



AUGUST 2014 UPDATE

HUD HOMELESS PROJECT AWARDS 2013 COMPETITION

The Continuum of Care provides funding for transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services for homeless persons. In the 2013 HUD competition, continuums were not allowed to submit applications for new housing and services projects other than using funds re-allocated from existing projects.

The total amount for all projects in the 2013 competition was based on the annual renewal demand calculated on the HUD approved Grants Inventory Worksheet. The DuPage amount approved was \$4,013,712.

All Continuums had to rank their projects using a two tier system. The purpose of the two tiered approach was for the CoC to clearly indicate their funding priorities in the event that full funding was not available. The tiers were financial thresholds. Tier 1 was the annual renewal demand less 5%. Tier 2 was the remaining annual renewal demand plus the amount approved for planning. Continuums received 2 bonus points for not placing any Supportive Services only projects in Tier One.

HUD announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2013 Continuum of Care Tier One renewal projects on 4/8/14. All DuPage renewal projects in Tier One were fully funded. PSH renewal projects received extra funds for leasing and operating expenses. HUD announced Tier One new projects and Tier Two new and renewal projects on 6/19/2014. The DuPage Continuum received funding for one PSH renewal project from Tier Two. The Supportive Services only grants and the Planning grant were not funded. The total funds awarded in Tier One and Two for DuPage Continuum was \$3,878,399.

In the 2013 competition, Continuums of Care were asked to make strategic and hard decisions in order to implement a required 5 percent cut as a result of sequestration. Tier 2 projects were at significant risk of not being funded. In the awards, HUD funded all eligible new permanent housing projects requested in Tier 1 and Tier 2, as well as permanent housing and transitional housing renewal projects requested in Tier 2. Unfortunately, however, more than 300 otherwise eligible HMIS, Supportive Services Only, and Planning project applications were not awarded funds in this competition. Continuums who were awarded funds for new projects had to reduce or eliminate existing projects by those amounts. This included the Planning grants which are by definition considered new projects in each competition. If you were not awarded a Planning grant, you may apply again in the 2014 competition. No additional funds were awarded to any Continuum above their approved initial allocation.

The following tables detail the DuPage Continuum awards in both Tiers One and Two.

2013 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE Tier One Renewal AWARDS				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
RENEWALS				
1. Bridge Communities, Inc.	Outside Housing	Transitional Housing for 10 homeless families	\$ 113,434	1 year
2. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	DuPage Daybreak	Transitional Housing renewal for homeless families – 11 units	\$ 220,349	1 year
3. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	First Light	Permanent Supportive Housing for 5 chronically homeless families in 5 units.	\$ 101,885	1 year
4. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	Partners In Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing for 14 chronically homeless persons and 13 homeless families with disabilities.	\$ 431,978	1 year
5. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	SHIFT- New Hope	Permanent Supportive Housing for 22 homeless families with multiple disabilities in 22 units.	\$ 866,271	1 year
6. DuPage Community Services Dept.	HMIS	HMIS dedicated renewal project.	\$ 154,556	1 year
7. DuPage County Health Dept.	Housing Intensive Services	21 individual units and 3 family units for homeless persons.	\$ 260,207	1 year
8. DuPage County Health Dept.	MISA/CAP	Permanent Supportive Hsng for 49 mentally ill individuals in 21 apartment units	\$ 589,687	1 year
9. DuPage County Health Dept.	SAIL	Permanent Supportive Housing for 10 chronic mentally ill persons in 5 units.	\$ 53,961	1 year
10. DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Carol's Place	Permanent Supportive Housing for 28 chronically homeless persons in 28 scattered units.	\$ 441,191	1 year
11. DuPage PADS, Inc.	Crossroads	12 Permanent Supportive Housing units to serve the chronically homeless. 8 individual units with 2 reserved for veterans and 4 family units.	\$ 208,897	1 year
12. DuPage PADS, Inc.	New Horizons	Permanent Supportive Housing for 4 chronically homeless persons in 4 scattered units.	\$ 51,219	1 year
13. DuPage PADS, Inc.	Stepping Stones	Permanent Supp Housing for 7 homeless families in 7 units.	\$ 127,201	1 year
14. 360 Youth Services	Youth In Transition	Transitional housing for 10 males ages 18-24 in 5 units.	\$ 206,183	1 year
TOTAL Tier One Awards			\$3,827,019	

