Amy Snodgrass

In 2005, Illinois passed one of the nation’s strictest laws in the nation to address the issue of human trafficking and involuntary servitude. Human trafficking is a modern-day form of slavery. Victims of trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion, for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. Human trafficking exists in Illinois. For instance, current estimates are that 16,000 to 25,000 women and girls are victims of sexual exploitation in the Chicago area alone. In 2005, federal authorities found seven brothels in Rockford that had Chinese and Korean women victims.

To help get the word out about this issue, a coalition was formed between the Illinois Department of Human Services and the federal government to implement Illinois Rescue and Restore. Since its inception in 2009, this coalition has been working tirelessly to educate the public about the issue of human trafficking and conduct extensive community outreach to get the word out to potential victims.

Victims of human trafficking may be from another country or they may have been born and raised right here in the United States. Women, children, and men may be a human trafficking victim. In fact, victims may look like many of the people you see everyday. But as a social service provider, you can play an important role in identifying and helping trafficking victims. While trafficking is largely a hidden social problem, you may have the unique opportunity to interact with the victim.

As a social service provider, being aware of several “red flag” indicators and asking the right questions will help you determine if the person in front of you is a victim of trafficking. “Red flags” include:

- Does not have any kind of identification.
- Has little control over his or her schedule.
- Lacks concrete short or long term plans.
- Lives and works in the same place.
- Show signs of physical assault including: branding, tattooing, ...
Representative Judy Biggert (R-IL) introduced H. R. 5285, the Educational Success for Children and Youth Without Homes Act of 2010, on May 12. The bill would authorize grants, to be administered by the Department of Education, for state and local activities for the education of homeless children and youth. The bill would authorize $300 million for such grants in FY10 and such sums as may be necessary for FY11 through FY16. H. R. 5285 was referred to the House Committees on Education and Labor and on Financial Services.

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

Collinsville

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Our skill groups currently include: Wellness, relaxation therapy, recreation/game night, a group called, “All About Me”, a women’s group, and various arts and crafts projects. We have developed an activity committee composed of consumers, who are generating ideas for additional activities and groups of interest. Additional skill groups will also be offered based on consumer choice and need – and suggestions have included: Healthy Communication, “Getting and Staying Fit”, and Coping with Grief and Loss. A real source of pride to both staff and members is their partnership in planting flower and vegetable gardens. Both gardens are flourishing.

Skill Groups

At Collinsville Connections, there are groups at least 4-5 times per week; housing specialists meet with consumers at various times during the day to provide whatever teaching or assistance is needed and to help ensure that they make and keep appointments in the community.

Skill groups are key tool. They are designed to teach particular skills, such as cooking, and laundering, whereas other groups may be more therapeutic in nature, assisting consumers in improving in certain areas, such as: communication, increasing knowledge about mental illness, and learning various coping skills.

Other Activities

At Collinsville Connections, there are also monthly Community Meetings to discuss any pertinent issues, obtain consumer feedback, and make plans for future events. We have had good attendance at these meetings and tenants have been very open to sharing their thoughts and ideas.

Consumers may also request onsite individual therapy and referral to IPS (Individual Placement and Support). IPS is a program that assists consumers in conducting a rapid job search to secure employment and also offers support after being hired to ensure a successful transition into the employment arena.

Perspective

Speaking for those who have worked in the field of mental health for many years – but are new to the “housing world” – I have the utmost respect for
**Homeless Headlines**

**Trafficking**

broken bones, or other signs of abuse.

- Exhibits submissive or fearful behavior in the presence of others.
- Have inconsistencies in stories.
- Lacks knowledge about a given community or whereabouts.
- Dates much older, abusive, or controlling men and is a minor.

Key questions to ask:

- What type of work do you do?
- Are you being paid?
- Can you leave your job if you want?
- Can you come and go as you please?
- Have you or your family been threatened?
- Where do you sleep and eat?
- Do you have to ask permission to eat/sleep/go to the bathroom?
- Has your identification or documentation been taken from you?

There are resources available for all types of trafficking victims. If you suspect an incidence of human trafficking, please call the National Human Trafficking Resource Center Hotline at 1.888.3737.888. Call 911 if the victim is in immediate danger.

**Poverty Measure**

*(Continued from page 2)*

observations about how to make a series of initial choices in the development of the SPM. The eventual publication of the SPM will not replace the official poverty measure, nor will it have any impact on allocations determined by the poverty measurement. Rather, it is part of the Census Bureau’s ongoing effort to more accurately measure poverty levels in the United States. **Dates:** To ensure consideration, written comments must be submitted to the office listed in the addresses section of this notice on or before June 25, 2010.

**Addresses:** Send comments to David Johnson, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Census Bureau, 4600 Silver Hill Road, Stop 8500, Washington, DC 20233-8500 or to spm@census.gov.


**Further Information:** David Johnson, Housing and Household Economic Statistics Division, Census Bureau, telephone number 301-763-6443 (this is not a toll-free number), email to: spm@census.gov.
Homeless Definition
(Continued from page 1)

(it was previously 30 days), and were homeless immediately prior to entering that institution.

