

## What's Working

The DuPage County Continuum of Care:

- Combining the efforts of 58 social service providers to collectively address the problem of homelessness in our county.
- Developing a coordinated assessment to respond to and prevent homelessness.
- From 2004 to 2014, the capacity of Supportive Housing has increased from 48-335.



## Domestic Violence:

### An immediate cause of homelessness

Homelessness is frequently precipitated by a domestic violence incident. Survivors of domestic violence are often isolated from support networks and financial resources, which puts them at risk of becoming homeless. A lack of knowledge about available community resources and inadequate safe housing alternatives leads them to seek shelter and flee into the unknown for safety.

Many families using emergency domestic violence shelters in our county have a history of serious violence. Their experiences of trauma often cause them to view the world with distrust and fear, and may result in anxiety, panic disorders, major depression and substance abuse.

Trauma-Informed Care is available in DuPage County which leads to safety, stabilization and connection. Immediately, survivors require safe housing away from the abuser. We need to create models for quicker intervention and increased access to services.



In 2014...

**312 individuals**  
(including 91 families with children) were served in a Domestic Violence Shelter in DuPage County.

**1,557 individuals**  
were turned away due to lack of beds.

## Causes of Homelessness:

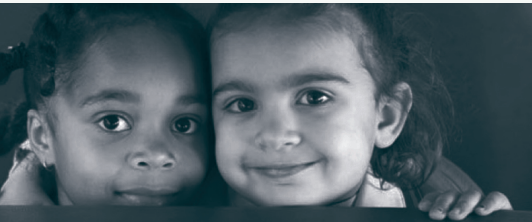
- Untreated behavior health, including mental illness and substance use disorders.
- Lack of adequate health care, resulting in deteriorating physical or mental conditions.
- Domestic violence and experiences of trauma.
- Lack of low cost, civil legal assistance.
- Inadequate income or loss of a job for persons living paycheck-to-paycheck.
- Lack of affordable housing.

**A strong investment in affordable housing is crucial in order to prevent homelessness from becoming a chronic condition for domestic violence victims and their children.**



## Who is homeless?

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation; in emergency shelter; in transitional housing; or are exiting an institution from one of the previous situations in less than 90 days.
- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, or living in a doubled up situation, and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing.
- People fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence; have no other residence; and lack the resources or support for housing.



## Children & Homelessness

From 2006 to 2014, the number of homeless students identified by the Illinois State Board of Education served in DuPage County has increased from 269 to 1,633.<sup>9</sup>

Access to a free and appropriate education and the ability to maintain stability in school are two of the most significant ways to decrease homelessness in the future.

## What's Needed

- Affordable housing and support services in order to remain housed
- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Job training programs to equip for skills
- Investment in homeless prevention services to keep people in their homes
- Access to mental health & substance abuse treatment
- Legal assistance
- Transportation

## Homeless Prevention... Strategic and Cost-effective

Prevention services provided:	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Number of unduplicated households	1,732	1,697	1,748	1,656
Number of unduplicated individuals	5,148	4,631	4,577	4,397
Average amount of financial assistance per household	\$1,129	\$530	\$621	\$693

In FY14, a network of agencies committed to homelessness prevention in DuPage County distributed over \$1 million to prevent imminent homelessness and re-house those who have become homeless. Funding was pieced together by a number of sources including County, State, Federal and local charities. The need for prevention services continues to outpace resources with only 28% of requests for assistance being fulfilled.

(Data derived from DuPage CoC Homeless Prevention Providers Committee)

## By the Numbers

HOMELESSNESS	FY10	FY11	FY12	FY13	FY14
Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter* <sup>1</sup>	1,486	1,460	*1,384	*1,424	*1,396
Number of nights emergency beds were used	48,537	54,827	55,620	64,935	66,254
Number of:					
Single Men	733	639	598	546	544
Single Women	520	330	335	303	307
Veterans			91	92	71
Families with children under 18 years	254	258	142	189	182
Children under 18 years	359	280	250	333	329
Children under the age of 5 years	136	97	104	127	128
Single Adults 18-21 years	55	57	48	50	46

## HOUSING

Number of subsidized housing units <sup>2</sup>	6,657	6,090	6,850	6,956	6,700
Number of persons on waiting list for subsidized housing <sup>3</sup>	4,588	4,588	4500	**1,500	**1,384
Rental vacancy rate <sup>4</sup>	7.7%	7.9%	6.2%	6.3%	4.2%
Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage Co. <sup>5</sup>	\$1,015	\$1,016	\$1,017	\$1,117	\$1,117
Average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in DuPage Co. <sup>5</sup>	\$903	\$904	\$993	\$970	\$970

## INCOME

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) <sup>6</sup>	\$674	\$674	\$698	\$710	\$721
Minimum wage in Illinois <sup>7</sup>	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment <sup>8</sup>	\$19.52	\$19.54	\$18.42	\$21.48	\$21.48
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment <sup>8</sup>	\$17.36	\$17.38	\$16.40	\$18.65	\$18.65

\*Includes persons who accessed emergency shelter services, but did not stay.

\*\*Decrease in number due to persons being unable to be contacted; however this still represents years of waiting.

## SOURCES

- 1 [www.voices4kids.org](http://www.voices4kids.org)
- 2 DuPage Federation on Human Services - [www.deupagefederation.org](http://www.deupagefederation.org); DuPage Housing Authority
- 3 DuPage Housing Authority
- 4 DuPage Housing Authority
- 5 DuPage Housing Authority
- 6 <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2014.ht>
- 7 State of Illinois
- 8 National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2014 - <http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2014-OOR.pdf>
- 9 Illinois State Board of Education