



JULY 2013 UPDATE

HUD HOMELESS PROJECT AWARDS 2012 COMPETITION

In the 2012 Continuum of Care funding competition, there was a new requirement that all Continuums must rank their projects using a two tier system. The purpose of the two tiered approach is for the CoC to clearly indicate their funding priorities in the event that full funding is not available. HUD announced the Fiscal Year (FY) 2012 Continuum of Care Tier One renewal projects on 3/15/13. HUD announced Tier Two renewal projects on 5/2/13. All DuPage renewal projects in both Tier One and Two were fully funded and PSH projects received extra funds for leasing and operating expenses. Tier Two new and planning projects were announced on August 2, 2013.

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

The DuPage Homeless Continuum received \$ 4,014,362 in funding for seventeen renewal projects and a new Planning project. All renewal projects were fully funded. The Planning project was fully funded as submitted.

The DuPage Continuum submitted for 1 bonus housing project in 2012 which was not funded. The Solid Ground project was a three year project for 4 units of housing for 4 chronically homeless individuals in the amount of \$184,484. HUD did not fund the bonus housing project applications in 2012 due to funding reductions.

2012 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE 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.	\$ 101,136	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.	\$ 428,691	1 year
5. Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	SHIFT- New Hope	Permanent Supportive Housing for 22 homeless families with multiple disabilities in 22 units.	\$ 862,632	1 year

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6. DuPage Community Services Dept.	HMIS	HMIS dedicated renewal project.	\$ 154,556	1 year
7. DuPage County Community Services Dept.	Move Ahead	Case management and follow-up to 30 formerly homeless families.	\$36,261	1 year
8. DuPage County Health Dept.	Homecomings	Permanent Supportive Housing for 4 chronically homeless individuals in 4 units	\$ 50,904	1 year
9. DuPage County Health Dept.	Housing Intensive Services	21 individual units and 3 family units for homeless persons.	\$ 257,617	1 year
10. DuPage County Health Dept.	MISA/CAP	Permanent Supportive Hsng for 49 mentally ill individuals in 21 apartment units	\$ 587,015	1 year
11. DuPage County Health Dept.	SAIL	Permanent Supportive Housing for 10 chronic mentally ill persons in 5 units.	\$ 53,447	1 year
12. DuPage P.A.D.S., Inc.	Carol's Place	Permanent Supportive Housing for 28 chronically homeless persons in 28 scattered units.	\$ 437,911	1 year
13. 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.	\$ 207,343	1 year
14. DuPage PADS, Inc.	New Horizons	Permanent Supportive Housing for 4 chronically homeless persons in 4 scattered units.	\$ 50,824	1 year
15. DuPage PADS, Inc.	Stepping Stones	Permanent Supp Housing for 7 homeless families in 7 units.	\$ 126,509	1 year
16. 360 Youth Services	Youth In Transition	Transitional housing for 10 males ages 18-24 in 5 units.	\$ 206,183	1 year
17. Prairie State Legal Services, Inc.	DuPage Legal Assistance for Homeless	Legal support services to 130 homeless persons.	\$ 70,090	1 year
		TOTAL ANNUAL RENEWAL DEMAND	\$3,964,902	

2012 HUD SUPERNOFA CONTINUUM OF CARE NEW PROJECT AWARDS				
PROJECTS	PROJECT NAME	Description	Amount	Term
DuPage County Community Services Dept. NEW	Planning	CoC planning and responsibilities	\$49,460	1 year
		TOTAL	\$ 49,460	
		GRAND TOTAL	\$ 4,014,362	

NOTICE OF FUND AVAILABILITY AND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
HUD 2013 SUPERNOFA HOMELESS APPLICATION PROCESS

The DuPage Homeless Continuum has completed the application and selection process for HUD's 2013 Continuum of Care funding.

A Notice of Fund Availability and call for projects was issued to all Continuum members on January 14, 2013. The DuPage Continuum has an annual renewal amount of \$3.9 million with an incentive amount of approximately \$183,000 over 1,2 or 3 years for a new Permanent Housing project(s) serving chronically homeless families and/or individuals with disabilities, with an emphasis on those who have been homeless the longest.

