



JB Pritzker, Governor

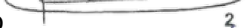

Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary Designate

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

DATE: 12/05/2023

MEMORANDUM

TO: The Honorable John F. Curran, Senate Minority Leader
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President
The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dulce Quintero 
Secretary Designate 
Illinois Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **Home Illinois: Illinois' Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness**

The Illinois Department of Human Services respectfully submits the Home Illinois: Illinois' Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness on behalf of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness in order to fulfill the requirements set forth in Public Act 103-0269

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Kylon Hooks, Deputy Chief Homelessness Officer, at Kylon.Hooks@Illinois.gov, 401 S. Clinton Street 7th Floor, Chicago, IL 60607, 312.305.9808.

cc: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor
John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House
Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Illinois Senate
Legislative Research Unit
State Government Report Center



State of Illinois
Illinois Department of Human Services



‘HOME ILLINOIS: ILLINOIS’ PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

Annual Report: November 1, 2022 - October 31, 2023

ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

OFFICE TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

December 2023



WHO WE ARE

VISION



No resident in the State of Illinois lives on the street, in a shelter, or in overcrowded housing. Illinoisians earn a living wage that allows them to afford housing in their community, without fear of eviction. When a housing crisis occurs, safety net supports allow quick resolution to stabilize housing.

MISSION

Coordinating State of Illinois agency strategies and investments and partnering with the community to build a strong safety net and permanent housing for Illinoisans facing homelessness and housing insecurity.



ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

Delrice Adams, Executive Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

Paula Basta, Director, Illinois Department on Aging

Brian Durham, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board

Theresa Eagleson, Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

Kristin Faust, Executive Director, Illinois Housing Development Authority

Christine Haley, Chief Homelessness Officer, Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (Chair)

Representative Lilian Jimenez, Representative 4th District

Senator Adriane Johnson, Senator 30th District

Dulce Quintero, Secretary Designate, Illinois Department of Human Services

Latonya Hughes, Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

Brendan Kelly, Director, Illinois State Police

Raymond Marchiori, Director, Illinois Department of Employment Security

Heidi Mueller, Director, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

Ginger Ostro, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

Terry Prince, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Kristin Richards, Director, Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Dr. Tony Sanders, Superintendent, Illinois State Board of Education

Marc D. Smith, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

Marc Staley, Deputy Director, Governor's Office of Management & Budget

Sameer Vohra, MD, Director, Illinois Department of Public Health

COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HOMELESSNESS

Sandy Deters, Housing Coordinator, Embarras River Basin Agency

Otha Gaston, Chicago Lived Experience Commission

Christine Haley, Chief Homelessness Officer, Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness (Co-Chair)

John Herring, Executive Director, Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living

Jennifer Hill, Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Niya Kelly, Director of State Legislative Policy, Equity, and Transformation, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Brandie Knazze, Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Ronald Lund, Community Services Director, Project Now

Tamela Milan-Alexander, Community Engagement Director, EverThrive Illinois/Collaborative on Child Homelessness Illinois

Brenda O'Connell, Community Development Administrator, Lake County

Susan Reyna-Guerrero, Executive Director, Covenant House

Debbie Reznick, Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation (Co-Chair)

Carolyn Ross, President and CEO, All Chicago

Richard Rowe, Senior Program Manager, CSH

Linda Warner, Executive Director, SWAN

Nicole Wilson, Vice President of Community Investment, Heart of Illinois United Way

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COMMON ACRONYMS

ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CoC	Continuum of Care
DoE	U.S. Department of Education
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
IBHE	Illinois Board of Higher Education
ICCB	Illinois Community College Board
ICJIA	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
DoA	Illinois Department on Aging
DCFS	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
DCEO	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
IDOC	Illinois Department of Corrections
IDES	Illinois Department of Economic Security
HFS	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
IDHS	Illinois Department of Human Services
IDJJ	Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
IDPH	Illinois Department of Public Health
IDVA	Illinois Housing Development Authority
IOPEH	Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness
ISBE	Illinois State Board of Education
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
PIT	Point-in-Time Count
PHA	Public Housing Authority
ISP	Illinois State Police
SRN	Statewide Referral Network
USICH	U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

HOME ILLINOIS

On July 26, 2023, Gov. JB Pritzker signed HB2831 codifying the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness (Task Force), the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness, (Advisory Council), and the permanency of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH). HB2831, codified as Public Act 103-0269, requires submission of an annual report to the Governor and Illinois General Assembly on the progress towards ending homelessness. Launched on July 1, 2022, Home Illinois 2022-2024 provides the strategic direction of State activities towards fighting homelessness. This report includes progress on activities for the plan.

Home Illinois 2022-2024 establishes the foundational framework for Illinois to meet the goals outlined in Public Act 103-0269 (HB2831).



The Task Force coordinates strategy, effort, and impact in programs for persons experiencing homelessness and housing instabilities. The Task Force makes regulatory, policy, and resource changes to end homelessness. Chaired by Chief Homelessness Officer Haley, the Task Force has met four times in this reporting period; December 9, 2022, March 20, 2023, June 14, 2023, and September 14, 2023.

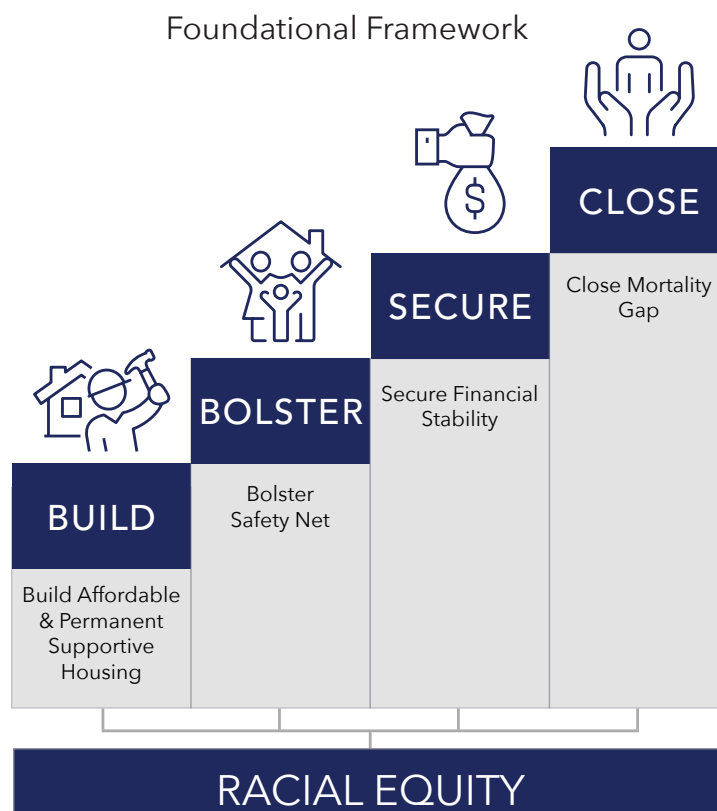
Key Performance Indicators

As implementation of Home Illinois continues, the Task Force will look to make progress towards three key performance indicators:

- Reduction in number of literal homeless persons, as measured in annual Point-in-Time Count
- Reduction in annual number of children experiencing homelessness enrolled in public schools, as measured by the Illinois State Board of Education
- Increase in State funding to strategic programs dedicated to or prioritized for persons experiencing homelessness and/or housing insecurity

The Advisory Council met four times this past reporting period; November 7, 2022, March 1, 2023, June 14, 2023, and September 6, 2023. Co-Chaired by Polk Bros. Foundation’s Debbie Reznick and Chief Christine Haley, the Advisory Council provides guidance and recommendations to the Task Force on the strategy and implementation of Home Illinois. The Advisory Council is required to submit recommendations to the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness by November 15 each year.

For the Summary of the Illinois Community Advisory Council on Homelessness’ recommendations to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness see **Appendix A**



HOME ILLINOIS SUMMIT

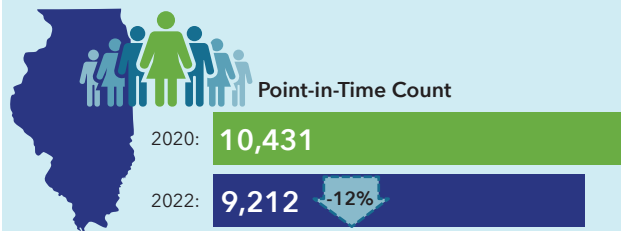
JUNE 14, 2023, CHICAGO

The first “Home Illinois Summit” was held on June 14, 2023, at Malcolm X College in Chicago. Governor JB Pritzker, together with the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and members of the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and the Community Advisory Council on Homelessness, hosted the inaugural Home Illinois Summit. The summit, which brought together over 300 community leaders and experts to discuss potential solutions and strategies, served as a launch for major next steps in the Home Illinois plan, a multi-year holistic approach to reach “functional zero” homelessness in the state.

