



JULY 2012 UPDATE

HUD HOMELESS PROJECTS 2011

The Fiscal Year (FY) 2011 HUD Continuum of Care renewal awards were announced on December 20, 2011 and the new awards were announced on March 13, 2012. More than \$1.628 billion was awarded to an unprecedented number of 7432 local programs, of which 691 were new projects.

The Continuum of Care provides funding for transitional housing, permanent supportive housing and supportive services for homeless persons.

The DuPage Homeless Continuum received \$ 3,473,784 in funding for fourteen renewal projects and \$201,957 in funding for 1 new project. All new and renewal projects were fully funded for a total of \$3,675,741.

The DuPage Continuum submitted for 1 new project in 2011. This project was fully funded for a total of \$ 201,957. This project will add 12 housing units for chronically homeless. It will include 8 individual units of which 2 units will be for chronically homeless veterans. It will also include 4 units for chronically homeless families. The total new beds will be 20.

2011 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE NEW PROJECT AWARDS				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Crossroads	Permanent Supportive Housing for 12 additional PSH units to serve the chronically homeless. Two of the eight individual units will be reserved for veterans and 4 units will be for chronically homeless families. Total is 20 beds.	\$ 201,957	1 year
		TOTAL	\$ 201,957	

2011 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE RENEWAL AWARDS				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
RENEWALS				
Bridge Communities, Inc.	Outside Housing	Transitional Housing for 10 homeless families	\$ 111,376	1 year
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	DuPage Daybreak	Transitional Housing renewal for homeless families – 11 units	\$ 216,230	1 year

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Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	Partners In Housing	Permanent Supportive Housing for 14 chronically homeless persons and 13 homeless families with disabilities.	\$ 417,484	1 year
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	SHIFT- New Hope	Permanent Supportive Housing for 22 homeless families with multiple disabilities in 22 units.	\$ 842,965	1 year
DuPage County Community Services Dept.	HMIS	HMIS dedicated renewal project.	\$ 151,667	1 year
DuPage County Community Services Dept.	Move Ahead	Case management and follow-up services to 30 formerly homeless families.	\$ 35,550	1 year
DuPage County Health Dept.	Housing Intensive Services (Shelter plus Care renewal)	21 individual units and 3 family units for homeless persons.	\$ 249,444	1 year
DuPage County Health Dept.	MISA/CAP	Permanent Supportive Hsng for 49 mentally ill individuals in 21 apartment units	\$ 573,994	1 year
DuPage County Health Dept.	SAIL	Permanent Supportive Housing for 10 mentally ill persons in 5 units.	\$ 51,920	1 year
DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Carol's Place – (combined with Front Door)	Permanent Supportive Housing for 21 chronically homeless persons in 21 scattered units.	\$ 401,348	1 year
DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Vets PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing for 2 chronically homeless veterans in 2 units	\$ 26,950	1 year
DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Stepping Stones	Transitional Housing for 14 homeless single individuals in 7 units.	\$ 123,472	1 year
NCO Youth & Family Services	Youth In Transition	Transitional housing for 10 homeless males ages 18-22 in 5 units.	\$ 202,584	1 year
Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.	DuPage Legal Assistance for Homeless	Legal support services to 130 homeless persons.	\$ 68,780	1 year
		TOTAL RENEWAL PROJECTS FUNDED	\$ 3,473,784	

**NOTICE OF FUND AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
HUD 2012 SUPERNOFA HOMELESS APPLICATION PROCESS**

The DuPage Homeless Continuum has completed the application and selection process for HUD's 2012 Continuum of Care funding. The programs covered include the Supportive Housing, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy for Homeless Individuals (SRO) programs.

A Notice of Fund Availability and call for projects was issued to all Continuum members on January 5, 2012. The DuPage Continuum has a hold harmless pro rata share of \$3.4 million with an incentive amount of \$201,957 over 1,2 or 3 years for a new Permanent Housing project(s) serving homeless families and/or individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on chronically homeless and veterans.

The DuPage Continuum is authorized to reallocate any of its over \$3.4 million hold harmless final pro rata share from renewals to new Permanent Supportive Housing projects or a new dedicated HMIS project.

Agencies were encouraged to submit new projects for consideration by the Needs Assessment Committee. Initial oral presentations of NEW proposed projects or revisions to renewals were held at the Needs Assessment Committee meeting on February 16, 2012.

