



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Working Together, We Can Accomplish Anything

CALL TO ACTION

May 18, 2020

Dear Supportive Housing Providers and Residents,

Illinois lawmakers are meeting in session this week and may at this time vote to finalize the state budget for FY 2021, which begins July 1.

We, as supportive housing providers and residents, must contact our state lawmakers immediately and underscore the urgency of continued and adequate funding for supportive housing services.

Attached is SHPA's Messaging Summary and SHPA Call to Action Tools to help you advocate for critical Supportive Housing Resources.

Please know that during this pandemic, and amid the state's stay-at-home order, many lawmakers and their staff have been conducting their work remotely. Lawmakers and their staff are trying to balance their ongoing official obligations with the sudden and considerable community needs associated with the COVID-19 crisis, while simultaneously attempting to keep themselves and their families healthy and safe. The act of connecting with a lawmaker or his/her staff has necessarily become far more challenging, but lawmakers and their staff are, in our experience, doing their best under the circumstances to continue to be responsive to constituent outreach

Please, participate in SHPA's call to action today!

1) Locate Your Lawmakers

Please locate both your state Representative and state Senator.

Find your legislators' contact information by looking up your agency's address or your address at:

<https://www.elections.il.gov/ElectionOperations/DistrictLocator/AddressFinder.aspx>

Next, please check to see if your state Representative or state Senator belong to any of the working groups on the **SHPA Call to Action Tool Legislative Working Groups**. These working groups were responsible in recent weeks, during which time the legislature suspended session in deference to the stay-at-home order, for evaluating the state budget and other matters of interest to supportive housing providers. We want to let them know that we appreciate their hard work and consideration of the state's human services community – particularly in this extraordinarily difficult time.

2) Reach Out to Your Lawmakers

Please call both your state Representative and state Senator.

Call Your Lawmakers Immediately

Please, use the attached **SHPA Call to Action Tool for Phone Calls**. This tool can help you lead your conversation with your lawmaker and/or their legislative team. Please, share your specific local experiences with your lawmaker.

If you cannot reach either the lawmaker or the district office staff on Monday or Tuesday, then please call the lawmaker's Springfield office on Wednesday or Thursday. You may also leave a detailed message with the lawmaker's assistant.

Write Your Lawmakers Immediately

Please, use the attached **SHPA Call to Action Tool for Written Communication**. This tool can be used for letters, faxes, or emails.

Also, see our SHPA Talking Points for more helpful information on the FY2021 State Budget Request.

3) Please Share Your Experience with SHPA

Lastly, but importantly, please share your experience in speaking with your lawmakers or their staff on our Report Back Information form.

We will also be hosting SHPA's Report Back call on **Friday May 22, 2020 at 12:00 pm and Friday Mat 29, 2020 at 12:00pm**. Please, join us! Email Merridith Montgomery at m.montgomery@shpa-il.org for more information.

We would love to know if legislators indicated a position on our budget request. Did they make any comments specific to the utility of supportive housing? Did they indicate an interest in learning more about the role of supportive housing in fighting the spread of COVID-19 in Illinois? ***Any such feedback would be valuable in helping to guide our efforts to advocate for our budget priorities.***

Thank you for your prompt assistance with this critical matter. We must all remain vigilant to encourage our elected officials to adopt a budget that will protect and preserve the integrity of critical supportive housing services.

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact myself or our Policy & Advocacy Coordinator, Merridith Montgomery.

Sincerely,

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