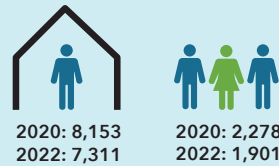


PEOPLE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS IN ILLINOIS 2020 AND 2022

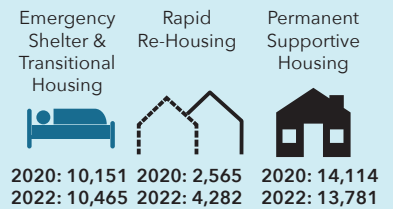
HUD POINT-IN-TIME COUNT & HOUSING INVENTORY CHART DATA



Sheltered vs. Unsheltered



Availability of Beds/Units Statewide



Unsheltered Homelessness



2020: 2,278 | 2022: 1,901

Family Size



Singles	Persons in Families
2020: 6,995	2020: 3,436
2022: 6,244	2022: 2,968

Gender

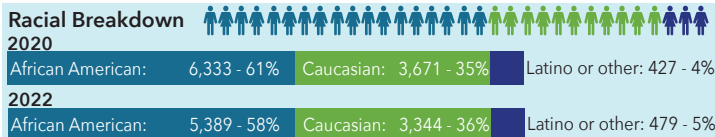


Female	2020: 4,300	2022: 3,620
Male	2020: 6,096	2022: 5,533
Transgender/Non-Binary	2020: 35	2022: 59

Age Breakdown



Children Under 18	Youth 18-24	Adults Over 24
2020: 2,212	2020: 958	2020: 7,261
2022: 1,902	2022: 897	2022: 6,413



Chronic Homeless Served



Point-in-Time Count
2020 | 2,305
2022 | 1,430

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Homeless Veterans



2020: 736
2022: 524
Point-in-Time Count

Sheltered vs. Unsheltered



Sheltered	Unsheltered
2020: 504	2020: 232
2022: 395	2022: 129

PERSONS EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS WITH:

Substance Use Disorder



2020: 1,636 (23%)
2022: 1,130 (12%)

Severe Mental Illness



2020: 1,995 (27%)
2022: 1,692 (18%)

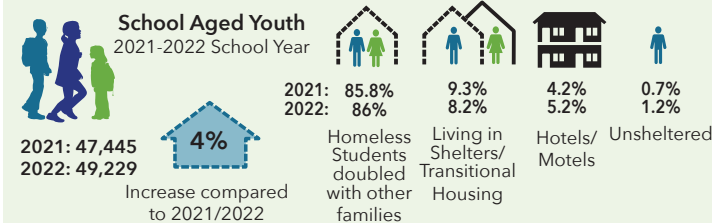
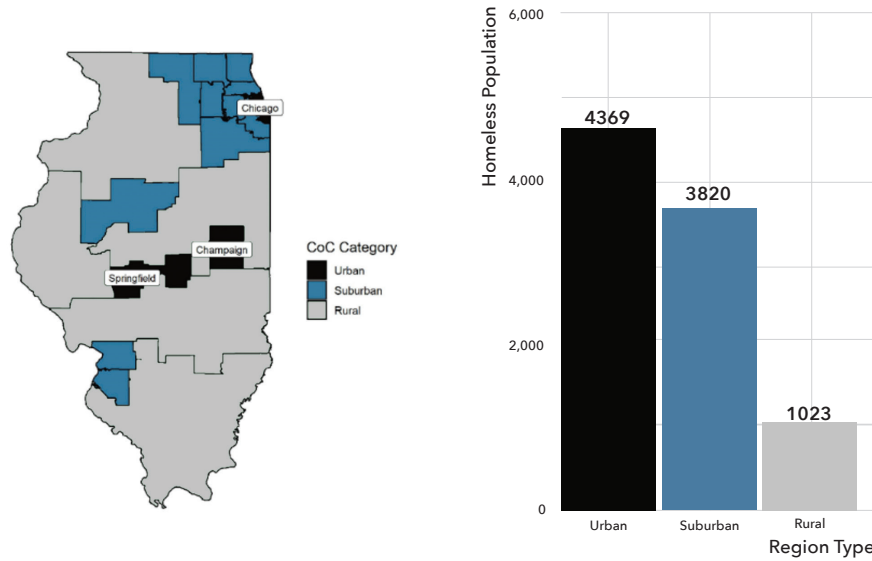


Table 1: Illinois homeless population by CoC, summary graphic (2022)
54% of Illinoisans experiencing homelessness in 2022 reside in Cook County

Point-in-Time Counts from January, 2022



CoC Number	CoC	Category	2022 Total	% of Illinois Homeless 2022	2022 Chronic	% Chronic 2022	2020 Total	2020 Chronic	% Change between 2020 & 2022 Totals
IL - 510	Chicago	Urban	3875	42%	650	45%	5390	1521	-28%
IL - 511	Cook County	Suburban	1096	12%	242	17%	846	174	30%
IL - 514	DuPage County	Suburban	555	6%	61	4%	328	50	69%
IL - 502	Waukegan, North Chicago/Lake County	Suburban	431	5%	65	5%	292	24	48%
IL - 501	Rockford/DeKalb, Winnebago, Boone Counties	Suburban	406	4%	21	1%	465	37	-13%
IL - 517	Aurora, Elgin/Kane County	Suburban	391	4%	92	6%	410	101	-5%
IL - 507	Peoria, Pekin/Fulton, Tazewell, Peoria, Woodford Counties	Suburban	337	4%	65	5%	311	59	8%
IL - 518	Rock Island, Moline/Northwestern Illinois	Rural	280	3%	41	3%	135	16	107%
IL - 513	Springfield/Sangamon County	Urban	264	3%	51	4%	294	73	-10%
IL - 520	Southern Illinois	Rural	248	3%	14	1%	233	22	6%
IL - 512	Bloomington/Central Illinois	Rural	241	3%	40	3%	408	71	-41%
IL - 506	Joliet, Bolingbrook/Will County	Suburban	219	2%	20	1%	276	24	-21%
IL - 508	East St. Louis, Belleville/St. Clair County	Suburban	197	2%	26	2%	298	37	-34%
IL - 515	South Central Illinois	Rural	157	2%	3	0%	123	10	28%
IL - 503	Champaign, Urbana, Rantoul/Champaign County	Urban	137	1%	16	1%	140	25	-2%
IL - 519	West Central Illinois	Rural	97	1%	0	0%	113	3	-14%
IL - 504	Madison County	Suburban	96	1%	4	0%	79	16	22%
IL - 516	Decatur/Macon County	Urban	93	1%	15	1%	135	28	-31%
IL - 500	McHenry County	Suburban	92	1%	4	0%	155	14	-41%
Total			9212	100%	1430	100%	10431	2305	-12%

Racial disparities among Illinois' homeless population are largest in urban areas including Chicago, Springfield, and Champaign, where Black Illinoisans make up 73% of the homeless population.

REACHING FUNCTIONAL ZERO:

STATEWIDE HOUSING & SHELTER PROJECTIONS


Governor Pritzker’s Executive Order 2021-21 calls for Illinois to reach functional zero homelessness. The Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH) requested technical assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to complete an analysis of the amount of housing that would need to be created to meet the functional zero goal. Homebase worked with OPEH, CoCs, and community leaders to develop a working model for reaching functional zero.

“Functional Zero” is a sustainable milestone where a community has measurably solved homelessness.

- Once achieved, when an Illinoisan reaches out for help, there is a clear path to access resources and the appropriate resource on the other side. Homelessness within **Functional Zero** is:
 - Rare
 - Brief
 - Non-recurring

This model utilizes the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS), Homeless Inventory Count (HIC) data, and the HUD Stella Modeling tool (Stella M). These data sources and tools were used to calculate the annual inflow, outflow, and unmet need. Based on these data points and assuming that current trends continue, the Stella M system helped quantify the number of additional beds needed across Illinois to meet functional zero. The following table displays a summary of the model estimating the need for 19,607 additional temporary and permanent housing beds to reach functional zero if implemented by the end of 2024.

Table 2: Housing Beds Needed to reach functional zero by the end of 2024 - Stella M Data

 Emergency Shelter (ES)	Emergency Shelter (ES)	Transitional Housing (TH)*	Rapid Rehousing (RRH)**	Permanent Supportive Housing and other Permanent Housing (PSH/ OPH)	Total
Current System Capacity (Baseline)	6,769	2,663	3,664	15,072	28,168
Need based on model	11,320	2,006	13,085	21,364	47,775
Housing Unit Need	+4551	-657	+9,421	+6,292	+19,607

* Negative numbers indicate what will be needed after reaching functional zero

** RRH totals are “per year” estimates and are expected to decline after meeting functional zero. All other categories (ES, TH, PSH/OPH) are total beds needed.

The table above and the detailed model below represents a baseline model; a model from which to set urgent funding goals and improve as new resources are made available. Additionally, this baseline is designed to start a community dialogue with local Continuums of Care (CoCs) to most effectively and equitably distribute the State’s investment.

Understandably, the building and implementation of these resources will take a great deal of time. However, the longer it takes, the more resources will be needed as annual unmet need compounds each year.

“WELCOMING WITH DIGNITY”

ASYLUM SEEKERS TO ILLINOIS

Beginning August 31, 2022, the State of Illinois, and the City of Chicago, with support from Cook County and numerous Community Based Organizations, began welcoming buses transporting Central and South Americans seeking asylum in the United States. Since then, more than 23,000 individuals have arrived from the southwestern border, including on nearly 450 buses this year.

The State’s response has been led by the Illinois Department of Human Services in collaboration with additional agencies and departments, including:

- Illinois Department of Public Health
- Illinois Emergency Management Agency
- Illinois State Board of Education
- Illinois Recovery Task Force
- Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness (OPEH)

The State has played major roles in sheltering, onsite service provision, and rapid rehousing efforts for Asylum Seekers. After operating hotel-based sites through spring 2023, the State is now focusing efforts on working with the City of Chicago to expand access to services within the City’s Asylum Seeker shelter system, including case management, support searching for and signing unit leases, and the provision of rental assistance for Asylum Seekers in the City’s Asylum Seeker shelter system on or before November 17, 2023, amongst others. The State has also provided funding to other municipalities across Illinois who are receiving Asylum Seekers and are supporting them through homelessness and immigrant service ecosystems.

OPEH has played a key role in providing technical assistance and experience in the design and operations of intermediate housing structures and services to support diversion and rapid-rehousing. OPEH also leads the long-term planning and strategy for systemic integration across the Asylum Seeker shelter system and existing systems for PEH.

Developing a Dignifying Shelter Care System for Asylum Seekers and All Illinoisians Facing Homelessness

The Triage Center Pilot program is designed to provide low barrier immediate shelter with multiple social services, including diversion from the shelter system for those who have alternative solutions, intensive case management, and accelerated housing placement. For this pilot, OPEH is working with a select group of homeless service providers to build a strong safety net of housing and resources for Asylum Seekers and for all Illinoisians facing homelessness and housing insecurity. The triage centers serve as entry points for those in need of housing. The triage centers provide privacy and safety in a dignifying setting for families and individuals experiencing the trauma of homelessness. This pilot will add nearly 400 triage shelter beds to the shelter care system and develop an operation manual for replication throughout Illinois.

IMPLEMENTING HOME ILLINOIS:

NOVEMBER 1, 2022 – OCTOBER 31, 2023

Below, please find the progress made by the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and community partners in the implementation of Home Illinois. The activities reported are in process or completed during this reporting period. For a full list of plan activities, inclusive of those completed in the first year of the plan, please see Home Illinois.

In October, Chicago Funders Together to End Homelessness announced their support for Home Illinois Fellows. Fellows will advance the goals of Home Illinois within the following State agencies/authorities: IHDA, IDPH, IDOC and HFS. The Fellows will work as a cohort to advance interagency collaboration in ending homelessness. Fellows will be onboarded in the first quarter of the next reporting period.

Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness (OPEH)

OPEH launched in November 2021. The Office is located within IDHS. Led by the Chief Homelessness Officer, she dually reports to the Deputy Governor of Health and Human Services and to the Secretary of IDHS.

OPEH/IDHS Staff Transitions and Announcements

On September 8, 2023, Governor JB Pritzker announced the departure of Deputy Governor Sol Flores, who served as Deputy Governor for Health and Human Services since January 2019.

On October 9, 2023, Governor Pritzker named Grace Hou, the former Secretary of the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS), as Deputy Governor for Health & Human Services. On this same date, Dulce M. Quintero became Secretary Designate of IDHS.

In 2023 OPEH onboarded new hires and the office is fully staffed:

- Kylon Hooks, Deputy Chief Homelessness Officer
- Jeri Bond, Statewide Referral Network Waitlist Manager
- LaTonya Butts, Communications Specialist
- Billy (Wang) Lau, Technical Assistant
- Nikita Robinson, Administrative Assistant
- Kevin Roth, Data Analyst
- Anna Spreitzer, Special Projects Coordinator

OPEH expanded funding to implement the following activities to support all strategies within the plan.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are now?
Policy	Create Homelessness & Racial Equity Roundtable; Commission a study on the root causes of racial disparities of homelessness in Illinois; Create a concrete plan with strategies to end the disparity.	In Process	The Racial Equity Roundtable on Black Homelessness convened in February 2023. The University of Illinois at Chicago, Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy completed a qualitative and quantitative analysis on the Black-White disparities in homelessness. IRRPP anticipates the report release in February 2024.
Policy	Join HUD and U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness House America Initiative; Partner with other IL communities participating in House America to set and achieve re-housing families and building new affordable and supportive housing	In Process	State of Illinois joined the House America Initiative. Rapid Rehousing and affordable housing development goals for the time period of October 1, 2021, through December 31, 2022, were sent to HUD. Activities to rehouse families and commit affordable housing development resources continued for reporting through the end of the calendar year.
Policy	Lead a joint Task Force and Community Advisory Council work group on securing access for housing for persons with sex offenses on their record; Explore legislative and program strategies to secure housing.	In Process	The Illinois Justice Project submitted recommendations to OPEH on housing people with sex offenses. OPEH communicated the recommendations to the CACH. The CACH will bring recommendations to the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness meeting in December 2023.
Policy	Create Rural Homeless Initiative to understand root causes and structural barriers to homelessness in rural communities; Develop strategic initiatives to end rural homelessness.	In Process	Two initiatives centering rural homelessness were completed in this reporting period: 1) Rural Homelessness Report by Housing Assistance Council and 2) Rural Homelessness 100-Day Challenge supported by ReInstitute. Housing Assistance Council conducted information collection of first-person interviews and listening sessions along with data analysis. HAC's report formulated a series of recommendations for supporting and addressing rural homelessness.
Policy	Together with the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security, complete study of the impact of Child Tax Credit on family homelessness; Implement guaranteed income pilot with families experiencing homelessness and/or at-risk of homelessness.	In Process	The University of Chicago, Inclusive Economy Lab implemented the first year of the Guaranteed Income Pilot, which provided one-time cash transfer payments to families living in shelters in Cook, Peoria, Kane, St. Clair, and Will Counties. The pilot is in its second year of operation supporting families in shelter. OPEH, IDHS and ISBE are planning for an FY25 pilot, which will support doubled-up homeless families identified by McKinney-Vento Homeless Liaisons.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are now?
Policy	Build the data infrastructure through supporting state agencies in tracking housing status within mainstream service programs; Support data matching activities between local Homeless Management Information Systems and applicable databases to identify target populations for housing and services; Create statewide homeless dashboard to understand population needs and trends; Explore feasibility and capacity for a Statewide HMIS system.	In Process	<p>Homebase is working with State agencies to obtain data for use in their projections on State resource needs. OPEH is working with Community Solutions to create the Illinois Quality Data Collaborative. Eight CoC's have joined up and Action Cycle 1 is in process.</p> <p>The Statewide Homelessness Dashboard is still in development. Work is in process on the data foundation for the structure. OPEH held early feasibility discussions with University of Illinois at Chicago-School of Public Health on a statewide HMIS. In the next reporting period, OPEH will work with the CoC HMIS leads to further this discussion.</p>
Policy	The HUD Illinois State Office of Public Housing and the IL Office to Prevent & End Homelessness will convene a Public Housing Authority (PHA) & Homelessness Work Group. The work group will explore local and national models of PHA engagement with homeless systems. The work group will support PHAs in implementation of key strategies to end homelessness. Strategies explored include utilization of homeless preferences, housing & health initiatives, participation in local planning efforts to end homelessness, and community partnerships to develop affordable, supportive and student housing.	In Process	OPEH and the local HUD office held three meetings to advance the creation of the PHA work group, with the support of CSH in facilitation. OPEH and HUD facilitated a presentation by the Lake County PHA and Boone-Winnebago County PHAs to IHDA on creative ways PHAs can partner with government and CBOs to accelerate PSH development.
Policy	Convene Homeless Youth Subcommittee to support young adults aging out of care from DCFS, being discharged from IDJJ, IDHS-Division of Mental Health and IDOC to ensure discharge planning and procedures support housing stability for young adults leaving State systems of care.	In Process	The Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee was established and met five times during this reporting period. The subcommittee heard presentations from DCFS, IDJJ, IDHS and IDOC on their discharge plans. One mandate for the subcommittee is that agencies must report on discharge data one year post release from the State institutions. The agencies are not currently collecting that information and will build the capacity for data collection. The subcommittee identified a scope for an evaluator to support the data collection infrastructure.
Policy	Convene a Transit System and Homelessness Work Group, tasked with identifying effective and compassionate models for supporting and linking to housing persons seeking shelter on public transportation.	In Process	OPEH created an Interagency Encampment Work Group to support State processes in support of persons in encampments with a focus on the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT). State agencies participating in the work group included: IDOT, IDPH, IDHS, the Governor's Office and ISBE. Facilitation support was provided by CSH. The work group completed an analysis of national encampment responses and conducted individual meetings with each State agency about its role and capacity within homelessness response systems. A detailed policies and procedures guidebook on responding to unsheltered homelessness is in the final draft process and should be completed in the first quarter of the next reporting period.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are now?
Policy	Convene a work group for State employee program staff to discuss innovative and promising practices, and to identify areas for inter-agency collaboration.	In Process	OPEH staff created a list of topics to be covered at the "Action Group" of State employees. An OPEH staff person has been identified to launch the Action Group in 2024.
Policy	Complete an evaluation of the emergency rental assistance and court-based assistance programs; Create statewide homeless prevention and eviction dashboard.	In Process	The University of Chicago, Inclusive Economy Lab submitted a working paper outlining the distinct role of homeless prevention programs, such as the Emergency Rental Assistance Program. IEL has worked to expand the reach of the Chicago Housing Stability dashboard. There is not sufficient publicly available data to make the eviction dashboard a statewide resource. However, IEL will expand the dashboard with what data is available.
Policy	Convene Health Care and Homelessness Work Group to advance initiatives focused on improving health and human services outcomes for persons facing housing instability, with an eye towards preventing unnecessary institutionalization in nursing homes and post-incarceration. The work group will engage hospitals and Managed Care Organizations in developing health focused housing development, support initiatives in advancing medical respite/recuperative care models and explore a statewide flexible housing pool.	In Process	This work group is to be created in the next reporting period. In August, OPEH presented to the Illinois Hospital Association Health Disparities and Health Equity Leaders Work Group on Home Illinois. Over 20 hospital CEOs and/or executives attended the call and OPEH held follow-up calls to discuss opportunities for hospitals to engage on Home Illinois.
Policy	Create Homelessness Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Center; Provide technical assistance to State agencies with new legislatively mandated or agency-initiated housing programs to quickly onboard programs; Provide technical assistance to community providers on implementation of promising practices in service delivery which may include low barrier service delivery, serving returning citizens and increasing capacity to bill Medicaid for medically necessary supportive services.	In Process	FY23 Projects Included: Housing Assistance Council– Rural Homelessness Report, Community Solutions–Statewide Data Quality Initiative, and ReInstitute–Rural 100-Day Challenge. A Technical Assistant role was hired within OPEH and has begun to create training to assist community providers on implementation and service delivery.
Policy	Connect with Princeton's Eviction Lab to bring The Evicted Exhibit to communities across the Illinois; Explore opportunities for community education campaigns around access homeless prevention and homeless services.	In Process	ISG Productions contracted July 1, 2023, to secure four locations for the exhibit. As of November 6, 2023, three locations are in the finalization for a venue contract. SHPA signed a contract with National Buildings Museum in April 2023 to receive the exhibit and agreed to host an Illinois tour under the terms and conditions of the exhibit. Currently in storage at the Des Plaines facility of the State of Illinois. Pending locations include National Public Housing Museum (Chicago); Illinois State Capitol (Springfield); Moline Public Library (Moline).

STRATEGY #1:

BUILD AFFORDABLE & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The key strategy for ending homelessness is building more affordable and permanent supportive housing. Across the state, persons experiencing homelessness and homeless service providers voiced the need for immediate access to permanent housing.

Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IHDA	Policy	Advocate for additional Federal and State funding to go towards the annual PSH Development Round; Maintain the current funding structure through FY23 & FY24.	Existing	Completed	IHDA's Board approved five developments with a total of 100 units and total funding from IHDA of \$37,878,825 under the PSH Development Program Round IX in March 2023. 43 of these units were explicitly targeted to people experiencing homelessness. IHDA's PSH Development Program Round X RFA was released in August 2023 and applications are due in January 2024.
IHDA	Policy	Make an intentional effort to expand access to capital for developers of color in the 2022-2023 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Action Plan (QAP), by including point incentives for projects sponsored or co-sponsored by Black, Indigenous, People of Color-led (BIPOC), or governed entities.	Existing	Completed	In 2023, IHDA continued to monitor the outcome of the point incentive for developments sponsored or co-sponsored by BIPOC companies established in the 2022-2023 QAP. In 2023, IHDA received 53 applications for funding for affordable housing developments in the competitive annual 9% Low Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) funding round. 18 of these were approved for funding--all 18 applications had BIPOC participation in the form of a sponsor or co-sponsor on the deal. A similar point incentive is included in the 2024-2025 QAP released in October 2023.
DCFS	Program	Partner with two public housing authorities to administer the Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative providing housing subsidies to youth aging out of care; Conduct outreach to additional housing authorities to administer the program.	Existing	In Process	Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, HUD awarded the Chicago Housing Authority an additional 100 Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) Housing Choice Vouchers. CHA currently has a total of 200 FYI vouchers. Between November 1, 2022 and October 31, 2023, the Housing Authority of Cook County was awarded 75 FYI vouchers and the Oak Park Housing Authority was awarded 15 FYI vouchers. Neither of these housing authorities had received FYI vouchers previously. An application has also been written by the Rockford Housing Authority to apply for up to 25 FYI vouchers. Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS referred 190 youth to 5 different housing authorities to obtain an FYI voucher.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
DCFS	Program	Partner with public housing authorities across the state to administer Family Unification Program Vouchers, providing a voucher to families with child welfare involvement. Although no new vouchers were allocated in FY22, DCFS plans to refer 200+ families to the program due to voucher turnover.	Existing	In Process	In the spring of 2023, DCFS assisted the Housing Authority of Champaign County, the Chicago Housing Authority, the Peoria Housing Authority, the Springfield Housing Authority, and the Winnebago County Housing Authority in applying for new Family Unification Program (FUP) vouchers. Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS referred 371 DCFS involved families to 15 different housing authorities to obtain an FUP voucher. Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS referred 23 youth to 10 different housing authorities for an FUP voucher.
HFS	Program	Implement a housing support services pilot program with federal approval.	Existing	In Process	In June 2023, HFS submitted a formal request to federal CMS to amend and extend the Medicaid Section 1115 Transformation Waiver. This request aimed to include expenditure authority for covering a range of benefits addressing health-related social needs, including housing support services. While awaiting a formal response and the commencement of negotiations with federal CMS, HFS and its consultants actively planned for the implementation of the housing supports benefit. This included activities such as presenting details of the 1115 waiver application to sister State agencies and external stakeholders, continuing to gather information from subject matter experts and providers of housing support services, and ongoing research on payment models utilized by other states to fund housing support services under Medicaid 1115 authority.
IDHS	Program	Through the Supportive Housing Services Program, fund services for persons living in Permanent Supportive Housing; service delivery includes case management, advocacy, counseling, job training and transportation.	Existing	In Process	An additional funding of \$1,736,844 for program expansion was provided. Funding was awarded through competitive NOFO for FY23 (every three years).
IDOC	Program	Continue to support the housing transition of 75 persons leaving correctional facilities by facilitating access to the IHDA Rental Housing Support Program.	Existing	In Process	IDOC referred 121 individuals to IHDA for housing, and 54 of those individuals were placed in housing. The IHDA pilot expanded to add more available units. IDOC continued to screen and refer people for placement through the Local Administering Agency (LAA). Unit availability through the LAAs remained a barrier. The funding for this program was awarded to and managed by IHDA.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IHDA	Program	Units created with 9% Tax Credits will have a 10% set aside for the Statewide Referral Network (SRN).	Existing	In Process	The 2023-2024 QAP was released in October 2023 and stipulates all 9% Tax Credit properties in the Chicago, Other Metro and Metro Chicago areas have a 10% set aside for SRN units. 9% Tax Credits in the Rural set-aside are required to have 5% due to demand constraints. Further incentives were included to encourage additional SRN units above these minimums.
IHDA	Program	Through partnership with CSH, deliver the Supportive Housing Development Institute (SHDI) to increase new PSH development projects; Provide financial support through a Project Initiation Loan (PIL) Pool.	Existing	In Process	CSH indicated one PIL Loan closed, two more were in progress and at least nine additional projects had expressed interest in consideration for PIL funds. Additionally, 16 teams had participated in the SHI in 2022-2023, with 4 SHI participants having projects submitted and funded by IHDA. IHDA intends to continue the SHI in 2024-2025.

Expansion of New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDOC	Process	Explore financial, housing and services models for permanent supportive housing for persons at risk of correctional system recidivism.	New	In Process	IDOC partnered with the City of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services Spring Forward housing program and made referrals. As of October 31, 2023, seven individuals were referred, and five individuals were accepted into the program. IDOC also partnered with the Justice Advisory Council and Cook County Housing Authority to refer individuals to stable, long term housing options. Five individuals were referred to this program in September 2023. Due to high program demand a lottery process is being implemented, and IDOC will be notified when referrals open back up.
IHDA	Process	Provide technical assistance and training to property managers on increasing accessibility to units through changes in project Tenant Selection Plans. Partnering with CSH and CoC Coordinated Entry Systems, strengthen referral processes for persons experiencing homelessness to access SRN units.	New	In Process	IHDA, along with IDHS/CSH, presented a training session on Reasonable Accommodation and the legal documents to be reviewed (i.e., Tenant Selection Plans, Affirmative Marketing Plans, and others). CSH has engaged with property management teams to improve leasing.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDHS	Program	Through the Housing is Recovery Program, prevent institutionalization and overdose deaths, improve health outcomes and access to recovery support services, and reduce State Costs; Provide bridge rental subsidies for persons at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization and individuals at high risk of overdose by providing housing to stabilize mental illness symptoms and/or substance use.	New	In Process	Permanent Supportive Housing and Bridge Subsidy Rule (Title 59, Chapter I, Part 145) was adopted in May 2023. 8 Grantees were awarded after a NOFO process in August 2023. The Grantees will partner with hospitals, IDOC, and other community organizations to identify individuals who are at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization or high risk of overdose to provide housing and access to recovery services.
IHDA	Program	The HOME Investment Partnerships Program-American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) statewide allocation of \$62 million will include creating new rental units and non-congregate shelter for homeless households.	New	Completed	In September 2023, IHDA requested a HUD Technical Assistance Provider to assist in developing rules and other activities to plan for the release of a NOFO/RFA for Non-Congregate Shelter in 2024. IHDA also anticipates releasing a Request for Applications to select technical assistance, providers to provide direct technical assistance, and training to developers for HOME-ARP Non-Congregate Shelter. IHDA plans to include the HOME-ARP rental housing funds in its next PSH Development Program round.
IDOC	Program	Partner with the Chicago & Cook County Flexible Housing Pool to pilot housing returning citizens with complex health needs in supportive housing.	New	In Process	As of October 27, 2023, 25 individuals had been referred and 14 individuals were placed with the Flexible Housing Pool. Referrals were made at a pace of four referrals/week, as requested by FHP. Monthly meetings continued to take place between IDOC, FHP, and North Lawndale Case Management, making this partnership successful.

STRATEGY #2:

BOLSTER THE SAFETY NET

Strengthening the systems that prevent people from entering the literal homeless system is a central focus of the plan. State agencies work with community agencies to support persons who are at risk of eviction seeking homeless prevention assistance to provide temporary housing to persons leaving carceral systems to support those in need of crisis shelter options. A key piece of this strategy is assessing the amounts of prevention, diversion and shelter resources needed to meet community needs. Promoting person-centered and trauma-informed systems will be part of the growth strategy for the system.

Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
IDJJ	Process	Advance homeless diversion strategies by supporting youth transition plans that prioritize kinship and relationship development.	Existing	In Process	IDJJ implemented inclusion of a specific housing stability objective in its Discharge Planning activities/reports. Information regarding where a youth will reside upon release from an Illinois Youth Center (IYC) facility is obtained on day three of commitment. Indicators were obtained to address potential of homelessness; began immediately to include family reunification strategies and identification of other kinship or relationship options. 90 days prior to discharge, a transition plan was in place. This plan identified housing plans and plans to maintain stability.
IDOC, IDHS	Process	Identify and find appropriate placements for mandated supervised release for persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (SMI), non-adherence to medication regimens, and histories of violence.	Existing	In Process	IDOC added 2 additional vendors who serve the SMI and sex offender populations, which total approximately 28 beds. IDOC partnered with IDHS and worked with the Housing is Recovery program grantees to place individuals with serious mental illness releasing from custody. IDOC referred and placed 2 individuals with 2 grantees of the Housing is Recovery Program. There is a barrier that still exists for individuals with sex offense convictions, violence, or arson in their background and in need of a more structured environment or a higher level of mental health care due to instability, self-harm, and medication/treatment non-compliance.
IDPH	Process	Explore policy change to waive medical cannabis registry card fee for unhoused persons with a qualifying condition.	Existing	In Process	The registration platform remains under development and an estimate has been sought from the vendor to include a registration path to allow for fees to be waived for individuals applying with a homelessness certification. If feasible, a corresponding rules change will be sought.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
IDVA	Process	Promote and partner with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs to educate and assist veterans to apply for federal VA care and benefits, inclusive of access to VA homeless housing programs, HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH), and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF).	Existing	In Process	IDVA reported no changes at this time.
IDVA	Process	Maximize partnership with Illinois Joining Forces Foundation, a public-private network of military and veteran-serving organizations to create a no-wrong-door system to support veterans.	Existing	In Process	Director Prince attended IJF's Regional Summit in Springfield on November 3, 2022. The Director gave remarks and participated in roundtable discussions that touched on behavioral health, suicide awareness, employment, women veterans, and housing/homelessness/material needs. This year's Regional Summit took place in Peoria on November 17, 2023, and Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Mark Robinson attended the event.
IDVA	Process	Enhance VSOs' internal database system, CyberVet, to promote a warm handoff approach to a community resource when a veteran indicates that they do not have an address or are experiencing homelessness.	Existing	In Process	IDVA reported no changes at this time.
IDVA	Process	Foster collaboration with the County Veterans Assistance Commissions (VACs) that provide county resources, such as rental assistance, utility assistance, and food vouchers; Enhance engagement with Commissions through inclusion in mutual training and services activities and event support.	Existing	In Process	IDVA invited the VACs to the Annual Training Conference, held May 22-25, 2023. Ten Field Services staff attended the Veterans Assistance Commission Fall Training September 18-22, 2023. Field Training Coordinator, Ken Bonner, presented state benefit training and attended with nine Veterans Service Officers.
DCFS	Program	Support the Youth Cash Assistance program by providing assistance to youth aging or aged out of DCFS care, to stabilize housing situations; Funding supports rent, security deposits, utilities, landlord home repairs, beds, furniture, clothing, and household items.	Existing	In Process	Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS personnel authorized \$293,888.75 for 212 youth who were aging out or aged out of DCFS care. DCFS personnel authorized \$147,733.17 for rent, security deposits and move-in fees, \$12,694.32 for assistance with utility bills, and \$30,884 for housing subsidies for youth whose DCFS cases closed prior to their 21st birthday. The remaining cash assistance authorizations provided beds, clothing, and other stabilizing necessities.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
DCEO	Program	Administer the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), providing funding for capital for non-congregate shelter.	Existing	In Process	The Office of Community Development expanded its team and caught up with standard CDBG activities. DCEO plans to issue the shelter construction Notice of Funding Opportunity in December 2023. The CDBG funding is intended for capital improvements. The deadline to obligate these funds is September 1, 2028. DCEO has proposed to disburse funds by June 30, 2025.
DCEO	Program	Administer the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which provides rental and mortgage assistance, motel vouchers and shelter services.	Existing	In Process	In 2022, CSBG expended \$10 million in providing 170,000 individuals with housing services. Of those 170,000, 5,609 were explicitly identified as services for the homeless population. As a result, DCEO approximated that nearly \$333,000 was expended to provide 5,609 services to people experiencing homelessness across Illinois.
DCFS	Program	Norman Cash Assistance funds private agencies to purchase items for families at risk of having their children placed in foster care due to issues related to poverty, including homelessness; Funding supports rent, security deposits, utilities, landlord home repairs, beds, clothing, and household items.	Existing	In Process	Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS personnel authorized \$5,574,701.46 to 4,438 DCFS involved families, \$2,998,100.66 for rent, home repairs, security deposits and move-in fees, and \$97,383.76 for assistance with utility bills. The remaining cash assistance provided beds, clothing, and other items needed to care for the children.
DCFS	Program	Support the Youth Housing Advocacy Program, helping youth aging out or aged out of DCFS care, locate adequate housing; Supportive service delivery continues until the youth reaches age 21, with an extension to age 23 if housed with a federal subsidy.	Existing	In Process	Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS referred 336 youth to a Youth Housing Advocacy Program for assistance obtaining and/or maintaining adequate housing. Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS processed \$1,064,787.49 in bills from DCFS contracted housing advocacy providers, who reported serving 735 youth (many youth receive services for up to three years).
DCFS	Program	Norman Services assist families in danger of having children placed in foster care, or unable to return home, due to issues related to poverty, including homelessness; Norman Housing Advocacy supports DCFS involved families with housing location and supportive services.	Existing	In Process	Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS referred 1,348 DCFS involved families to a DCFS contracted housing advocacy provider. Between November 1, 2022, and October 31, 2023, DCFS processed \$2,587,602.52 in bills from DCFS contracted housing advocacy providers who reported serving 1,918 families (some families receive services for more than one year).