People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, which may include a motel or hotel or a doubled up situation, within 14 days and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing. HUD had previously allowed people who were being displaced within 7 days to be considered homeless. The proposed regulation also describes specific documentation requirements for this category.

Families with children or unaccompanied youth who are unstably housed and likely to continue in that state. This is a new category of homelessness, and it applies to families with children or unaccompanied youth who have not had a lease or ownership interest in a housing unit in the last 91 or more days, have had three or more moves in the last 90 days, and who are likely to continue to be unstably housed because of disability or multiple barriers to employment.

People who are fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence, and lack the resources or support networks to obtain other permanent housing. This category is similar to the current practice regarding people who are fleeing domestic violence.

The full version of this document (http:/ /www.endhomelessness.org/files/3006_file_Definition_of_Homelessness_Analysis.pdf) includes a table summarizing the changes to the definition of homelessness and provides analysis of its effects and the decisions that communities and individual programs will have to make.

Analysis

The changes to the definition of homelessness are mandated by the HEARTH Act. HUD’s proposed regulations provide the specific details necessary to implement those changes. For most of the changes, the HEARTH Act provided enough specificity, and HUD’s proposal is simply restating the HEARTH Act’s language. In other cases, the HEARTH Act provided less specific guidance, which HUD interpreted and translated into the detailed guidance necessary for implementation. Significant features of the new definition regulation include the following:

HUD is requiring that providers maintain records for 5 years after the end of the grant term.

Elderly
(Continued from page 3)

population through 2050 and the assumption that the percentage of those over 65 living in households earning half of the poverty level or less will remain at roughly 2 percent, as it has since 1975. They reach their projected number of homeless seniors by applying the current proportion of elderly individuals in deep poverty who are homeless, 1 out of 22, to the projected increase in elderly people in deep poverty.

This article is part of a larger series on the demographics of homelessness from the Homelessness Research Institute, the research and education arm of the National Alliance to End Homelessness.


The HEARTH Act states that people should be considered homeless if they were temporarily residing in a shelter or place not meant for human habitation prior to entering an institution. HUD interpreted a temporary stay in an institution to mean a stay of 90 days or less. Currently, HUD allows for stays of 30 days or less.

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Collinsville
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housing staff! While it is very rewarding to help someone obtain his/her own apartment (often for the very first time), it is equally challenging. We become involved in virtually every aspect of someone’s life – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This requires staff to wear many “hats” during the course of a day, including, but not limited to: parent, teacher, advisor, banker, coach, confidant, researcher, chef, animal control officer, counselor, and role model – just to name a few!

As staff new to this endeavor, we are learning how vital it is to teach and support consumers in creating a healthy living environment and making positive contributions to our site as well as in the community. We have seen our consumers become very excited about having their own home and being proud to show friends and family what they are accomplishing.

Anyone who lives in Madison County, can call the Madison Co. Housing Authority to inquire about housing. The housing authority can assist them in identifying what types of housing they may be eligible for. To be considered for the Collinsville Connections program, the first step is to be registered with the Housing Authority to obtain a project-based voucher. There is currently a waiting list for this program. The Madison Co. Housing Authority phone number is (618)345-5142.

For further information, contact Terri Klawonn, Director of Housing at (618) 343-0357.
The changes in the imminent homelessness category—people will be considered homeless if they are losing their housing in 14 days instead of 7 days as well as new documentation requirements—were specified in detail in the HEARTH Act, and the regulations closely follow those instructions.

The HEARTH Act created a new category of homelessness that attempts to capture unaccompanied youth and families with children who experience persistent housing instability and have other barriers to housing. The HEARTH Act’s language was more general than other language regarding the definition of homelessness. It required that the definition only apply to unaccompanied youth and families with children who are considered homeless under other federal statutes but not under the HUD portion of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The HEARTH Act also required the following:

§ The individual or family has not lived independently for a long period of time, which HUD interpreted as not being on a lease or having an ownership interest in a housing unit for the past 91 days;
§ The individual or family has moved frequently, which HUD interpreted as having moved at least 3 times in the past 90 days; and
§ The individual or family is expected to continue to have unstable housing for one of a number of reasons—chronic disabilities, chronic physical health or mental health conditions, substance addiction, histories of domestic violence or childhood abuse, the presence of a child or youth with a disability, or multiple barriers to employment—HUD interpreted multiple barriers to employment to mean at least two of the following: lack of a high school degree or GED, illiteracy, low English proficiency, history of incarceration, or history of unstable employment.

Overall, these changes will likely have modest impacts on homeless assistance programs. The number of people eligible for assistance through Continuum of Care programs will grow. Continuum of Care funded programs, particularly transitional housing programs, will have to evaluate how they target their assistance, whether they plan to serve people newly covered under the definition, and how they will prioritize whom to serve.

Changes in data elements, intake forms, reporting forms, policies and rules may also be needed to implement the changes.