2013 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE Tier Two Project AWARDS				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
DuPage County Health Dept.	Homecomings	Permanent Supportive Housing for 4 chronically homeless individuals in 4 units	\$ 51,380	1 year
Total Tier Two award			\$51,380	

2013 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE Tier Two Project NOT FUNDED				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.	DuPage Legal Assistance for Homeless	Legal support services to 130 homeless persons.	\$ 70,090	
DuPage County Community Services Dept.	Move Ahead	Case management and follow-up to 30 formerly homeless families.	\$36,261	
DuPage County Community Services	Planning	Services to coordinate the CoC activities	\$50,171	
		Not Funded subtotal	\$152,522	

**NOTICE OF FUND AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
HUD 2014 SUPERNOFA HOMELESS APPLICATION PROCESS**

The DuPage Homeless Continuum has completed the application and selection process for HUD's 2014 Continuum of Care funding.

A Notice of Fund Availability and call for projects was issued to all Continuum members on January 8, 2014. While the amount of funds available has not been announced, last year the DuPage Continuum had an annual renewal amount of approximately \$4 million.

Project applications were accepted or rejected to be part of the CoC Consolidated Application. All projects accepted by the CoC will be ranked in a two Tier process. The two tiered approach indicates the CoC priorities for funding in the event that total funding is not available.

All renewal projects were eligible to apply for funding. Agencies could also submit new projects for consideration through re-allocation. Reallocation is a process whereby a CoC reallocates funds in whole or in part from one or more renewal projects to create one or more new projects. The only types of new reallocated projects that may be submitted for funding consideration are for new permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless and rapid re-housing for homeless households with children.

Initial verbal presentations of New proposed projects or revisions to renewals were held at the Needs Assessment Committee meeting on both January 23, 2014 and February 13, 2014.

Written Business Plans of all new and renewal projects were reviewed by the Needs Assessment Committee at their meeting on March 13, 2014. All projects submitted were approved to move forward.

The Grants Funding committee reviewed the projects on April 15, 2014 and completed scoring using the Ranking Criteria on May 7, 2014. Final funding recommendations were made to the Leadership committee on May 21, 2014.

All renewal projects were recommended as submitted. Two new project applications using re-allocated funds of \$113,434 for permanent supportive housing projects were submitted. The Leadership committee recommendation was to split the funds equally between the two projects. The DuPage PADS Foundations project would provide 4 chronically homeless units for individuals over a period of 1 year. The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Freedom Harbor project would provide 4 chronically homeless units for veterans over a period of 1 year. These projects will be submitted in the 2014 HUD CoC Consolidated application.

2015 RANKING CRITERIA

The project ranking criteria that are used to evaluate CDBG and HUD funded projects are reviewed annually by the Grants Funding Committee. Changes in 2014 included eliminating the veteran's preference, updating HUD goals to match national standards and the Hearth Act priorities. The 2015 Ranking Criteria is currently under review by several committees and available to any interested parties. To receive it, please contact Peg White Lijewski at plijewski@wideopenwest.com. Changes to the 2015 Ranking Criteria are under consideration now.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS

DuPage County is currently working through the second allocation of 2011 funds, 2013 and 2014 funds, which total \$559,008. Allocations are \$140,544 for emergency shelter operations and essential services, \$54,000 for street outreach, \$134,704 for HMIS, \$39,138 for administration, and \$190,622 for rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention (both financial assistance and services). Additionally, the DuPage Continuum received \$262,683 from the State ESG funds in 2013. DuPage CoC has not yet been notified of its State ESG allocation for 2014.

These funds have had a meaningful impact on homelessness and housing stability for participating households. The goals are: preventing people from homelessness; diverting people who are applying for shelter into other housing; and helping people who become homeless to quickly return to permanent housing. Eligible households include people with very low incomes (below 50% of the Area Median Income AMI – below 30% AMI), who lack resources for housing and who are homeless or would be homeless *but for this assistance*. The DuPage County Continuum targets households that have a demonstrated housing crisis, that meet one or more risk factors and that are likely to remain stably housed after this assistance.

STATE OF ILLINOIS HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDING FY 15

The DuPage County Homeless Continuum recognizes that prevention is the first strategic step in addressing homelessness and is well documented as the most cost effective strategy for ending homelessness. A coordinated system for distribution of homeless prevention funding to qualifying households, using a small network of agencies throughout DuPage

County, has developed over time. All homeless service providers in the County may access these funds for eligible clients. See www.dupagehomeless.org/HomelessPrevention to obtain the list of agencies providing funds by geographic areas. The Homeless Prevention Providers Network group meets regularly and has a joint strategy and coordinated procedures for client accountability and the disbursement of homeless prevention funds.

