



CALL TO ACTION

June 22, 2020

Dear Supportive Housing Providers and Residents,

Our Illinois Lawmakers passed the FY2021 Budget, awarding an additional \$600,000 in Supportive Housing funding! As a coalition, it is important we thank the 105 members of the General Assembly who made this possible. We want to lift the voices of the thousands of Illinoisans who rely on Supportive Housing and the providers who tirelessly serve our vulnerable citizens. Supportive Housing is a critical component to Illinois overcoming the COVID-19 crisis. The Supportive Housing Providers Association commends the passage of on the FY2021 Budget because it helps ensure that funding is secure during this unprecedented experience.

SHPA has created this tool kit to help providers and residents to say THANK YOU.

This tool kit includes:

- SHPA's Advocacy Update Video and Slides (<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/recording/3875604073222579976>)
- Legislative Outreach Tool
- Provider's Thank You Letter Template
- Resident's Thank You Letter Template
- Report Back Survey

Join us in thanking our lawmakers. Please, send a letter your Legislators' district office between June 22, 2020 and July 3, 2020.

Please, let us know how you participated in this Call to Action by completed this Report Back Survey brief. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/66SR7CJ>

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

Sincerely,

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SHPA Residents' Thank You Letter Template

Direction:

Join us in thanking our lawmakers.

- This tool can be used as a template for drafting your message to legislators.
- Please personalize all sections in yellow.
- Please send your communications to both your state representative and state senator
- Please, send a letter your Legislators' district office between June 22, 2020 and July 3, 2020.

[Date]

Honorable [First] [Initial] [Last]

Address 1

Address 2

City, IL Zip

Dear [Choose one title as appropriate: Representative or Senator or Leader or Speaker or President] [Last Name]:

Thank you for voting in support of the FY 2021 budget for Illinois supportive housing services. We recognize that state resources are limited, particularly in this difficult time, and we take seriously our obligation to be good stewards of taxpayers' investment in our work.

As your constituent, I want to share my personal experiences with Supportive Housing with you. It has changed my life.

[Share a few sentences about your experience, the services, and the impacts of supportive housing on your life]

Across Illinois, supportive housing providers offer case management, advocacy, alcohol and substance abuse counseling, mental health programs, and other critical services to help reduce homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization. To provide these critical services to 17,869 men, women and children residing in every region of Illinois, we rely substantially on state funds.

I am proud that the health and safety of men, women and children in the [legislator's district number; for example, 17th House or 9th Senate] District were prioritized by you this session. Your support for the FY 2021 budget will help ensure our agency and other providers have the means to continue provide these critical services, like those that changed my life.

If you are interested in learning more about Supportive Housing and the programs your district, please contact the Supportive Housing Providers Association team at (217) 321-2476. I would also be happy act as a resource for you or your staff.

Again, thank you for looking out for some of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

[Please Include Your Signature

Phone number

Email address]

SHPA Providers' Thank You Letter Template

Direction:

Join us in thanking our lawmakers.

- This tool can be used as a template for drafting your message to legislators.
- Please personalize all sections in yellow.
- Please send your communications to both your state representative and state senator
- Please, send a letter your Legislators' district office between June 22, 2020 and July 3, 2020.

[Please use your agency's' letterhead]

[Date]

Honorable [First] [Initial] [Last]

[Address 1]

[Address 2]

[City, IL Zip]

Dear [Choose one title as appropriate: Representative or Senator or Leader or Speaker or President] [Last Name]:

Thank you for voting in support of the FY 2021 budget for Illinois supportive housing services. We recognize that state resources are limited, particularly in this difficult time, and we take seriously our obligation to be good stewards of taxpayers' investment in our work.

Across Illinois, supportive housing providers offer case management, advocacy, alcohol and substance abuse counseling, mental health programs, and other critical services to help reduce homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization. To provide these critical services to 17,869 men, women and children residing in every region of Illinois, we rely substantially on state funds.

[You may add information about your agency and its supportive housing programs]

With the state combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, supportive housing providers are on the front line of that effort. Housing instability and homelessness have been an ongoing challenge in Illinois – one that has now been severely elevated. Supportive housing providers have seen increased demand for services to address homelessness, mental health issues, substance use, and domestic violence. By acting to reduce homelessness, supportive housing reduces the risk that individuals – many of whom are at higher risk of complications or death from COVID-19 – contract and spread the virus.

We are proud to do our part, together with the state, to promote the health and safety of men, women and children in the [legislator's district number; for example, 17th House or 9th Senate] District. Your support for the FY 2021 budget will help ensure our agency and other providers have the means to continue providing these critical services. We also are grateful for the separate appropriation of capital funds for affordable housing. These capital dollars will be instrumental in helping providers secure safe and stable housing for Illinoisans requiring supportive housing services.

We look forward to following up with you during the coming fiscal year to discuss the services we provide and the people we help. If you would like to speak with us, or if we may ever act as a resource for you or your staff, please let us know.