The DuPage Continuum is authorized to reallocate any of its over \$3.9 million annual renewal demand 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 14, 2013.

Written Business Plans of all new and renewal projects were reviewed by the Needs Assessment Committee at their meeting on March 14, 2013. All projects submitted were approved to move forward.

The Grants Funding committee reviewed the projects on April 16 and completed scoring using the Ranking Criteria on May 14, 2013. Final funding recommendations were made to the Leadership committee on May 22, 2013.

All renewal projects were recommended as submitted. Two new bonus project applications for permanent supportive housing projects were submitted. The DuPage PADS Foundations project would provide 4 chronically homeless units for individuals over a period of 3 years. Preference will be given to veterans. The Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans Freedom Harbor project would provide 5 chronically homeless units for veterans over a period of 3 years. The committee consensus was to recommend Freedom Harbor for funding. This project will be submitted in the 2013 HUD CoC Consolidated application for the permanent housing bonus funds of \$183,000 over three years.

2014 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 2013 included veterans preference, updating HUD goals to match national standards, adding a mainstream benefits goal, adding quarterly drawdown of funds. The 2014 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 2014 Ranking Criteria are under consideration now.

EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS

DuPage County is currently working through the second allocation of 2011 funds and 2012 funds, which total \$357,511. Allocations were \$97,461 for emergency shelter operations and essential services, \$116,980 for HMIS, \$26,813 for administration, and \$116,257 for rapid re-housing and homelessness prevention (both financial assistance and services). Additionally, the DuPage Continuum received \$318,982 from the State ESG funds in 2012. In June 2013, DuPage County received its 2013 ESG funding amount, which was drastically cut to \$217,960. Allocations are \$90,544 for emergency shelter operations, essential services, and street outreach; \$40,069 for HMIS; \$16,347 for admin; and \$71,000 for Rapid Rehousing Housing and Homeless Prevention. The Street Outreach program is a new activity for the DuPage CoC through ESG, administered by DuPage PADS. DuPage CoC will also receive \$262,683 from the State ESG funds in 2013.

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.

Nationally, the FY2013 appropriation is insufficient to maintain ESG funding at the FY2012 level. Congressional direction requires that at least \$190 million (calculated after sequestration) be allocated to ESG. HUD will allocate \$215 nationally to ESG, \$25 million over the Congressional minimum. While less than the 2012 allocation of \$286 million, it is nonetheless \$55 million over the \$160 million level provided for many years prior to FY2011. This change takes effect for ESG grants that have operating years that started as early as January 2013.

STATE OF ILLINOIS HOMELESS PREVENTION FUNDING FY 14

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 14, 2013, the CoC was notified that a full application for FY14 homeless prevention funds was required instead of just a renewal. This required that the projects be ranked. The amounts to be used were the last modified FY 13 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. Following are the approved funding amounts for FY 14.

Funding allocations for FY14 are:

IL Homeless Prevention Funding	2010 Allocation	2011 Allocation	2012 Allocation	2012 revised	2013	2013 revised	2014 initial
People's Resource Center	48,558	48,558	48,558	29,540	29,540	74,782	74,782
DuPage Community Services	43,711	43,711	43,711	26,592	26,592	67,319	67,319
Catholic Charities	43,021	43,021	43,021	26,319	26,185	66,627	66,627
Outreach Community Ministries	18,070	18,070	18,070	11,002	11,002	27,852	27,852
Total	153,360	153,360	153,360	93,453	93,319	236,580	235,580

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 2013 both a sheltered and unsheltered count was required and was conducted on January 30, 2013. 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 and the chronically homeless. In 2013, The CoC also had to:

- Report the number of persons in each household type by age category (under age 18, age 18 to 24, and over age 24).
- Report the number of one-child households and the number of multi-child households in the household type "Households with Only Children."
- Report on the number of sheltered and unsheltered persons in each of the following subpopulation categories: chronically homeless individuals; chronically homeless families; veterans; severely mentally ill; chronic substance abuse; and persons with HIV/AIDS. Reporting on the number of sheltered and unsheltered victims of domestic violence will be optional.
- Report the number of sheltered and unsheltered female Veterans enumerated in the PIT count.