On January 10, 2014, the CoC was notified of the FY15 IL Dept of Human Services application process. The amounts to be used were the last modified FY 14 levels, with the stipulation that these were subject to change by the General Assembly in the ongoing state budget revisions. This amount was \$236,580. The Leadership Committee approved that this year's funds be allocated using the same percentage allocations as last year to the same agencies. Leadership approved ranking them from highest to lowest in terms of funding amounts. There was appropriate performance and expenditures from these agencies. Funding allocations for FY15 are:

IL Homeless Prevention Funding	2011 Allocation	2012 Allocation	2012 revised	2013	2013 revised	2014 initial	2015
People's Resource Center	48,558	48,558	29,540	29,540	74,782	74,782	74,782
DuPage Community Services	43,711	43,711	26,592	26,592	67,319	67,319	67,319
Catholic Charities	43,021	43,021	26,319	26,185	66,627	66,627	66,627
Outreach Community Ministries	18,070	18,070	11,002	11,002	27,852	27,852	27,852
Total	153,360	153,360	93,453	93,319	236,580	236,580	236,580

Note: All reductions in funds were due to state funding cutbacks and this was no reflection on performance.

ONE NIGHT COUNT OF HOMELESS PERSONS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) requires Continuums to complete a sheltered and unsheltered point-in-time (PIT) count at least every two years during the last ten days of January. In 2014 a sheltered only count was required and was conducted on January 29, 2014. Nationally, this homeless count is used as the primary data source for federal agencies to understand homeless trends and track progress against goals and objectives. Additionally, the Congressionally-mandated Annual Homeless Assessment Report (AHAR) is prepared using PIT and Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) data.

HUD asks for information about households without children, households with minor children, and households of only children – unaccompanied and under 18) In addition, information must be collected on veterans, female veterans and the chronically homeless. In 2014:

- CoCs are required to report race, ethnicity, and gender data for all persons counted as well as the age groups under age 18, age 18 to 24, and over age 24).
- CoCs are required to report population data for veteran households, including female veterans. Because CoCs are reporting the population data for veteran households the veteran subpopulation requirements have been removed.
- Report on the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons in each of the following subpopulation categories: chronically homeless individuals; chronically homeless families; severely mentally ill; chronic substance abuse; and persons with HIV/AIDS. The subpopulation categories for "chronic substance abuse" and "severely mentally ill" have been revised to "Adults with a Chronic Substance Use Disorder" and "Adults with a Serious Mental Illness."

In 2014, the total number of sheltered homeless persons decreased 1.8% from 636 to 625.

- 216 persons in emergency shelter including 20 family units.
- 409 persons in transitional housing including 99 family units.
- 68 sheltered persons were chronically homeless. Of these, there were 66 individuals and 1 family (2 persons).
- There were 76 youth between the ages of 18-24 in shelter or transitional housing on that night.

There was not an unsheltered count. The next unsheltered count will be in January 2015.

For more complete information please see the most recent Homeless Populations Charts under Homeless Demographics at www.dupagehomeless.org

The 2014 Point In Time homeless populations data as well as the Housing Inventory bed count is entered directly into the HUD Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) web site – <http://hudhdx.info/>. As in years past, the 2014 Housing Inventory data is based on bed capacity data on the same day as the One Night Count in January.

DUPAGE CONTINUUM ANNUAL SNAPSHOT

The Annual Snapshot on Ending and Preventing Homelessness in DuPage County was completed the leadership of Ms. Carol Simler, Chair of the Community Outreach Committee. This report provides a profile of homelessness in DuPage for a twelve month period from July 2012 through June 2013 (Fiscal Year 2013).

Ms. Simler presented the Snapshot to all DuPage County Board members on April 22, 2014. In our last fiscal year ending June 30, 2013, 1,424 men, women, and children stayed in an emergency shelter in this county or accessed emergency shelter services but did not stay overnight. There were 333 children were under the age of 18 compared to 250 previously and 127 children were under the age of 5 compared to 104 previously. These are children without their own bedrooms, whose housing instability may have long term implications for their well-being, education and development. There were 92 veterans in our shelters. The numbers have increased from the last report. The numbers reported do not include persons who live doubled up or in other living situations, or those in Transitional Housing. The number is only those who were in a shelter or accessed emergency shelter services. Financial assistance from government funding for homeless prevention services has declined

dramatically in recent years – leaving the burden to provide additional support to local communities.