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
ICJIA	Program	Continue funding of transitional housing program for persons leaving Illinois Correctional Facilities.	Existing	In Process	ICJIA is administering funds to support the Flexible Housing Pool Reentry Pilot, a joint effort with IDOC and the Center for Housing and Health. Funding is earmarked towards Reentry transitional housing for the following categories: Those in need of placements who are currently being held past their MSR and who have mental health needs – from moderate to severe, Individuals with Chronic Diseases, Murphy Class, and Parole diversions. Ongoing discussions between ICJIA and the IDOC are currently focused on the transitional housing portfolio. Given recent leadership changes, both organizations are exploring ways to align their respective objectives and strategies. We anticipate that the outcome of these discussions will be informed by a thorough and data-driven analysis of the current landscape, as well as a detailed assessment of the respective capacity of each organization.
IDHS	Program	Administer the federal Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, serving persons with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and experiencing homelessness through street outreach and referrals to housing, primary care, job training, and educational services.	Existing	In Process	Program continued with 12 PATH providers statewide; IDHS-Division of Mental Health (DMH) onboarded a new Program Administrator for PATH. Workforce stabilization with local providers remains key. Training is available through the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) resources in addition to the PATH Data Exchange. Other trainings are provided during monthly meetings between DMH staff and local PATH staff. Planning for the statewide conference has commenced and is tentatively scheduled for May 2024.
IDHS	Program	The Home Visiting for Homeless Families (HVHF) Demonstration Program ensures home visiting is more responsive to the needs of homeless families, informs practice and policy change, increases integration and alignment across homeless services and home visiting systems.	Existing	In Process	Demonstration project continued. Program evaluation completed. Recommendations for State implementation are under development.
IDHS	Program	Support the Eviction Mitigation Legal Assistance Program that supports tenants at risk of eviction through central intake and needs assessment, eviction prevention tools and resources, virtual legal clinics, direct legal representation, and courtroom access to rental assistance.	Existing	In Process	Funding for the Illinois Equality Justice Foundation (IEJF) for the Access to Counsel Program increased to \$5M in FY24. In August, IEJF released a report on the impact of the eviction help line. Since its launch in 2020, Eviction Help Illinois has provided legal information, advice, representation and mediation services to more than 430,000 Illinoisians.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
IDHS	Program	Administration of the Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) that supports emergency shelter and homeless prevention activities, including street outreach, Rapid Rehousing programs, and administration of the Homeless Management Information System.	Existing	In Process	ESG has served 16,352 individuals; ESC-CV Grant has served 13,001 individuals.
IDJJ	Program	Fund community based Therapeutic Residential, Transitional Living Program and Independent Living Programs for youth in custody with the IL Department of Juvenile Justice; Youth complete their sentence in community-based re-entry settings.	Existing	In Process	IDJJ is currently contracted with 21 residential providers covering a range of therapeutic areas and housing options to include residential, transition and independent living programs. IDJJ is in the process of acquiring a mapping tool designed to outline locations of residential providers throughout the state. Through legislation effective July 2023, IDJJ will continue to provide housing and other services to youth as needed post discharge from IDJJ. IDJJ has contracted with a community-based provider to assist with rental payments in the event of eviction notifications, to help a young person or family with initial housing deposits and other incidental needs necessary to maintain stability for the family. Two additional residential providers were contracted with during this period - one for independent living options and one for transitional living. Three mental health providers were added during this period to provide inpatient and outpatient therapy.
IDOC	Process	Through contracted agencies, provide transitional housing upon Mandatory Supervised Release from a correctional facility, including persons with a sex offense on their record.	Existing	In Process	IDOC launched the Intensive Reintegration Community Program (IRCP) for individuals with sex offense convictions in need of transitional housing. This program is managed by IDOC's Sex Offender Services Unit. There are 11 contracted vendors and will be expanding to 13 vendors before the end of 2023. Currently there are 379 beds in this program and it will be expanding to 419 beds with the addition of the 2 vendors. As of October 3, 2023, IDOC has been able to place most individuals with sex offense convictions at the time of Mandatory Supervised Release. There is still a large barrier for placement of Individuals with sex offense convictions requiring nursing home placement or higher need medical or mental health care.
IDVA	Program	Strengthen and bring awareness to Prince Home, a housing program serving 15 veterans experiencing homelessness.	Existing	In Process	At the Prince Home, IDVA continued to foster and promote independence among the residents. Each unit was individually keyed, and each resident was responsible for maintaining their own key. Each unit was equipped with a wireless doorbell for safety and security. The main entrance of the Prince Home was upgraded to a keyless entry system and each resident assigned a code which allows them entry to the building. IDVA continued to encourage community involvement and to invite community partners in to educate veterans on topics such as obtaining VA home loans and interviewing for employment.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
IDVA	Program	Administer the Veterans Cash Grant Program that supports agencies providing homeless services, employment, and training programs.	Existing	In Process	From January 1, 2023- October 31, 2023, the Veterans Cash Grant Program awarded \$312,982 in grants under the homelessness funding category. During that time, the following amounts were awarded: Behavioral Health, \$640,995; Disability Benefits, \$200,000; Employment Training, \$331,300; and Emergency Assistance, \$94,710.
IHDA	Program	Funding for acquisition, new construction, or rehabilitation for transitional, service-intensive housing.	Existing	Completed	IHDA's board has approved a total of 25 projects with 332 beds under the Housing for Justice Involved Persons Program. As of October 2023, IHDA has closed on 13 of these projects with 167 beds. Future funding is anticipated for the program in FY25.
ISBE	Program	Administer the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Funding, supporting local school districts to address the needs of students experiencing homelessness and housing instability; Services provided include tutoring, supplemental instruction, professional development for educators on the needs of homeless students, and before and after school programs.	Existing	Completed	ISBE is continuing this work.
ISBE	Program	Lead Area McKinney-Vento Liaisons to facilitate access to homeless assistance trainings on a monthly basis to school districts, families and the larger community.	Existing	Completed	ISBE is continuing this work.
ISBE	Program	Award funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relive Fund II & III Community Partnership Grants; Homeless students are prioritized for projects where schools work in partnership with local communities to assess and meet the immediate pandemic-related, or social emotional, and/or trauma needs identified.	Existing	In Process	ISBE will continue this work through September 30, 2024.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are now
ISBE	Program	Administer the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds to support housing insecure students; Activities include increasing outreach and identification of students experiencing homelessness, hiring systems navigators to help families and youth access education, and offering early childhood education services for young children experiencing Homelessness.	Existing	In Process	This work is continued until September 30, 2024. Districts have conducted needs assessment to determine how to best use the funds for McKinney-Vento student needs. ISBE continued to work with the USDE on allowable uses, including, but not limited to system navigator programs.