The total number of sheltered homeless persons increased from 608 to 636 which was a 2.8% increase.

- 215 persons in emergency shelter including 16 family units.
- 421 persons in transitional housing including 104 family units.
- 69 sheltered persons were chronically homeless. Of these, there were 64 individuals and 2 families (5 persons).
- There were 83 youth between the ages of 18-24 in shelter or transitional housing on that night.

The total unsheltered population decreased 12% from 33 persons in 2011 to 29 persons in 2013. There were 0 unsheltered households with children which is a decrease from 1 HC in 2011. There were only 5 chronically homeless persons which is a 67% decrease from 15 persons in the 2011 count.

For more complete information please see the most recent Homeless Populations Charts under Homeless Demographics at www.dupagehomeless.org The next Homeless One Night Count is scheduled for January 2014.

The 2013 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 2013 Housing Inventory data is based on bed capacity data on the same day as the One Night Count in 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 2009-2013 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 2011 through June 2012 (Fiscal Year 2012).

Ms. Simler presented the Snapshot to all DuPage County Board members on April 9, 2013. In our last fiscal year ending June 30, 2012, 1,384 men, women, and children stayed in an emergency shelter in this county or accessed emergency shelter services but did not stay overnight. There were 250 children were under the age of 18 and 104 children were under the age of 5. These are children without their own bedrooms, whose housing instability may have long term implications for their well-being, education and development. There were 91 veterans in our shelters. These veterans are not from current wars, but from the Viet Nam era and who are challenged with mental illness and substance abuse. While the numbers seem to have decreased from the last report, a building move for one of the shelter agencies caused a decrease in the number of available beds for one agency – the previous year this agency served 123 families and in FY2012 only 59 families. 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 2012 Annual Snapshot, click on <http://www.dupagehomeless.org/AnnualReportCard.asp>

HEARTH ACT UPDATES

The HEARTH (Homeless Emergency Assistance and Rapid Transition to Housing) Act of 2009 amended the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act. The HEARTH Act consolidates three of the separate homeless assistance programs administered by HUD into a single Continuum of Care program; revises the Emergency Shelter Grants program and renames this program the Emergency Solutions Grants program; and creates the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program (RHSP) to replace the Rural Homelessness Grant program. The [HEARTH Act](#) amends and reauthorizes the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act with substantial changes, including:

- A consolidation of HUD's competitive grant programs;
- The creation of a Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program;
- A change in HUD's definition of homelessness and chronic homelessness;
- A simplified match requirement;
- An increase in prevention resources; and,
- An increase in emphasis on performance

Further information on HEARTH is available at <https://www.hudhre.info/hearth>.

The HEARTH Act directs HUD to promulgate regulations for these new programs and processes. There are 5 required HEARTH Act regulations. These include Definition of Homeless, Homeless Management Information System, Emergency Solutions Grant, Continuum of Care (CoC) and Rural Housing Stability. The only final regulation at this time is Definition of Homelessness. The HMIS regulation is in Proposed status. The Emergency Solutions Grant and Continuum of Care Program Interim rules are currently in effect and will govern these programs until final regulations are issued by HUD. In order to ensure meaningful comments that reflect recipients' experience, HUD intends to re-open the public comment period for both of these Interim rules so grant recipients, CoCs, and other stakeholders can provide additional comments after having the opportunity to administer these grants under the Interim rules. The Rural Housing Stability regulations were issued on March 27, 2013 and closed for public comment on July 1, 2013. In addition to proposing the regulatory framework for the new Rural Housing Stability Program, this rule also proposes to establish a new definition for "chronically homeless" that better targets persons with the longest histories of homelessness and the highest level of need. Comments on the definition of chronic homelessness closed on May 28, 2013.