Written Business Plans of all new and renewal projects were reviewed by the Needs Assessment Committee at their meeting on March 15, 2012. All projects submitted were approved to move forward.

The Grants Funding committee reviewed the projects on April 17 and May 15, 2012. Final funding recommendations were made to the Leadership committee on May 23, 2012.

All renewal projects were recommended as submitted. One new bonus project application was submitted and approved. The DuPage PADS Solid Ground project which will provide 6 permanent supportive housing beds in 4 units to 1 chronically homeless family and 3 chronically homeless individuals of which 1 units will be designated for a veteran. This project will be submitted in the 2012 HUD Exhibit One for the permanent housing bonus funds of \$201,957 over three years.

2012 RANKING CRITERIA

The project ranking criteria that are used to evaluate CDBG and HUD funded projects are reviewed annually by the Grants Funding Committee. There have been changes from the previous Ranking Criteria. HMIS participation is enhanced, performance measures are changed to be the same as HUD performance measures, and cultural competency requires board approval for the plan. The most recent Ranking Criteria is available to any interested parties. To receive it, please contact Peg White Lijewski at plijewski@wideopenwest.com

ARRA FUNDING FOR HOMELESS PREVENTION AND RAPID REHOUSING (HPRP)

DuPage County received \$ 1,443,723 in federal and \$ 1,296,342 in state homeless prevention and rehousing funds which were part of the *American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009*. The funds became available in October 2009 with up to three years for expenditure. The county made the federal funds a two year program allowing time to re-allocate funds if necessary for the final year. The following chart has been updated as of June 30, 2012 to show final award amounts after re-allocation. Remaining balances shown were expended by July 15, 2012. These funds were not renewable. The funded activities are intended to transition into the new HUD Emergency Solutions Grant (previously known as the Emergency Shelter Grant). Expenditures as of June 30, 2012 are as follows:

	STATE AWARD	BALANCE LEFT	FEDERAL AWARD	BALANCE LEFT
Set Asides				
Prairie State Legal Services			\$ 69,076	\$ 1,276

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DuPage Homeownership Center			\$ 13,721	\$ 1
HMIS	\$ 10,000	\$ 0	\$ 60,000	\$ 1
Community Development Admin			\$ 50,019	\$ 1,722
Agencies RFP				
Peoples Resource Center	\$ 407,256	\$ 0	\$ 365,887	\$ 1,366
Outreach Community Ministries	\$ 151,531	\$ 0	\$ 128,719	\$ 0
DuPage County Human Services	\$ 366,607	\$ 0	\$ 321,306	\$ 1,307
Catholic Charities	\$ 360,948	\$ 0	\$ 285,281	\$ 70
Hinsdale Community Services			\$ 149,714	\$ 1,290
	\$ 1,296,342		\$ 1,433,723	\$ 7,083

EMERGENCY SHELTER/SOLUTIONS GRANTS

For 2011, we received our first allocation of \$152,750 in Emergency Shelter/Solutions Grant and \$45, 800 of that was for the Homeless Prevention Pool which gives rental assistance and security deposits to move persons out of homelessness or give them the one month boost they need to stay housed (the remainder funded other homeless provider activities like case management, legal services, shelter maintenance & operations). We will shortly receive the remaining 2011 funds under Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) and will use \$11,456 for homeless prevention. Additionally, the State has awarded us \$96, 789 – which will put us at \$154,045 for actual homeless prevention and rapid re-housing activities for the 2011 ESG grant year. For the 2012 grant year, DuPage County will receive \$271,589 in Emergency Solutions Grant funds directly from HUD and the DuPage Continuum has been awarded \$318, 982 from the state.

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 beginning with the 2012 grant year), 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.

ILLINOIS HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDING FY 13

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.

For FY 13 (ending June 30, 2013), the state of Illinois instructed the Continuums to submit their homeless prevention funding application using the last modified FY 12 levels, with the stipulation that these were subject to change by the General Assembly in the ongoing budget revisions at the state level. The DuPage Homeless Continuum's state allocation was reduced from \$153,360 to \$ 93,453. The Leadership Committee approved that this year's funds be allocated using the same percentage allocations as last year to the same agencies. There has been appropriate performance and expenditures from these agencies to date. With the reduction in funds, the Executive Committee of the Homeless Prevention Network will meet to decide for the following year whether to consolidate some of the funds for more efficiency.