Again, thank you for looking out for some of our state's most vulnerable citizens.

Sincerely,

[Please Include Your Signature]

Advocacy Update

Supportive Housing Providers Association





SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Working Together, We Can Accomplish Anything

- ▶ SHPA's Mission - Strengthen the supportive housing industry, to enable the increased development of supportive housing, and to support non-profit organizations to develop the capacity for providing permanent supportive housing
 - ▶ Membership association
 - ▶ Strong state and federal advocacy voice
 - ▶ Training and technical assistance
 - ▶ Supportive housing resident involvement



Objectives

- ▶ SHPA's Advocacy Ideology
- ▶ SHPA's FY2021 State Budget Call to Action
- ▶ SHPA's Thank You Campaign and Tools
- ▶ Next steps



Advocacy for Supportive Housing

- ▶ SHPA is invested in the power of supportive housing. Supportive housing can end homelessness, stop unnecessary institutionalization, build communities, and strengthen Illinois.
- ▶ Supportive Housing is innovative, evidence-based, and person-centered. It connects affordable housing and supportive services to Illinoisans who need them.
- ▶ **SHPA is dedicated to state-wide advocacy with champions from communities across Illinois.**



SHPA's Advocacy Approach

▶ *Regional Leadership*

- ▶ Illinois is a state with great diversity. SHPA's dynamic regional approach to advocacy brings local community's experts to the table. It enables us to understand all of Illinois' supportive housing needs, learn from the experience of our experts, and strengthen their voices on a local, state, and federal level.

▶ *Strong Relationships*

- ▶ Illinois Legislators, Executive Office, and State Departments are key partners in our collective efforts to ensure Illinois meets the needs of its residents for supportive housing. Strengthening relationships with elected leaders helps raise awareness and builds support.

▶ *Thought into Action*

- ▶ Advocacy is active. SHPA is committed to gaining ongoing input from thought leaders throughout our state to help inform our activities—turning ideas into actions. SHPA's strength is our network. Together, we can accomplish anything.



**One voice is heard,
many voices are
listened to.**



The FY2021 State Budget Call to Action

- ▶ SHPA released an Action Alert with tools for our members to utilize as they approached their legislators
- ▶ Our primary objective was to ask that Supportive Housing be prioritized in budget discussions
- ▶ Overall, the financial need of Supportive Housing was \$44.2 million.
 - ▶ This increased need of \$3 million for Supportive Housing and Homeless Services and included \$1.6 million to sustain current services and address cost increases associated with the pandemic and \$1.4 million to provide supportive services for individuals residing in the 600 new units.



Messaging Highlights

- ▶ Supportive Housing is a critical component to Illinois overcoming the COVID-19 crisis.
- ▶ For 17,869 men, women and children residing in every region of Illinois, providers offer case management, advocacy, alcohol and substance use counseling, mental health programs, and other critical services because of the supportive housing.
- ▶ Supportive housing works. This service model is proven to help end homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization, while improving the quality of life, reducing demands on local first responders, and saving state taxpayer dollars.
- ▶ Supportive Housing programs have adapted to unprecedented challenges, quickly shifting their service models and meeting increased needs while losing resources, all to ensure services reach vulnerable populations throughout this crisis.
- ▶ More than a quarter of supportive housing residents are 50 years old or older, 21% have a chronic health condition, and 43% have a mental health condition. Over 70% of supportive housing residents are Black/African American, a population significantly and disproportionately impacted by COVID-19.
- ▶ During this pandemic, Supportive Housing is literally protecting the lives of our most vulnerable Illinoisans.



Results

- ▶ 105 out of the 177 legislators voted to pass the FY2021 Budget
- ▶ Supportive Housing received \$41.8 million
 - ▶ A \$600,000 increase



**THANK YOU,
ADVOCATES!**



Thank You Campaign

- ▶ Join us in thanking our lawmakers.
- ▶ We are asking our members to mail letters thanking the legislators who voted in support of this budget.
- ▶ Please, send a letter to your Legislators' district offices between June 22, 2020 and July 3, 2020.



Action Tools

SHPA's Tool Kit

- ▶ SHPA's Advocacy Update Video
- ▶ Legislative Outreach Tool
- ▶ Providers' Thank You Letter Template
- ▶ Residents' Thank You Letter Template
- ▶ Report Back Survey



Next Steps

Building Relationships in 2020



177 legislators represent supportive housing residents and providers in Illinois' General Assembly

▶ Raise Awareness

- ▶ Supportive Housing is an important investment that saves lives, improves communities, and reduces other costs
- ▶ Housing is a determinate of health
- ▶ Housing is a right not privilege

▶ Bring it Home

- ▶ Supportive housing is a need everywhere in Illinois and legislators want to understand their constituents needs
- ▶ Everyone deserves a home

▶ Share the Possibilities

- ▶ Ending Unnecessary Institutionalization
- ▶ Preventing and Ending Homelessness
- ▶ Ensuring every Illinoisan has a home in this state



Join Us

Contact Information

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www.shpa-il.org



If you want to go fast, go alone.