SNAPS Director Ann Oliva provided an update on May 5, 2013 on key initiatives and issues affecting Continuum grant recipients and stakeholders. Read her letter at <https://www.onecpd.info/resource/3047/letter-from-ann-oliva-to-grant-recipients-coc-leaders-and-stakeholders/> for information on the 2012 awards, the 2013 competition, and HEARTH regulations.

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.

All information on the HUD Homelessness Resource Exchange will be transitioning to the OneCPD Resource Exchange. (www.onecpd.info)

The HUD HRE help desks have now moved to OneCPD Resource Exchange
You may submit questions to <https://www.onecpd.info/ask-a-question/>

The HRE Learning Management System and Training Events has moved to OneCPD. OneCPD learning opportunities are accessed via the **OneCPD Resource Exchange** and the new **OneCPD Learn** Learning Management System <https://www.onecpd.info/training-events/>

HUD has released Snapshots, which highlights and explains key concepts in the Continuum of Care and Emergency Solutions grants Interim Rules. Visit the OneCPD Resource Exchange to view these. <https://www.onecpd.info/resource/2893/snaps-shots/>

Additional CoC and ESG program information and guidance is available at the CoC program page <http://www.hudhre.info/coc/index.cfm> and the ESG program page <http://www.hudhre.info/esg/index.cfm> of the Homelessness Resource Exchange.

1. DEFINITION OF HOMELESSNESS

The *final* **Definition of Homeless** rule may be viewed at:
<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/1928/hearth-defining-homeless-final-rule/>

2. EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANT

HUD published the [interim rule](#) for the amended [Emergency Solutions Grants \(ESG\)](#) program along with the corresponding amendments to the Consolidated Plan regulations. The interim rule was published in the Federal Register on December 5, 2011 and became effective on January 4, 2012. The public comment period closed on February 3, 2012. 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. The interim ESG regulation incorporates the new final definition of homeless. Additional ESG program information and guidance may be found the ESG program page <http://www.hudhre.info/esg/index.cfm> of the Homelessness Resource Exchange.

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 rule provides for:

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

In April 2013, HUD issued Notice CPD-13-017: 2013 Draft HMIS Data Standards. This notice revises the Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) Data Standards of March 2010. It includes changes in data elements necessary to support data collection and reporting for projects funded under the HEARTH Act. Public comment closed on June 3, 2013. <https://www.onecpd.info/resource/2917/2013-draft-hmis-data-standards/>

4. CONTINUUM OF CARE (COC) PROGRAM

HUD issued an interim rule on July 14, 2012 that is still in effect. The 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.

<http://www.hudhre.info/coc/index.cfm>

5. RURAL HOUSING STABILITY PROGRAM

This rule was issued on March 27, 2013. <https://www.onecpd.info/rhsp/>

A fact sheet provides an overview of the Rural Housing Stability Assistance Program (RHSP). It includes information on the program's objectives, eligible applicants and activities, application process, selection priorities, match, and reports, as well as the definition of a rural area.

<https://www.onecpd.info/resource/3049/rural-housing-stability-assistance-program-fact-sheet/>

The rule also included changes in the definition of chronically homeless. "An individual who has been homeless and living or residing in a place not meant for human habitation, a safe haven, or in an emergency shelter continuously for at least one year or on at least four separate occasions in the last 3 years, where the cumulative total of the four occasions is at least one year. Stays in institutions of 90 days or less will not constitute a break in homelessness, but rather such stays are included in the cumulative total

DUPAGE HOMELESS MANAGEMENT INFORMATION SYSTEM (HMIS)

The HMIS system is operating smoothly. Our 140 users are collecting data for 17 agencies on 2500 clients each month. We have high data completeness (98%!). Our overall data quality and privacy are improving each month. All HUD programs are utilizing approved workflows. Individuals and organizations are increasing their capacity to report to their funders the great work that is happening in our community. Organizations are looking to use the HMIS as their primary database that previously never would have considered this option. We are receiving and answering hundreds of help-desk requests. We have multiple monthly training opportunities and over 200 (duplicated) persons have participated. We are

working closely with the HMIS committee to update and review all sections of the Standard Operating Procedure.