More people will also be eligible for assistance from ESG funded shelter programs. (Other changes to ESG will significantly expand ESG prevention assistance for people at risk of homelessness). Similar to the transitional housing programs, shelters funded through HUD’s ESG program will have to decide whether they plan to serve people newly covered under the definition and how they will prioritize whom to serve.

The changes to the definition will have little impact on how point in time counts are conducted. The HEARTH Act prohibits HUD from requiring that communities conduct counts of people who are in imminent danger of losing their housing, experiencing persistent instability, or fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence unless those people are being served by HUD-funded homeless assistance programs. HUD may only require CoCs to conduct a count of people who are homeless under the core definition—residing in a shelter (including motel paid for by government or charitable organization), transitional housing, or place not meant for human habitation.

During the summer and fall of 2010, HUD will be issuing regulations to implement the rest of the HEARTH Act. Some of those regulations may create incentives or disincentives for CoCs to serve people who are in imminent danger of losing their housing or experiencing persistent instability. For example, the HEARTH Act requires that CoCs be evaluated for their performance, and decisions about who is served may have an impact on that performance.

Although the changes to the definition will have modest effects, CoCs should use this opportunity to evaluate who their programs serve and how they serve them. Following are some questions that CoCs could consider.

· How does our community prioritize who to serve? How should we prioritize? In many CoCs, providers each have a strategy for screening potential clients, and those strategies may not be coordinated.

· Are people we serve receiving the most appropriate intervention? As eligibility for assistance expands, CoCs should evaluate whether newly eligible people are best served by the existing programs, which of those programs they are best served by, and whether new programs should be developed.

· How can we help providers and other stakeholders implement changes? No matter what decisions CoCs make regarding which populations they serve and how they serve them, intake workers, providers, referring agencies, and other stakeholders will need training, technical assistance, and help with planning to ensure that the changes are implemented in a coordinated and efficient manner.

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

**Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies**

**Homeless Headlines**

**3435 Liberty Drive**
**Springfield, IL 62704**

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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**
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
Telephone: (312) 332-6690
Fax: (312) 332-7040
http://www.cbpp.org

**Corporation for Supportive Housing**
205 W. Randolph, 23rd Floor
Chicago, IL 60601
Phone: (312) 435-0198
Fax: (312) 435-4548
http://www.cbph.org

**Coalition of Citizens With Disabilities in Illinois**
300 E. Monroe, Suite 100
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 522-7016
Fax: (217) 522-7040
http://www.ccdionline.org

**Food Research and Action Center**
1875 Connecticut Avenue, NW, # 540
Washington, D.C. 20009
Telephone: (202) 485-0220
Fax: (202) 986-2525
http://www.frac.org

**Housing Action Illinois**
11 E. Adams, Suite 1601
Chicago, IL 60603
Telephone: (312) 939-6074
Fax: (312) 939-6822
http://www.housingactionil.org

**Housing Assistance Council**
1025 Vermont Ave. NW, Suite 606
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 484-8600
Fax: (202) 347-3441
http://www.housingaction.org

**Illinois Association of Community Action Agencies**
3435 Liberty Drive
Springfield, IL 62704
Telephone: (217) 789-0125
Fax: (217) 789-0139
http://www.illinoiscapital.org

**Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence**
801 S. 11th
Springfield, IL 62705
Telephone: (217) 789-2830
Fax: (217) 789-1939
http://www.icadv.org

**Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity**
620 E. Adams, CP16-3
Springfield, IL 62701
Telephone: (217) 783-6142
Fax: (217) 782-1206
http://www.commerce.state.il.us

**Illinois Department of Human Services**
Homeless Services and Supportive Housing
400 W. Lawrence, 2C
Springfield, IL 62702
Telephone: (217) 782-1317
Fax: (217) 524-5800
http://www.dhs.state.il.us

**Illinois Food Bank Association**
P.O. Box 8293
Springfield, IL 62791
(217)322-4022
E-mail: cifbank@aol.com
http://www.illinoisfoodbank.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) 638-4664
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: ncvh@ncvh.org
http://www.ncvh.org/home.html

**National Coalition for the Homeless**
2201 "P" St., NW
Washington, DC 20037-1033
Phone: (202) 462-4822 x234
Fax: (202) 462-4823
Email: info@nationalhomeless.org

**National Community Reinvestment Coalition**
333 ½ Pennsylvania Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-1526
Fax: (202) 638-9900

**National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty**
918 F Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 638-2535
Fax: (202) 628-2737

**National Low-Income Housing Coalition**
1518 K Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005
Phone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
http://www.nlhco.org

**National Rural Housing Coalition**
601 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Suite 850
Washington, D.C. 20004
Telephone: (202) 393-5229
Fax: (202) 393-3034
http://www.nrhcweb.org

**Rural Development**
211 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**
212 E. Ohio Street, 5th Floor
Chicago, IL 60611
Telephone: 773-935-4663, ext.123
supportive@asla.org

**U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development**
Office of Community Planning and Development
77 W. Jackson 24th Floor
Chicago, IL 60604-3507
Telephone: (312) 935-4663
Fax: (312) 935-4664