Funding allocations for FY13 are:

Homeless Prevention Funding by Agency	2008 & 2009 Allocation	2010 Allocation	2011 Allocation	2012 Allocation	2012 revised	2013
Catholic Charities	196,900	43,021	43,021	43,021	26,319	26,185
DuPage Community Services	200,000	43,711	43,711	43,711	26,592	26,592
Outreach Community Ministries	82,700	18,070	18,070	18,070	11,002	11,002
People's Resource Center	222,200	48,558	48,558	48,558	29,540	29,540
Total	701,800	153,360	153,360	153,360	93,453	93,319

Note: In FY10, DuPage CoC's state homeless prevention funds were reduced from \$701,800 to \$153,360 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 2012 only an unsheltered count was required and was conducted on January 26, 2012. 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 "individuals" (adults not accompanied by children), "families" (adult(s) with minor children), and "unaccompanied homeless children under 18). In addition, information must be collected on veterans and the chronically homeless.

The sheltered population count conducted on January 26, 2012 indicated that 608 sheltered persons in DuPage County were homeless on that night compared to 643 sheltered persons in 2011. This is a 5% decrease.

- 168 persons in emergency shelter including 13 family units compared to 221 persons in shelter and 20 family units the previous year. DECREASE
- 440 persons in transitional housing including 101 family units compared to 422 persons and 104 family units the previous year. INCREASE
- There was no unsheltered count. In the 2011 unsheltered count, there were 33 unsheltered persons including one family unit.
- 98 sheltered persons were chronically homeless – 81 individuals and 17 in households with dependent children compared to 110 sheltered individuals and 22 in households with dependent children the previous year. DECREASE
- There were 55 youth between the ages of 18-24 in shelter or transitional housing on that night and 134 for the entire year. The previous year there were 40 youth between the ages of 18-24 in shelter or transitional housing on one night and 148 for the entire year. INCREASE

For more complete information please see the most recent Homeless Populations Charts under Homeless Demographics at www.dupagehomeless.org The next sheltered and unsheltered Homeless Population Count is scheduled for January 2013.

The 2012 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 2012 Housing Inventory data is based on bed capacity data that the Continuum collects in the annual provider survey during the last ten days of January. The Continuum can now access a new "CoC Profile" report in the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) that includes annual comparison tables and graphs of the 2009-2011 Housing Inventory Count, Point-in-Time count, and Annual Homeless Assessment Report data. Look on the HDX website under Reports.

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 2010 through June 2011 (Fiscal Year 2011).

Ms. Simler presented the Snapshot to all DuPage County Board members in March 2012. In our last fiscal year ending June 30, 2011, 1,460 men, women, and children stayed in an emergency shelter in this county or accessed emergency shelter services but did not stay overnight. This is compared to 1486 last fiscal year. There were 280 children were under the age of 18 and 97 children were under the age of 5. We saw a slight increase in the

numbers of families and we believe these numbers will continue to rise. This number does 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. During the economic downturn of 2009 to 2011, homelessness decreased slightly. The decrease was likely due to a significant investment of federal & state resources to prevent homelessness and quickly re-house people who did become homeless. The Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program, a federal program, gave \$2.5 million in funding to prevent recession-related increases in homelessness here in DuPage County. The bad news is that these funds will end in the fall of 2012 - despite the need and proven effectiveness these resources will not be replaced. During the period we had Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing dollars we spent approximately \$1.35 million a year on keeping people housed and helped them move into permanent housing. Currently our CoC has just over \$150,000 a year to try to accomplish the same task. Indicators show that while holding the line on homelessness between 2009 and 2011 was a major accomplishment with this funding, the failure to sustain this success threatens to undermine progress now and in the future.

To view the 2011 Annual Snapshot, click on <http://www.dupagehomeless.org/AnnualReportCard.asp>

DEBRIEFING ON THE 2011 CONTINUUM COMPETITION

Overall, the DuPage CoC did very well, scoring 86.5 points out of 100 (compared with 87 last year). DuPage was the highest scorer in the northeastern Illinois region. Nationally, the highest score was 90.25. The distribution of scores changed this year, with fewer applicants scoring between 80 and 90 points. Overall, it was harder than in years past to get higher scores. The average national score was 74.2. Following is further information by scoring category.