To view the 2013 Annual Snapshot, click on <http://www.dupagehomeless.org/AnnualReportCard.asp>

HEARTH ACT UPDATES CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) PROGRAM

HUD issued an interim rule on July 14, 2012 that is still in effect. HUD has indicated they will be issuing a revised rule for comment at a later date. CoC Program Start Up training was held in December 2013 for recipients of 2012 Continuum of Care (CoC) grant awards. It provided an overview of new program requirements, grantee responsibilities regarding grant operations and administration, and the role of subrecipients. Topics included:

- Program Components and Eligible Costs
- Determining and Documenting Homeless and Disability Status
- Match Requirements
- Recordkeeping
- Property Requirements
- Annual Performance Reports (APRs)

The CoC Interim Rule includes:

- Centralized process and common assessment tool required.
- Matching funds of 25% cash or in-kind for everything except leasing.
- Defines eight CoC responsibilities.
- Collaborative applicants can apply for planning funds up to 3% of Annual Renewal Demand.
- Unified funding agencies can apply for 6% planning funds.
- Each CoC must have a governing board with certain requirements.
- Five program components – Permanent Housing includes PSH and Rapid Rehousing. Prevention can only be done by High Performing Communities.
- New eligible costs include short- and medium-term rental assistance and CoC planning costs. Admin increases to 10% in the law but not in practice.
- Renewals only have six eligible cost categories.
- New lease and occupancy agreement requirements.
- CoC standards for providing CoC assistance in Transitional housing, rapid rehousing, and permanent supportive housing.

Additional information can be found at the CoC program page.

<https://www.onecpd.info/coc/>

DUPAGE HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

The mission of the HMIS Team is to provide visionary data leadership by providing an effective and usable case management tool and by collecting and analyzing client and program-level data to report on the extent and nature of homelessness.

Everything in the system is operating smoothly. Our 130 users are collecting data for 16 agencies throughout DuPage County. Our overall data quality has improved over this past

year and all HUD programs are utilizing approved workflows and successfully submitting all required reports from the HMIS System.

This year the HMIS Team has made significant improvements in user training, online documentation and overall communication. We re-structured our formal Continuum of Care meetings to better address the needs of users and the Continuum. We are now holding bi-monthly Agency Administrator trainings and bi-monthly HMIS Policy Committee meetings instead of a single monthly meeting where training and policy topics were comingled.

We have two big events to look forward to this next year:

First, we are happy to announce that this summer we will be merging our HMIS system with Suburban Cook County. This will create great efficiency in reporting, security, privacy, documentation, training and completing routine tasks. This will free the HMIS staff to provide better support to our local participating agencies.

Second, HUD has released an updated HMIS data standard. This data standard brings clarity to some of the most confusing data elements and introduces new data elements to make reporting easier.

Remember that we are here to support you! If your agency is interested in the data collected in the HMIS or would be interested in participating- please contact us at HMIS@dupageco.org or 630-407-6397.

MAINSTREAM BENEFITS & TRAINING INFORMATION

Making the Connection Training

Navigating public benefit programs is often frustrating, due to the different eligibility rules and complex application processes. Understanding more about benefit programs (including topics such as who can qualify and how to solve problems) helps case managers and other advocates provide more effective and targeted assistance to people in need. The focus of the Making the Connection training programs is to improve advocacy for the people served through increased knowledge of these complex programs.

The Making the Connection training series is currently organized into three (3) full-day classroom training sessions:

Introduction to Public Benefits

This course will provide a comprehensive introduction to public benefits beginning with a review of citizenship rules and eligibility requirements for a variety of public benefit programs. It will explore cash benefits available through Social Security, Veterans Administration and state of Illinois. The course will also provide an overview of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program and other food benefit programs.

