



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING PROVIDERS ASSOCIATION

Working Together, We Can Accomplish Anything

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Supportive Housing Providers Applaud Creation of Council to Develop Plans to End Homelessness in Illinois

Supportive Housing Providers are Working to Combat Homelessness and Housing Instability in Every Region of Our State

Illinois supportive housing providers, committed to ending homelessness in Illinois, applaud Gov. J.B. Pritzker for creating the Interagency Council on Homelessness to develop the concrete plans necessary to achieve that objective — and to help ensure that the state’s most vulnerable residents will have the tools necessary to lead stable and productive lives.

“Housing is the solution to homelessness, but services are necessary to ensure housing stability,” said David Esposito, executive director of the Supportive Housing Providers Association, which represents homeless service providers in every region of the state. “The Interagency Council on Homelessness is the vehicle our state needs to ensure that efforts to combat homelessness will move forward with a shared vision and in collaborative fashion. We are grateful to Gov. Pritzker for this critical initiative.”

Far too many Illinoisans are one check or health crisis away from homelessness, which may be experienced in any number of ways. Homeless households sleep in emergency shelters, transitional housing, doubled up with other households, in and out of institutions, and on the streets. Housing instability makes healthcare, employment, education, and even basic hygiene a struggle for households across Illinois.

Black/African-American men, women and children are eight times more likely to experience homelessness in Illinois. Between 2019 and 2020, Illinois experienced a 32 percent increase — one of the largest increases in the country — of chronic homelessness (defined as homelessness of a person with a disabling condition of 12 months or more, or multiple episodes of homelessness over three years equaling 12 months or more).

During the pandemic, which has only exacerbated economic stress for many Illinois residents, the shortcomings of the state’s homeless response infrastructure have been laid bare. Many state agencies and communities dedicate resources to addressing homelessness. However well intentioned, those efforts can be fragmented and sometimes are not coordinated.

“Efforts to end homelessness often intersect with other institutions or programs, including health, criminal justice, and child welfare,” Esposito said. “The Interagency Council on Homelessness will provide a vehicle for cross-agency coordination and planning to address the complex, cross-sector issue that is homelessness. It also will help ensure efficient and effective use of state resources. We look forward to the work ahead.”

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