Expansion of Current Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDJJ	Process	Increase agency capacity to strengthen and sustain housing supports for youth, such as employment and education activities.	Expansion	In Process	IDJJ contracted with community-based providers covering a range of therapeutic areas and housing options to include residential, transition and independent living programs; inpatient and outpatient mental health; substance abuse counseling services for both in and outpatient care; vocational programming and job placement; Day Reporting Centers; and referral services to the Illinois Department of Human Services; the Division of Rehabilitation Services. IDJJ is in the process of acquiring a mapping tool designed to outline locations of community-based providers throughout the state. Legislation effective July 2023, added \$90K additional funding to assist in this effort. IDJJ will continue to provide housing and other services to youth as needed post discharge from IDJJ.
IDHS	Program	Through the Emergency and Transitional Housing (ETH) Program, provide funding for community-based crisis housing for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including emergency, overnight, motel/hotel based and transitional housing programs.	Expansion	In Process	Through the investments in Home Illinois, funding for ETH program increased from \$10.3M in FY23 to a \$51M in FY24. IDHS successfully completed a NOFO for expansion of the ETH program to enter into contracts for all \$51M in the first months of the FY24 fiscal year.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDHS	Program	Funding short-term housing and services for survivors of domestic violence inclusive of shelter and transitional housing programs, landlord advocacy, case management and safety planning.	Expansion	In Process	<p>Three Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFO) supported by State general revenue funds as well as federal grants, were released for FY23 services. These NOFOs resulted in an expansion of services and supported community-based efforts addressing the comprehensive needs of domestic violence, including addressing counseling, advocacy, and shelter needs. Sheltering for victims includes emergency shelter stays at domestic violence facilities, hotel placement, temporary refuge, short term rental assistance, and relocation expenses.</p> <p>In addition to community-based efforts, IDHS funding has been directed toward building the capacity of the statewide victim service networks. Training and technical assistance geared toward building the capacity of local programs has been prioritized as the complexity of individual and agency needs has been exacerbated as a result of the pandemic. This entails working with local Domestic Violence agencies building a capacity in fiscal, administrative, and programmatic functions to better position victim services to meet the needs of survivors, including housing stability.</p>
IDPH		Support the development of a Statewide 2-1-1 system, to ensure equitable access to homeless services and supports and strengthen the crisis safety net.	Expansion	In Process	A NOFO for the Statewide 211 Expansion was awarded to United Way Lake County totaling \$1.8 million. Sub-grants have been disbursed to 211 Contact Centers across the state with 91% of the population and 65% of counties now covered by 211 services. Desired goal is 85% county coverage by the end of June 2024.

New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
HFS	Policy	Create a pathway to cover medical respite services within Medicaid.	New	In Process	In June 2023, HFS submitted a formal request to federal CMS to amend and extend the State Medicaid Section 1115 Transformation Waiver. This request seeks expenditure authority for covering a range of benefits addressing health-related social needs, including Medical Respite. While awaiting a formal response and the commencement of negotiations with federal CMS, HFS and its consultants have been actively planning for the implementation of the medical respite benefit. This includes activities such as presenting details of the 1115 waiver application to sister State agencies and external stakeholders, gathering information from current providers of medical respite care, and continuing to research and track medical respite models in other states.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
ICJIA	Policy	Explore ability to expand programming at contracted re-entry transitional housing agencies to include behavioral health liaisons to facilitate increased service access.	New	In Process	ICJIA is currently engaged in a series of discussions with key vital voices and stakeholders to gain a comprehensive and in-depth understanding of the complex interplay of factors that impact the housing needs of returning residents. These deliberations form part of a broader strategy aimed at creating funding opportunities that can enhance the availability of housing options. The following activities are ongoing: Community-Based Organizations site visits, Reentry Work Groups/Committees, and IDOC facility visits to meet with men and women to discuss reentry needs.
IDHS	Policy	The Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery will create a Chronic Care Stabilization and Transition billable service that responds to the needs of people with substance use disorder experiencing homelessness or Housing insecurity.	New	In Process	This service has been created and implemented within SUPR's Contractual Policy Manual. There are currently four providers offering this service, and SUPR continues to provide technical assistance and support for other providers who are interested in providing Stabilization and Transition services.
IDJJ	Policy	Amend Juvenile Justice Court Act (750ILCS405) to enable IDJJ to pay for housing costs six months post release and/or beyond youth's legal discharge from the Department; Upon amendment completion, pilot program to support 10 youth with rental assistance for six months post-release; Develop agency directives to support the initiative.	New	In Process	Legislation passed in July 2023 giving IDJJ authority to continue to support youth six months post discharge. Policy development is underway and ongoing. A contract was implemented to provide housing and other personal assistance to youth and families who are in the care of IDJJ.
DoA	Process	Enhance data collection by adding "homeless" and "at risk of homelessness" to the Community Care Program (CCP) intake form, allowing Care Coordination Units to better respond to older adult housing stability.	New	In Process	Aging Cares is scheduled to launch on March 1, 2024. The Aging Cares system will serve as a comprehensive case management system which will include specific CCP data that will assist in the identification of individuals that are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. This information will be garnered through questions presented to individuals seeking CCP services with regards to housing needs.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
ICCB, IBHE, OPEH	Process	Collaborate with the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security to advance activities to build a strong health and human service workforce pipeline; Explore homeless services course work and certification process for homeless housing and services workforce.	New	In Process	Northern Illinois University (NIU) is completing a study on the homeless services workforce. NIU completed a survey with homeless service providers to understand needs within the workforce, including staff at shelters and permanent supportive housing programs. This report will inform the strategies needed to stabilize the homelessness workforce.
IDHS	Process	The Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery will explore the current community intervention service/rate and support housing recovery specialists at treatment sites.	New	In Process	Providers are currently able to bill for Community Intervention services, including outreach and engagement activities. SUPR does not have grant-funded housing recovery specialists but continues to work with providers and partners to develop and coordinate housing-related SUD services.
IDHS	Process	Review reporting requirements within Division or Family Services Homeless Services Bureau to identify ability to implement reporting efficiencies with HUD homeless standardized reports.	New	In Process	Currently under review by IDHS.
IDOC	Process	Hire a Special Populations Statewide Coordinator to identify additional housing options for individuals with residency restrictions, and mental and physical health barriers.	New	Completed	Greg Runyan who filled the position since 10/1/22 left to accept a promotion on 8/1/23. This position is in the hiring process again. The SME Review was completed in October 2023 and is moving to the interview process.
IDVA	Process	Explore statewide alignment with Unite Us, a shared technology platform to support meaningful collaboration and care-coordination.	New	In Process	Our partners at Illinois Joining Forces utilize the Unite Us platform and are promoting the platform within their service provider communities as a collaborative referral tool. However, it would be prudent to explore Unite Us (or a similar program) as a platform for all Illinois State agencies to maximize coordinated care efforts.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
ICCB/ IBHE	Program	Create the administrative infrastructure necessary for the implementation of Public Act 102-0083, The Higher Education Housing Opportunities Act; Establish the role of homeless liaison as an advocate and resource for homeless students, improve the accessibility and affordability of on-campus housing, and require universities and colleges to track and report data on the number of students experiencing homelessness to Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.	New	In Process	ICCB and IBHE have both advanced in the implementation of the Housing and Opportunities that are Useful for Students' Excellence (HOUSE) Liaison program. In FY 23, IBHE awarded 11 End Student Housing Insecurity (ESHI) grants of approximately \$50,000 each. Institutions used this funding to address student homelessness through many activities including direct aid to students for rental and utilities assistance, basic needs and food pantry expansions, and resource centers among others. For FY24, IBHE increased the amount available for each grant to \$200,000 and set aside approximately \$1.8M. The RFP was released in September 2023 and awardees were notified November 1, 2023. IBHE is collecting information from HOUSE Liaisons regarding the number of homeless and youth in care served by their institution and services and supports provided to them from August 2022 through June 2023. Institutions' deadline to fill out the form was October 30, 2023. IBHE will analyze the data submitted by the institutions and issue a report. Additionally, IBHE continues to urge institutions that have not done so to identify HOUSE Liaisons and IBHE has maintained updated contact information for HOUSE liaisons for the current academic year. While there are still several institutions that have not designated a liaison, most of these are out-of-state institutions. IBHE has been updating its website throughout the year and has increased the number of linked resources available on its webpage. IBHE, in conjunction with ICCB planned the AY 2023-2024 HOUSE Liaison training that took place on November 8, 2023. For this year, IBHE expanded the training from 1 1/2 hours to 3 1/2 hours and had speakers from Chicago Coalition of the Homeless, DCFS, Foster Progress, ISAC, and School House Connections. The training was recorded and available on the IBHE website for HOUSE liaisons that could not attend on November 8. ICCB also completed a HOUSE Liaisons Conference in June 2023. ICCB and OPEH coordinated a presentation at the Illinois Community College Board Presidents meeting in September, with a focus on supporting and understanding the population of homeless students on their campuses through streamlined data collection.
ICJIA	Program	Develop system capacity for palliative care models for persons exiting carceral systems via compassionate release.	New	In Process	ICJIA is conducting research on palliative care and compassionate release models and reading relevant white papers utilized by other states. This research aims to determine the efficacy of such models to make informed recommendations on a framework that meets the requirements of correctional facilities in Illinois.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDHS	Program	Establish a housing navigator role within the seven independent service coordination (ISC) agencies for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities; Navigators support people matched to supportive housing to ensure a smooth transition to new homes, train ISC staff on housing alternatives, and engage with regional affordable housing providers and developers.	New	In Process	<p>The Housing Navigation Services, part of the ICDD/DDD Supportive Housing Pilot and delivered by 7 Independent Service Coordination Agencies, continues to demonstrate a strong commitment to supporting individuals with developmental disabilities (DD) in finding suitable housing options. Ongoing technical assistance from High Ground refines service delivery, ensuring a systematic collection of insights, lessons learned, identification of barriers, and compilation of success stories. This effort significantly contributes to discerning best practices for effective Pilot implementation, with the goal of transitioning it into a permanent service sustained through Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD) funding.</p> <p>Currently, 30 individuals with DD have used the Transition Assistance Fund for essential items during their transition and Housing Navigator services have played a crucial role in assisting over 300 individuals with DD on their housing journey. The University of Illinois at Chicago Institute on Disability and Human Development acts as the third-party evaluator, diligently collecting data to enhance insights. The Supportive Housing Pilot project is set to conclude on October 31, 2026.</p>
IDJJ	Program	Create a training module for facility and aftercare staff to identify housing resources and begin discharge and transition planning processes earlier in the commitment process; Create training module for youth on independent living and life skills.	New	In Process	<p>Aftercare developed and began implementation of the modules in the area of life skills for youth. These groups are taking place while the youth is in IDJJ custody prior to release.</p> <p>IDJJ is currently designing an outline of the agency's reform. Included will be additional training for staff who will have the responsibilities for providing housing resources and two Illinois Youth Centers specifically designed for emerging adults focusing on life skills, education and vocational training. Training for staff is in the development stage. Aftercare staff currently provide housing information and include these referrals in the discharge planning as referenced earlier. This is an ongoing development.</p>