Objectives

- Understand rules relative to citizenship status
- Define "qualified non-citizen" for accessing public benefits
- Understand basic eligibility rules of core mainstream cash and food benefit programs
- Differentiate between Social Security programs
- Describe difference between VA Compensation and VA Pension cash benefits
- Discuss eligibility for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program
- Describe Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) in terms of eligibility, application process and benefits

Medicaid and the Marketplace for Non-Navigators

The Affordable Care Act (ACA) was designed to expand options for health coverage for Americans. This program will provide a detailed overview of the Medicaid program, which is a health insurance program for low-income individuals and families jointly run by states and the federal government. This course will explain the recently created Health Insurance Marketplace, including the application process, eligibility for subsidies and plan selection.

Objectives

- Discuss Medicaid eligibility requirements
- Understand various Medicaid programs
- Discuss purpose and structure of Health Insur. Marketplace
- Identify eligibility requirements for financial subsidies through Marketplace
- Explain difference between Advance Premium Tax Credit and Cost-Sharing Reductions
- Examine impact of tax filing status on income eligibility for Medicaid and Marketplace
- Understand application process for Medicaid and Marketplace

Navigating Benefits for Persons with Disabilities

The application process for disability benefits is complicated and difficult to navigate. This course will review best practices for navigating this process. The course will discuss a number of programs related to disability. The program will cover the Social Security disability application process as well as Medicaid Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD).

Objectives

- Learn how to navigate the Medicaid and Social Security disability application process
- Understand how disability determinations are made
- Learn how to compile a better disability report, increasing the odds of approval on first application
- Effectively explain the Medicaid Spenddown program
- Know the basics of the impact work has on disability benefits
- Discuss the impact of ACA on long-term care, waiver services and disability application process
- Discuss client options for Marketplace coverage as opposed to AABD Spenddown

Please go to www.dupagefederation.org for training schedules, relevant registration links, and any general information in relation to Making the Connection Illinois.

Introduction to Cultural Competency Training

This presentation provides a basic overview of cultural competency terms and concepts and increases awareness of best practices for working with a culturally diverse constituency. The presentation will discuss demographics and populations specific to the local region,

Objectives

- Discuss eligibility requirements and application process for Medicare, Medicaid and the Marketplace
- Understand the various Medicaid programs
- Discuss various Parts of Medicare, including original Medicare, Medicare Advantage, and Prescript. Coverage
- Discuss Medigap policies (Supplemental Plans) and how it works with other insurance
- Discuss the purpose and structure of the Health Insurance Marketplace, including financial subsidies

- Examine how tax filing status impacts income eligibility for Medicaid and the Marketplace

For further information, contact Kristin Hartsaw at khartsaw@dupagefederation.org

SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access, and Recovery (SOAR) Training Series

The application process for SSI/SSDI (Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income) is complicated and difficult to navigate. For people who are homeless or who are returning to the community from institutions (jails, prisons or hospitals), access to these programs can be extremely challenging. Approval on initial application for people who are homeless and who have no one to assist them is *about 10-15 percent*. For those who have a mental illness, substance use issues, or co-occurring disorders that impair cognition, the application process is even more difficult – yet accessing these benefits is often a critical first step in recovery. SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) is an approach that helps states increase access to mainstream benefits for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through strategic planning, training and technical assistance. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) funds the SOAR Technical Assistance (TA) Center. Additional information about SOAR may be found here: <http://prainc.com/soar/>

For more information about local trainings and efforts, contact Kathryn Nelson at knelson@dupagefederation.org

A complete 2014-15 training schedule along with registration information is posted at the Continuum website – www.dupagehomeless.org under Benefits Updates/Benefits Training.

Please go to www.dupagefederation.org for training schedules, relevant registration links, and any general information in relation to Making the Connection Illinois.

THE HELPER

A quick desk reference guide to agencies in DuPage County providing specific services such as child care, advocacy, employment, etc. The HELPER is available to view and download from the Continuum website. – www.dupagehomeless.org
Benefits Updates/The HELPER

WEBSITE UPDATE

www.dupagehomeless.org

If you have suggestions on enhancements to the site or additional information, please contact plijewski@wideopenwest.com We welcome your input!

The Leadership Committee thanks Eileen Clark, retired Associate Professor of Computer Science at Benedictine University who is doing a wonderful job on keeping the site updated.

MEETING CALENDAR

A calendar of all Continuum committee meetings for the period from July 2014 through July 2015 is available on www.dupagehomeless.org under Continuum Overview. "If you would like to add the web-based calendar to your outlook calendar, use the following iCAL address:

<https://www.google.com/calendar/ical/dupagecoc%40gmail.com/public/basic.ics> Instructions on how to do this are attached. "

DUPAGE CONTINUUM LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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