Scoring Category	Maximum Score (Points)	DuPage CoC Score (Points)	National Average Score	Comparison To National Average
<i>CoC Housing, Services, and Structure</i>	14	12.75	12	Above
<i>Homeless Needs and Data Collection</i>	26	22	14	Above
<i>CoC Strategic Planning</i>	22	20.25	17	Above
<i>CoC Performance</i>	32	27	21	Above
<i>Emphasis on Housing Activities</i>	6	4.5	4	Above
Total CoC Score	100	86.5	n/a	n/a

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTION OF SCORES

- 90-100 = <1%
- 80 – 89 = 26%, last year this was 34%.
- 70-79 = 49%
- 65-69 = 13%
- Below 65 = 12%

HEARTH ACT

The HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act of 2009 amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. Its purpose is to consolidate the

current HUD homeless assistance programs, codify the Continuum of Care funding process into law, and establish the goal of returning homeless persons to housing within 30 days. It also changes the existing Emergency Shelter Grants into Emergency Solutions grants with new requirements. Further information on HEARTH is available at <http://www.hudhre.info/hearth>

There are 5 required HEARTH Act regulations (Emergency Solutions Grant, Homeless Management Information Systems, the Continuum of Care Program and the Rural Housing Stability Program). Five sets of regulations are required in the HEARTH ACT. These include Definition of Homeless, HMIS, Emergency Solutions Grant, Continuum of Care and Rural Housing Stability. The only final regulation at this time is Definition of Homelessness. As this is a final rule, there is not a further comment period for the definition of homeless. The HMIS regulation is in Proposed status. The comment period closed but not yet implemented. The Emergency Solutions Grant regulation is in Interim Status. HUD published the interim rule for Continuum of Care on July 14, 2012. Pending publication is the Rural Housing Stability regulations.

1. DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

Additionally, the *final* **Definition of Homeless** rule was published in the Federal Register.

You may view the regulation in the federal register at

http://www.hudhre.info/documents/HEARTH_HomelessDefinition_FinalRule.pdf

The Definition of Homeless final rule will apply to ESG recipients, as well as SHP and S+C grantees that receive funding through the FY 2011 and FY2012 CoC Competition.

The new homeless definition:

- Amends current Supportive Housing Program and Shelter + Care regulations.
- Affects FY2011 new and renewal project at the beginning of their FY 2011 operating year.
- FY 2011 NOFA requirements are also in effect.
- Permanent Housing programs and Shelter + Care are limited to persons coming from streets, shelters, safe havens or transitional housing.

To help grantees understand the updated definition of homeless and administer their programs in compliance with the amended regulations, HUD is continuing to develop and release guidance and training materials. The following **documents** are now available:

- **The Homeless Definition and Eligibility for SHP, SPC, and ESG** - This two-page document provides a high-level overview of eligibility for the Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care Program, and Emergency Solutions Grants program by Category of Homelessness.
- **Frequently Asked Questions** - The HRE currently contains a list questions that are frequently received and answered through the Help Desk. To access the FAQs, visit the FAQs section of the HRE and select "Homeless Definition" as the FAQ Topic.
- **At-a-Glance – Criteria and Recordkeeping Requirements for Definition of Homeless** - This two-page document provides a high-level overview of the criteria for each category of homelessness (page 1) as well as the corresponding recordkeeping requirements for each category (page 2). This document does not contain the same level of detail that can be found in the regulation.
- **At-a-Glance – Criteria for Definition of At Risk of Homelessness** - This one-page document, available on the HRE, provides a high-level overview of the criteria for each category of at risk of homelessness. This document applies to recipients of Emergency Solutions Grants funds only. This document does not contain the same level of detail that can be found in the regulation.

- **Webinars:** The following presentation slides for and recordings of previously broadcasted webinars are now available for viewing on the HUD HRE.
- **Homeless Status: Recordkeeping Requirements** (5/8/2012) – This webinar is the first in a two-part series on documentation. It describes recordkeeping requirements for the Final Rule of the Definition of Homelessness. In addition to a review of acceptable documentation for each category of homelessness, this webinar explores HUD's preferred order for documentation, as well as standards for ensuring that records maintained by program staff sufficiently demonstrate compliance with the recordkeeping requirements.
- **At-Risk Status and Income: Recordkeeping Requirements** (5/15/2012) – This webinar is the second in a two-part series on documentation. It describes recordkeeping requirements for the At-Risk of Homelessness Definition and Income. In addition to a review of acceptable documentation for each at-risk of homelessness category, this webinar explores HUD's preferred order for documentation, as well as standards for ensuring that records maintained by program staff sufficiently demonstrate compliance with the recordkeeping requirements.
- **Determining Homeless and At-Risk Status, Income and Disability Webinar** (12/13/2011) – This webinar provides a comprehensive introduction to HUD's Homeless Definition Final Rule and the new at-risk of homelessness definition included in the ESG Program Interim Rule.

2. EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

HEARTH revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames this program the Emergency Solutions Grants program. On December 5, 2011, the *interim* **Emergency Solutions Grants program rule**, with the **corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan**, was published in the Federal Register. HUD has posted [Interim regulation for the new Emergency Solutions Grants program](#) and the corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan regulations. The comment period closed on February 3, 2012 with no final rule published yet. The change in the program's name, from Emergency Shelter Grants to Emergency Solutions Grants, reflects the change in the program's focus from addressing the needs of homeless people in emergency or transitional shelters to assisting people to quickly regain stability in permanent housing after experiencing a housing crisis and/or homelessness. You may view the regulations at http://www.hudhre.info/documents/HEARTH_ESGInterimRule&ConPlanConformingAmendments.pdf. The DuPage Continuum has distributed two documents with further information - [ESG Homeless Definitions for 2011 Allocations](#) and [ESG Eligible Uses 2011 Funds](#).

3. HMIS REGULATIONS

On December 9, 2011, HUD continued its process of implementing the HEARTH Act by publishing the proposed rule for HMIS Requirements. The comment period closed on February 7, 2012. The final rule has not yet been issued. The rule provides for:

- Uniform technical requirements of HMIS
- Proper collection of data and maintenance of the database
- Confidentiality of the information in the database

You may view the proposed rule at:

http://www.hudhre.info/documents/HEARTH_HMISRequirementsProposedRule.pdf

4. CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) PROGRAM

HUD issued an interim rule to take effect on July 14, 2012 but welcomes all comments and they will be taken into consideration for the final rule. This rule establishes the regulations for the Continuum of Care program and the process for applying for Continuum of Care funding.

You can find an Introductory Guide to the CoC Program User Guide, the complete CoC Interim Rule and a hyperlinked formatted version of the CoC Interim Rule at <http://hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewWhatIsNew&whatsnewid=187>. The Introductory Guide is a brief and user friendly introduction to the CoC Program and the requirements in the interim rule.

There are several specific regulations in the Interim rule for which HUD is requesting comments within 60 days. The DuPage Homeless Continuum will be responding to these from their committees. Comments may be submitted to HUD either by mail or electronic submission at <http://www.regulations.gov/#!home>

CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) CHECKUP

In the last year, the DuPage CoC completed the Checkup, a new process designed by HUD to help CoCs determine their current capacity, performance and degree of preparation for HEARTH implementation. Using a self-administered online tool, the DuPage CoC rated their proficiency across various functional domains and indicators, examined CoC trend data contained in the Homelessness Data Exchange (HDX) and established a CoC Action Plan to guide capacity and performance improvements. More information is available at <http://www.hudhre.info/index.cfm?do=viewCoCCheckUp>.

At the DuPage CoC full membership meeting in May 2012, Mary Keating, Director of DuPage Community Services, reported on the results of our Checkup and presented our Action Plan. The Process was a web based survey completed by specific respondents. 20 persons were invited and 16 responded which is an 80% response rate. All items are scored on a 5 point scale with 5 being high. The four domains include: governance and structure, planning process, infrastructure, housing and services. Our survey results were:

- Governance and Structure – Average of 4.7 pts. Very good collaboration between DuPage County and Continuum.
- Planning Process – 4.5 average. We have a strategic plan and it is consistent with our mission. Our performance measures exceed our targets.
- Infrastructure and Administrative Capacity – 5.0 average – can generate HMIS system level data and monitor projects.
- Housing and Services – 4.6 average – good job linking clients

Areas to Improve

Governance – membership from consumer connection, landlords, corrections, academic/research community.

Planning Process – health systems and corrections discharge plans and measurable performance targets.

Infrastructure – HMIS data reliability and usefulness.