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today?
IDPH	Program	Pilot test intensive case management for people experiencing homelessness initiated in hospital emergency departments to connect to housing and necessary social services.	New	In Process	The Housing Navigator Emergency Room Pilot program is a pilot test of intensive case management for people experiencing homelessness initiated within hospital emergency departments to connect them to housing and necessary social services. Renaissance Social Services is providing onsite support at Loretto Hospital on Chicago's west side to ensure that patients exiting the hospital without a home, or those who enter the emergency room in hopes of finding a warm, safe place to shelter can locate suitable housing. The goal of the Housing Navigator Emergency Room Pilot Program is to establish a model that will become part of the statewide effort to prevent and end homelessness in Illinois.
ISP	Program	Convene Illinois law enforcement to develop best practices for response to the homeless calls for service and encampment mitigation to ensure that responses are lawful and handled with respect for the dignity of the individuals involved.	New	In Process	<p>Working with the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police, ISP convened representatives of local law enforcement with Project Now to gather input on creation of a guidebook on responding to people experiencing homelessness in the community.</p> <p>Worked with subject matter experts to research and develop a comprehensive guidebook on a coordinated interdisciplinary response to people experiencing homelessness in the community.</p> <p>Published the Illinois Response to Homelessness Guidebook for dissemination to law enforcement agencies and the public.</p> <p>Future activity: 2023/24 – Developing a survey to be disseminated through the Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police to ascertain the resources needed by local law enforcement to implement the policies, training, and practices recommended in the Guidebook.</p>

STRATEGY #3:

SECURE FINANCIAL STABILITY

To end housing instability, a combination of increased income and affordable housing is needed. The following activities identify pathways for economic stability.

Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDVA	Process	Promote services to educate and assist veterans in obtaining earned benefits through Veteran Service Officers (VSOs); VSOs aid completion of necessary forms and compile evidential documents needed to process benefit claims.	Existing	In Process	IDVA Currently has 46 VSOs and is working diligently to increase that number. In the last 12 calendar months VSOs have attended 153 outreach events. 146 events from January 1, 2023- October 31, 2023. From the start of FY24, VSOs have attended 75 events.
ICCB	Program	Administration of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V); Provide technical assistance to community colleges on how to support students experiencing homelessness and connection to mainstream benefits (e.g., SNAP Employment & Training Program).	Existing	In Process	The Illinois Community College Board, ICCB, continued work with the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support, ICSPS, to provide technical assistance to community colleges providing support to students experiencing homelessness as part of administering the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act. Perkins funds are being used to subsidize HOUSE liaisons funding, to ensure a continuity of support for system HOUSE liaisons, as well as students. Throughout 2024, community college Perkins Administrators will be conducting the third iteration of the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). The CLNA is a required component per Perkins law and is an equity-focused assessment of programs and program of study, including a strong data-disaggregation component. This allows colleges to do a deep dive of their data to determine specifically which student populations are underperforming in which programs. Individuals experiencing homelessness are a special populations subgroup under Perkins, Colleges will be able to determine how best to assist these students to ensure their success. The 2023 Poverty Simulation was extremely successful and was well-attended. The ICSPS plans to do another Simulation in the spring of 2024.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDES	Program	Administration of the federal Jobs for Veterans State Grant to work with veterans with significant barriers to employment, including housing instability; Partner with agencies, funding through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, that provides services to assist veterans to access meaningful employment and develop effective service delivery systems for homeless veterans.	Existing	In Process	This is an ongoing activity of the IDES JVSG program; IDES staff worked with these current grantees (these change depending on USDOL-VETS decisions): America Works of IL (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, Kankakee); Of Color, Inc (Cook Co); Goodwill Industries of the Heartland (Rock Island, Whiteside, and Henry); and Transitional Living Services (Boone, Cook, Lake, McHenry, Winnebago).
IDHS	Program	Support training for homeless service providers in completion of the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) program to support individuals completing disability applications and successfully receiving benefits.	Existing	In Process	The Bureau of Housing and Supportive Services contracts for TA with the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) as the SOAR State Lead to provide SOAR training to homeless service providers; the curriculum is on-going and is available and accessible online through SHPA's website. to date, the Statewide SOAR Coordinator has conduct four SOAR 101 info sessions and four new trainee co-hort's while fielding numerous TA inquiries from SOAR practitioners. In addition, a SOAR Steering Committee has been developed that includes representatives from SSA, DDS, State Agencies and SOAR practitioners to identify areas of opportunity to incorporate SOAR in state institutions. In FY24 the steering committee, trainings and TA sessions will continue and be expanded.
IDHS	Program	The Child Care Assistance Program provides subsidized childcare for parents who are working, in school or in a training program. Families experiencing homelessness are allowed a 12-month eligibility period without an activity. From program participation in previous years, the CCAP anticipates serving 628 children experiencing homelessness in FY23.	Existing	In Process	The Child Care Assistance Program accepted applications through local Childcare Resource and Referral Agencies. Service provision to these families experiencing homelessness will be recorded.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDES	Process	Conduct activities to improve equitable access to unemployment benefits; Pending receipt of federal grant, increase IDES outreach to community partners providing services to individuals not accessing eligibility unemployment benefits; Conduct a survey to identify challenges in the unemployment to re-employment journey, inclusive of questions on housing status.	New	Not Yet	The federal UI Equity Grant includes several activities to increase access to UI benefits; the first set of activities are underway and are focused on technological and plain language changes to the online UI application and claimant portal. The development of outreach strategies will follow the technological changes. IDES is currently looking at adding a housing-related question to the updated user experience survey.

Expansion of Current Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDHS	Process	Create and deliver trainings on the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) Cash and Medicare Savings Program to increase access to these benefits.	Expansion	In Process	AABD Medical Resources Refresher training is currently in progress to all casework staff.
IDHS	Process	Information related to special processing, allowances and deductions for people experiencing homelessness is available to front line staff in the IDHS Policy Manual and Workers Action Guide.	Expansion	In Process	TANF Crisis Assistance and Emergency Shelter Refresher trainings have been completed.

New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDES	Process	Within Title III of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Employment Services (ES) Program, incorporate outreach and service strategies appropriate for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability.	Existing	Not Yet	<p>IDES ES Program completed and launched a new staff training which will be followed by individual training modules and that will include a module on service strategies for people experiencing homelessness.</p> <p>This past year, IDES assisted DCEO with the development of a NOFO for a pilot workforce program for people experiencing homelessness. The pilot will be funded and managed by DCEO.</p>
IDES	Process	Improve employment related information about persons experiencing homelessness by augmenting survey data in the Coleridge Initiative Administrative Data Research Facility (ARDF) Unemployment to Reemployment portal; Match administrative records between unemployment insurance records and the Homeless Management Information System to understand employment stability and industry, unemployment (length of time, take up of employment benefits) demographic characteristics, housing and employment program services access.	New	In Process	<p>IDES completed the procurement and contracting process with Coleridge which hosts the Administrative Data Research Facility; IDES hired a coordinator (PSC position) to help with data project. IDES held multiple meetings with All Chicago to prep for data matching once the Coleridge contract was complete. IDES, All Chicago, and Chapin Hall (who is assisting with data matching through a sub-contract with Coleridge) had a formal launch meeting to discuss several data sharing issues. IDES has begun the development of measures which will be used in the pilot</p>
IDHS	Process	Together with the Illinois Commission on Hunger, provide input to a study on access to SNAP benefits, focusing on access issues of older adults, mixed status families and families with young children.	New	In Process	<p>In 2023, the Illinois Commission to End Hunger conducted a series of statewide focus groups with current and former SNAP participants to better understand local level barriers to SNAP access. Based on those findings, the Commission is developing a marketing and outreach strategy to better connect individuals to the program. The materials will be finalized and ready for distribution in 2024.</p>
IDHS	Process	Revise the online application page to the AABD to ensure greater accessibility to the benefits.	New	In Process	<p>Improvements were made to the online application page to promote the AABD cash program and the application page is available online for public access.</p>
IDHS	Process	Develop and deliver training materials to all Family and Community Resource Center front line staff to ensure claimants are evaluated for all eligible benefits.	New	In Process	<p>This service delivery has been included in the ongoing training for all staff and follows the system design in the Integrated Eligibility System (IES).</p>

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDHS	Program	Together with the Division of Family & Community Services and Illinois Commission to End Hunger, support the pilot of the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program by recruiting restaurants and persons experiencing homelessness to participate in the program; An anticipated 32,000 Illinoisans will be eligible to participate in the Program.	New	In Process	The SNAP Restaurant Meals Program pilot has been operational in two Illinois counties since last year. IDHS will soon undertake a review of the pilot to inform expansion to other counties in Illinois.
IDHS	Program	Through the Welcoming Center COVID Relief Project, provide cash assistance, similar to the Child Tax Credit, for families not eligible for the benefit due to documentation status.	New	In Process	<p>The Immigrant Family Support Project (IFSP) is a program that provides cash transfers to Illinois residents and families who were not eligible for the COVID-19 Federal Economic Impact Payments and do not qualify for other public assistance programs. In the spring of 2020, during Fiscal Year 2020, the project received 2000 applications. Fiscal Year 2023 marked the third full fiscal year that IFSP has operated, and over the course of the program's history, it has served over 80,000 adults and children in Illinois.</p> <p>In Fiscal Year 2023, IFSP faced new challenges and opportunities. In response to the bussing of migrants from the southern border, the program balanced the needs of existing and emerging migrants who were not eligible for public assistance. During 2023, Illinois Welcoming Centers collected 5,000 applications for a similar cash assistance program.</p>
IDHS	Program	The Division of Early Childhood will fund the development of an add-on marketing campaign which will intentionally engage families experiencing homelessness; The campaign will augment the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development enrollment campaign to focus awareness of early childhood education services to Child Care Assistance Program eligible families.	New	In Process	DEC continued the Early Childhood Enrollment Campaign to engage families in the lowest quartile of CCAP eligibility. Work was added to focus on recruitment and awareness of the Early Childhood Workforce which will launch in January 2024. DEC and INCCRRA have engaged a marketing agency to assist in ongoing development.
ISBE	Program	Each McKinney-Vento eligible student has the opportunity to create an individual student success plan, modeled after the Harvard EdRedisgn, Necessary; School navigator develops and monitors the plan.	New	In Process	ISBE has continued to review next steps. A template has not been completed.