These basic outputs are a great leap forward for our community. We have uniform and accurate system-wide data. *It is time for our Continuum of Care to start looking towards the HMIS to begin applying and analyzing this data for the useful public benefit of those at risk and in homelessness in DuPage County.*

To that end we are happy to announce the newest member of the HMIS Staff: Julie Tremberth. Julie is personally and professionally dedicated to supporting the mission of ending homelessness for households and individuals in our community. Julie has worked at the DuPage County Department of Community Services for the past 12 years filling important roles in Information & Referral and Case Management. She is a familiar face to our group with the work she has done with the Homelessness Prevention Provider Committee and we are very fortunate to have her as a part of our team. Julie will be responsible for increasing our capacity to provide end user training and support while looking to improving our community's Resource Directory (commonly known as DuPage CRIS.) Welcome Julie! The HMIS Committee also welcomes Amy Palumbo as the new Chair of the HMIS Committee. Amy is the Director of Catholic Charities Community Services North Division. Many thanks to Lisa Howe from the DuPage Housing Authority for her previous service.

Things to look forward to in this next year:

- Quarterly data-dashboard publications showing up-to-date information on clients served as well as system-wide performance measurement. (Big deal!)
- 3 new programs and agencies joining the HMIS
- Agencies utilizing new functionality:
 - Tracking incoming calls
 - Determining program eligibility
 - Tracking client progress by true client assessment (not demographic data collection)
 - Tracking referrals made
 - Tracking and maintaining wait list information

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

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: http://registeruo.niu.edu/iebms/wbe/wbe_p1_main.aspx?oc=40&cc=WBE4012415

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 now organized into three (3) full-day classroom training sessions covering the following topics: Best Practices in Navigating Disability Applications and Spenddown, Introduction to Public Benefits, Immigrant Eligibility, Cash & Food Benefits, Medicare, Medicaid, Medicare Savings Programs, & Specialty Health Care Programs.

Online Trainings available include: Veterans & Benefits, Domestic Violence & Benefits, and Understanding the Appeal Process.

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.

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

A complete 2013-14 training schedule along with registration information will also be posted at the Continuum website when it becomes available – 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 2013 through July 2014 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

Leader	Mary Keating Director DuPage County Community Services	630 -407-6457 407-6501 Fax Mary.Keating@dupageco.org
Continuum Consultant	Peg White Lijewski President OMR, Inc.	630- 357-9595 630- 420-7600 Fax plijewski@wideopenwest.com
COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSONS	PHONE/FAX
Community Outreach	Carol Simler Executive Director DuPage P.A.D.S.	630 -682-3846 ext. 231 630 – 682-3874 Fax csimler@dupagepads.org
Grants/Funding	Michael Brosnahan Senior Vice President West Suburban Bank	630 – 652-2308 630 – 629-0279 Fax mbrosnahan@westsuburbanbank.com
Needs Assessment	Deborah Darzinskis Executive Director DuPage County Housing Authority	630-690-3555x 201 630- 690-0702 Fax ddarzinskis@dupagehousing.org
Homeless Prevention	Tonya Latson Director of Housing	630-682-5402 ext 235 630-682-5412 Fax

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	The Peoples Resource Center	tlatson@peoplesrc.org
HMIS	Amy Palumbo Director of Community Services North Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet	630-495-8008 x 2109 630-495-9854 apalumbo@cc-doj.org
	AT LARGE MEMBERS	
	Lynn Strevell Homeless Student Advocate DuPage County Regional Office of Education	630-514-1389 630-407-5801 fax lstrevell@dupage.k12.il.us
	Barb Szczepaniak Director of Grants DuPage Community Foundation	630-665-5556 barbs@dcfdn.org
	Bob Adams Executive Director Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans	708-567-4075 630-916-9931 Fax Llnrma321@aol.com
	Kara Murphy Executive Director Access DuPage	630-510-8720 X 201 630-510-8721 (fax) kmurphy@accessdupage.org
	Randi Luna Assistant Director of Residential Services DuPage County Health Dept.	(630) 221-7606 630-690-5282 Fax Email: rluna@dupagehealth.org