Housing and Services – corrections and health care discharge planning. Rental assistance resource issue.

The Continuum Action Plan addresses each of these areas. Each activity on the Plan is tied into a checkup element, the federal strategic plan and the HEARTH performance measures. The Action Plan will be posted on the Continuum website and sent to all CoC members. It can be revised as often as possible.

DUPAGE HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

Back to basics has been the theme for the HMIS Team. We have significantly updated and clarified the roles and responsibilities of HMIS staff and participating agencies. Notably, we expanded the term "HMIS Team" to include the DuPage County Community Services Department, the Leadership Committee, the HMIS Committee, Participating Agencies and Agency Administrators. If you are reading this, you are likely a member of the HMIS Team!

We have also re-focused our Team's mission statement. 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.

We have made great strides the past few months in achieving our mission:

Provide visionary data leadership

- We began a new monthly publication called the HMIS All Stars.
- Someone from HMIS staff is attending every CoC committee meeting.
- Custom reports are being designed for different agencies every week! Average turnaround time is under 2 days!
- Requests to HUD and the IL Attorney General have been submitted regarding the applicability of Illinois' HIV/AIDS and Domestic Violence laws to HMIS systems.

Providing an effective and usable case management tool

- We implemented a monthly training schedule with nearly 100 users attending since January! Satisfaction rates from the surveys are through the roof. (99% or higher on all survey responses!)
- The HMIS Help desk is available by phone and by email! 225 requests have been managed through the Help Desk since January with an average same-day turnaround.

Collecting and analyzing client and program-level data

- We have updated our standard assessment asked of most all clients. This assessment follows the HUD required formats and selections.
- All security site visits have been completed and all participating agencies are now meeting minimum security requirements!

What to look forward to in the next 6 months:

- New participating agencies joining HMIS.
- An implemented data quality plan.
- More agencies utilizing the case management module for tracking client goals.
- Streamlined reporting with the County Community Development Commission.
- An increased presence and role in community decisions.

MAINSTREAM BENEFITS & TRAINING INFORMATION

Cultural and Linguistic Competency Training

This training program includes:

- A review of requirements of federal, state, and local organizations;
- Completion of an agency self-assessment;

- Completion of an agency plan for linguistic and cultural competency; and
- A learning circle, so you can learn from agency peers as well as the trainer.

Background: In order to be an effective provider of services in the western suburbs of Chicago, agencies must be linguistically and culturally competent. Additionally, funders have become increasingly concerned about the linguistic and cultural competency of agencies applying for funding. Some funders are requiring agencies to complete a self-assessment of cultural and linguistic competency, and to describe the methodology, findings and plan for addressing areas identified as needing improvement.

The DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform has designed a training program to assist agencies in improving their linguistic and cultural competency. In fact, at the end of the training program, participating agencies will have a completed plan to address this issue. The plan will be ready for adoption by the board and presentation to funders. For further information, contact Candace King at cking@dupagefederation.org.

To view current training opportunities, please visit: www.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. For more information about SOAR check out the website for Policy Research, the SOAR program developer at <http://prainc.com/soar/>

In Illinois, SOAR-trained individuals and agencies are able to link together and share ideas at the MTCIL website. All persons who participate in SOAR training are provided password protected access to this valuable website. Here they will be able to get access to many of the forms referenced in the training, get answers to their questions, and obtain valuable updates on the Illinois SOAR initiative. For more information, contact Kathryn Nelson at knelson@dupagefederation.org. To register for an upcoming SOAR training, please visit: www.mtcil.org

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. As a complement to the training programs, the Federation has created a “Making the Connection Illinois” website (www.mtcil.org) that provides information, guidance, forms, etc. that are generally useful to anyone these complex systems. The site also contains special information made available to those who have completed the training.

Participants learn to understand the basic rules of who qualifies for a specific benefit, how to complete the applications, how to navigate the application process, and how to troubleshoot when problems arise.

To register, please visit: <http://www.dupagefederation.org/index.php/programs/public-benefits/making-the-connection-training>

A complete 2012-13 training schedule along with registration information will also be posted at the Continuum website – www.dupagehomeless.org under Benefits Updates/Benefits Training.

THE HELPER

A quick desk reference guide to agencies in DuPage County providing specific services such as child care, advocacy, employment, etc. The updated 2012 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, 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 2012 through July 2013 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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