STRATEGY #4:

CLOSING THE MORTALITY GAP

According to national data, the average age of death of a person experiencing homelessness is 51. The activities below support improving the health outcomes for persons with housing insecurity.

Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDPH	Process	Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative supports a quality improvement network for birthing equity; Hospitals screen for social determinants of health (SDOH) including housing insecurity.	Existing	In Process	For FY23, the Birth Equity initiative focused on engaging bedside clinical team members (providers, nurses, and staff) to actively participate and implement birth equity at the bedside. Teams have been prioritizing active implementation to document SDOH, consider how SDOH needs impact clinical care and provide follow-up. August of 2023, 83% of participating hospitals were documenting SDOH during delivery admission.
IDPH	Program	Provide funding to test, detect and mitigate COVID-19 in shelter settings.	Existing	Completed	Center for Minority Health Services has finalized the Unified Grant Agreement with three organizations on October 17, 2022. The total amount awarded was \$188,000 from the Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity for Prevention and Control of Emerging Infectious Diseases (ELC) funds. COVID home test kits were purchased by the CMHS in October to disseminate to grantees for the mobile units (WOW program), community partners, and the Homeless program.
IDPH	Program	Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program provides free mammograms, breast exams, pelvic exams, and Pap test for eligible women; Community navigation funding used to address housing a barrier to screening.	Existing	In Process	During FY23, the IBCCP established local Community Resource Guides and added SDOH elements on the intact/eligibility form to build up resources/firm hands offs for referrals. In FY24, the plan is to report and track SDOH referrals using this guide.

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
ISBE, IDHS	Program	Provide training and resources to school districts on heroin and opioid prevention, intervention and Use.	Existing	Completed	In coordination with IDHS, ISBE is currently developing a database of resources related to Opioid prevention and intervention. These resources may be utilized by school districts to drive curriculum development. Training to school districts is forthcoming.

Expansion of Current Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDPH	Program	Implement the Substance Use, Prevention & Recovery Permanent Supportive Housing program, doubling the number of households served from 75 in FY23 to 150 in FY24.	Expansion	In Process	IDHS/SUPR completed the first full year of the permanent supportive housing program at the end of June 2023. There are 6 providers, expected to house 30 households per year, for a total of 180 households. At the end of the first year, 232 households were supported. Providers are expected to house an additional 30 households this year. IDHS/SUPR target for SFY24 is to support 288 households.

New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Existing/ Expansion/ New	Status	Where we are today
IDPH	Process	Create a statewide population health report on persons experiencing homelessness in Illinois, inclusive of an examination of the causes of death and life expectancy disparities for people experiencing homelessness.	New	In Process	IDPH finalized an IGA with DHS to receive the funding appropriation. The team is currently finalizing a Work Order with UIC School of Public Health to prepare the Homelessness Mortality and Morbidity Report. The document will include morbidity and mortality trends, causes of death, and healthcare utilization among people experiencing homelessness in Illinois, using available sources of data.

APPENDIX A

Summary of the Illinois Community Advisory Council on Homelessness' recommendations to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, delivered November 15th, 2023

Dear Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness,

These recommendations are respectfully submitted by the Illinois Community Advisory Council on Homelessness (the Council) in fulfillment of the Council's annual requirement to make recommendations to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness (Interagency Task Force). **This is a summary of the Council's recommendations prepared for the Interagency Task Force's Annual Report to the Illinois General Assembly and the Office of Governor J.B. Pritzker. This summary is linked here, full recommendations to follow: [IDHS: The Illinois Community Advisory Council on Homelessness' recommendations to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness \(state.il.us\)](#).** These recommendations are made independently of the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH).

The Council is a group of housing justice champions from across our state tasked with advising the Interagency Task Force. We share OPEH's understanding that homelessness is fundamentally a solvable problem and its vision of an Illinois where everyone has a home. Through our collective work to end homelessness, we are sending a clear message: no Illinoisian deserves to live on a sidewalk, no Illinoisian deserves to live on a park bench, no child deserves to live in the back of a car. Each of us deserves a stable place to call home.

Achieving this joint vision of housing justice requires deeply examining root causes of homelessness. In Illinois and across our country, a major root cause of homelessness is systemic racism. Statewide, Black Illinoisans make up 61% of residents experiencing homelessness, despite making up 30% of those living in poverty and 14% of the overall population.¹¹ We know this unjust reality is driven by many manifestations of our country's long history of systemic racism and the way forward to a just future is not always clear. But recognizing the role systemic racism plays in driving homelessness is a vital first step to solutions. We are encouraged that Home Illinois includes an explicit racial equity lens and urge the Interagency Task Force to continue actively planning for racial equity.

Through solutions-oriented collaboration, we can realize the vision of an Illinois where all our neighbors are housed. It is in this ethos of collaboration and governing with, not for, those most directly impacted by policy that these recommendations are offered. Reflecting lessons learned during the first year of our work and on key opportunities for 2024, our recommendations focus on three key goals with specific recommendations identified for each goal.

Recommendations to the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness from the Council

I. Maximize the Council's potential to support the Interagency Task Force in implementing Home Illinois.

No single person or system can end homelessness. Our collective work requires deepening collaboration, breaking down silos and co-creating solutions. Working together requires a different way of approaching decision making and thinking about each of our roles. In the coming year, we seek to deepen our collaboration in order to advance community-driven implementation of Home Illinois.

Specific recommendations include:

- Build in standing updates at Interagency Task Force and Council meetings about the current work of the other group and opportunities for engagement.
- Utilize Council member expertise for relevant Interagency Task Force meeting agenda items (i.e. youth, reentry, rural homelessness).
- Partner with the Council to host Interagency Task Force members and their senior staff at Council-member's organizations and other organizations to learn about their innovative work to solve homelessness.
- Hold a special session for Interagency Task Force, Council members and OPEH staff to build community and celebrate progress at the 2024 Home Illinois Summit.
- Collaborate with the Council to support State agency staff in deepening their understanding of the systemic causes of homelessness, the trauma of the experience and the intersections between homelessness and the work of Interagency Task Force departments.
- Prioritize collaboration between the Council and the OPEH Fellows, five new senior-level policy experts who will work within IDOC, IDHS, IDPH, HFS and IHDA.
- Collaborate with the Council established workgroup to improve SRN policies and processes, with a focus on the program's ability to house clients in a timely and person-centered manner and on the scale of the program.

II. Increase interaction between people with lived experience of homelessness and the Interagency Task Force.

Too often, we misunderstand homelessness as being driven by individual choices. This isn't the case. When we misdiagnose the problem, we struggle to find solutions that work. People with lived experience of homelessness or housing instability – those closest to the systemic problems that drive homelessness – often have vital insight into the solutions. And yet, the systems we work and live within too often are not designed to value lived experience or foster power sharing. Because of this, it is critical that people with lived experiences of homelessness and housing instability have seats at the table and central roles in decision-making. Their insights can play crucial roles in helping policymakers bridge the gap between theory and the lived experience of accessing a program or navigating a system. Therefore, intentional space must be created to foster this collaboration.

Specific recommendations include:

- Hold at least one yearly session dedicated to conversation between Interagency Task Force members and people with lived experience of homelessness.
- Consult people with lived experience to advise and participate in the development of State homelessness-related policy and programmatic decisions.
- Ensure lived experience members of the Council, Subcommittee on Youth Homelessness and similar State-affiliated groups are offered support if desired to maximize their participation in these groups, including the opportunity to meet in an affinity group.
- Explore weighing lived experience of homelessness or housing instability as a preference when hiring for State staff roles that provide services to or set policies related to people experiencing homelessness. Encourage the State's delegate agencies to do the same.

III. Work with the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to build on the strong foundation laid in the Home Illinois FY23-24 plan.

The Home Illinois FY23-24 plan laid a strong foundation for our collective work to end homelessness. It fostered a new level of interagency collaboration through actions focused on developing affordable and permanent supportive housing, bolstering the safety net, securing financial stability for unhoused people and closing the mortality gap. Critically, the Home Illinois FY23-24 plan recognized that an explicit racial equity lens is key to the success of these efforts.

Building on this groundwork, we recommend the Home Illinois FY25-26 plan:

- Incorporate recommendations from the Homelessness & Racial Equity Roundtable.
- Continue and build on the use of local Continuums of Care as partners in local policy and funding allocation decisions.
- Expand the capacity of Interagency Task Force departments to solicit, receive and implement feedback from community experts around program and policy development.
- Elevate the lessons learned and the outcomes achieved through Home Illinois-connected pilot projects.
- Include a status update on each of the State actions committed to in the Home Illinois FY23-24 plan and explain barriers encountered, lessons learned and next steps.
- Include housing and shelter needs of asylum seekers.

We thank Interagency Task Force members for your work to prevent and end homelessness across Illinois and Chief Haley for her remarkable and effective leadership. Together we can realize a future where each of our neighbors have a safe, healthy and stable place to call home – the future all Illinoisans deserve.

In partnership,

Tamela Milan-Alexander – Community Engagement Director, EverThrive Illinois/ Representative, Collaborative on Child Homelessness Illinois

Sandy Deters – Housing Coordinator, Embarras River Basin Agency

Otha Gaston – Member, Chicago Lived Experience Commission

John Herring – Executive Director, Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living

Jennifer Hil – Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County

Niya Kelly – Director of State Legislative Policy, Equity and Transformation, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

Brandie Knazze – Commissioner, Chicago Department of Family and Support Services

Ron Lund – Community Services Director, Project NOW

Brenda O’Connell – Community Development Administrator, Lake County

Susan Reyna-Guerrero – Chief Executive Officer, Covenant House Illinois

Debbie Reznick – Council Co-Chair, Senior Program Officer, Polk Bros. Foundation

Carolyn Ross – President and Chief Executive Officer, All Chicago

Richard Rowe – Senior Program Manager, Corporation for Supportive Housing

Linda Warner – Executive Director, Stopping Woman Abuse Now, Inc. (SWAN)

Nicole Wilson – Vice President of Community Investment, Heart of Illinois United Way

1. State of Illinois, Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. *Home Illinois: Illinois’ Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*, 2022, p. 23. Citing Housing Action Illinois’ 2019 report *Black and white disparities in homelessness in Illinois*.



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