



What's Needed

Places to Call Home

Research shows when people have access to safe, stable, and affordable housing, they are better equipped to stay employed, achieve economic mobility, age in place, perform better in school, and maintain their health (Weiss, E., 2017: A Place to Call Home).

In DuPage County, the strong demand for housing plus a slowing housing supply explains our low vacancy rate and rising prices for renters and owners. This trend has made affordable housing increasingly difficult to find. As a result, local organizations providing housing assistance are turning their attention toward building stronger relationships with private market landlords.

Expanding this cohort of landlords educated about housing issues and resources is a necessary strategy to create a solid foundation of support. Ongoing landlord outreach to improve linkage with DuPage County's Continuum of Care is critical so that more and more landlords can become agents of change to positively shape the affordable housing dialogue in our County.



What's Working

Medical Respite

For those who are homeless, the lack of stable housing coupled with a wide range of complex health challenges makes managing these conditions more difficult. Often when these conditions are not managed well, people who are homeless go to emergency rooms. Without a place to rest and recover, they are often discharged from the hospitals and risk compromising their health which may lead to hospital re-admission.

In DuPage County, the DuPagePads Medical Respite program provides a unique model to break the cycle of declining health and is a stop-gap to emergency room visits. For clients with acute health conditions and a doctor's note for needed rest, DuPagePads Medical Respite program provides one to two weeks at a motel in DuPage County for rest and recuperation. Along with this housing, DuPagePads provides case management to ensure clients receive medical attention and support services to better manage their health condition and move toward stability. For an estimated \$640 a week, the Medical Respite program can keep clients out of expensive emergency rooms while providing a cost saving to our health care system.

Homeless Management Information System (HMIS)

HMIS is a county-wide database where homeless and prevention agencies input client and program level data in a shared system. Service coordination and reporting are completed while maintaining client security and privacy. HMIS data assists planners, policy makers and providers of services to design the most effective policies and programs for care coordination. This web-based system provides an effective case management tool that collects and analyzes client, program and system level data.

The HMIS data is used to evaluate, communicate and share projects and system level outcome measures. Areas for success and opportunities for improvement are used to coordinate limited housing resources for those with the greatest need in DuPage County. Annual reports are generated for DuPage County's performance in ending homelessness, and additionally this data is submitted for use in the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s nationwide estimates of homelessness to Congress.

Who is homeless?

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



Children & Homelessness

The number of homeless students identified by the Illinois State Board of Education served in DuPage County was 1,779 has increased from 1,687 last year. ⁶

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

Call for Action

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

Homeless Prevention... Strategic and Cost-effective

Prevention services provided:	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Number of unduplicated households	1,748	1,656	1,534	1,420	1,516
Number of unduplicated individuals	4,577	4,397	3,983	3,629	3,842
Average amount of financial assistance per household	\$621	\$693	\$654	\$625	\$816

In FY 2017, a network of agencies committed to homelessness prevention in DuPage County distributed \$1,237,730 to prevent imminent homelessness and re-house those who have become homeless. Funding was pieced together by a number of sources including County, State, Federal and local charities. The need for prevention services continues to outpace resources with only 26% of requests for assistance being fulfilled.

(Data derived from DuPage CoC Homeless Prevention Providers Committee)

By the Numbers

HOMELESSNESS

	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16	FY17
Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter* ¹	*1,424	*1,396	*1,259	*1,210	*1,302
Number of nights emergency beds were used	64,935	66,254	68,301	63,280	62,964
Number of:					
Single Men	546	544	523	488	479
Single Women	303	307	336	324	339
Veterans	92	71	76	51	49
Families with children under 18 years	189	182	164	181	159
Children under 18 years	333	329	303	309	284
Children under the age of 5 years	127	128	134	112	116
Single Adults 18-21 years	50	46	58	41	68

HOUSING

Rental vacancy rate ²	6.3%	4.2%	3.8%	4.2%	6.3%
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INCOME

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) ³	\$710	\$721	\$733	\$735	\$750
Minimum wage in Illinois ⁴	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment ⁵ **	\$21.48	\$21.48	\$21.48	\$22.62	\$23.69
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment ⁵ **	\$18.65	\$18.65	\$18.65	\$19.25	\$20.29

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

**Fair Market Rent Apartment

SOURCES

- 1 DuPage County HMIS Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities; DuPagePads; Family Shelter; Hamdard Center; 360 Youth Services
- 2 Selected Housing Characteristics, 2016 ACS, 1-Year Estimates
- 3 U.S. Government SSA
- 4 <http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm#Illinois>
- 5 National Low-Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2017
- 6 Illinois State Board of Education

Visit the DuPage County Continuum of Care at www.dupagehomeless.org