If you want to go far, go together.

African Proverb

**Working together,
we can accomplish
anything.**





Legislative Outreach Tool

Direction:

Join us in thanking our 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>
- Use their District Office Address for this correspondence.
- See below if your state Representative or state Senator voted in favor of the FY2021 State Budget.

Illinois State Senate

Title	First Name	Last Name	District #
Sen.	Omar	Aquino	2
Sen.	Christopher	Belt	57
Sen.	Scott	Bennett	52
Sen.	Jennifer	Bertino-Tarrant	49
Sen.	Melinda	Bush	31
Sen.	Christine	Castro	22
Sen.	Rachelle	Crowe	56
Sen.	Thomas	Cullerton	23
Sen.	Bill	Cunningham	18
Sen.	Laura	Ellman	21
Sen.	Sara	Feigenholtz	6
Sen.	Laura	Fine	9
Sen.	Ann	Gillespie	27
Sen.	Suzy	Glowiak	24
President of the Senate	Don	Harmon	39
Sen.	Napoleon	Harris III	15
Sen.	Michael	Hastings	19
Leader	Linda	Holmes	42
Leader	Mattie	Hunter	3
Sen.	Emil	Jones III	14
Sen.	Patrick	Joyce	40
Leader	David	Koehler	46
Sen.	Steven	Landek	12
Leader	Kimberly	Lightford	4
Sen.	Terry	Link	30
Sen.	Andy	Manar	48
Leader	Iris	Martinez	20
Sen.	Julie	Morrison	29
Leader	Antonio	Muñoz	1

Sen.	Laura	Murphy	28
Sen.	Robert	Peters	13
Sen.	Elgie R	Sims Jr.	17
Sen.	Steve	Stadelman	34
Sen.	Heather	Steans	7
Sen.	Patricia	Van Pelt	5
Sen.	Celina	Villanueva	11
Sen.	Ram	Villivalam	8

Illinois House of Representatives

Title	First Name	Last Name	District #
Rep.	Carol	Ammons	103
Rep.	Jaime	Andrade Jr.	40
Rep.	Monica	Bristow	111
Rep.	Kambium	Buckner	26
Leader	Kelly	Burke	36
Rep.	Kelly	Cassidy	14
Rep.	John	Connor	85
Rep.	Deb	Conroy	46
Rep.	Terra	Costa Howard	48
Leader	Fred	Crespo	44
Rep.	John	D'Amico	15
Leader	William	Davis	30
Rep.	Eva	Delgado	3
Rep.	Anthony	DeLuca	80
Rep.	Daniel	Didech	59
Rep.	Mary	Edly-Allen	51
Rep.	Marcus	Evans Jr.	33
Rep.	Mary	Flowers	31
Rep.	La Shawn	Ford	8
Rep.	Robyn	Gabel	18
Rep.	Jennifer	Gong-Gershowitz	17
Leader	Jehan	Gordon-Booth	92
Rep.	LaToya	Greenwood	114
Rep.	Will	Guzzardi	39
Rep.	Michael	Halpin	72
Rep.	Sonya	Harper	6
Leader	Greg	Harris	13
Leader	Elizabeth	Hernandez	24
Rep.	Barbara	Hernandez	83
Leader	Jay	Hoffman	113
Rep.	Fran	Hurley	35
Rep.	Thaddeus	Jones	29
Rep.	Yehiel	Kalish	16
Rep.	Stephanie	Kifowit	84

Rep.	Lindsey	LaPointe	19
Rep.	Camille	Lilly	78
Rep.	Theresa	Mah	2
Leader	Natalie	Manley	98
Rep.	Joyce	Mason	61
Rep.	Debbie	Meyers-Martin	38
Rep.	Anna	Moeller	43
Rep.	Bob	Morgan	58
Rep.	Martin	Moylan	55
Rep.	Michelle	Mussman	56
Rep.	Aaron	Ortiz	1
Rep.	Diane	Pappas	45
Rep.	Yoni	Pizer	12
Rep.	Delia	Ramirez	4
Rep.	Nathan	Reitz	116
Rep.	Robert	Rita	28
Rep.	Lamont	Robinson	5
Rep.	Sue	Scherer	96
Rep.	Justin	Slaughter	27
Rep.	Nicholas	Smith	34
Rep.	Katie	Stuart	112
Rep.	Curtis	Tarver II	25
Rep.	Andre	Thapedi	32
Leader	Arthur	Turner	9
Rep.	Karina	Villa	49
Rep.	Mark	Walker	53
Rep.	Emanuel	Welch	7
Rep.	Maurice	West	67
Rep.	Ann	Williams	11
Rep.	Jawaharial	Williams	10
Leader	Kathleen	Willis	77
Rep.	Lance	Yednock	76
Rep.	Sam	Yingling	62
Rep.	Michael	Zalewski	23