



IMPROVING HOMELESS RESPONSE AND EXPANDING SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IN ILLINOIS

This recommendation aims to improve Illinois’ response to homelessness and create housing stability. Funding now available in Illinois from emergency relief resources, such as the American Rescue Plan Act, creates a once in a lifetime chance to improve the components of the Homeless Response Systems and expand Supportive Housing in Illinois. This recommendation is a holistic look at the statewide need and can be scaled back based on funding availability. The ultimate goal of this recommendation is to create efficient and rapid movement through the homeless response system with positive permanent housing outcomes- **to end homelessness.**

Implement the Housing Assistance Program (\$688,803,675)

The Housing Assistance Program would allocate necessary funding through DHS to local Continua of Care for rental assistance, supportive services, tenancy and move in assistance, and program administration support based on community need. Written standards will be developed and adopted by each community.

Fiscal Years	Total Cost
1 (July 1, 2022-June 30, 2023)	\$ 264,526,447
2 (July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024)	\$ 218,189,072
3 (July 1, 2024-June 30, 2025)	\$ 206,088,156
Total Project	\$ 688,803,675

This program will support at least 10,431 households annually. In three years, the program can serve a minimum of 14,013 households in Illinois.

Commit To Expanding Permanent Supportive Housing (\$250,000,000)

Supportive housing is critical to ending homelessness in Illinois and achieving housing stability for many Illinoisians.

- With an appropriation of \$250 million of emergency relief funding, Illinois has the potential to develop 700 units of supportive housing over the next 3 years.

Develop Emergency Supportive Housing (\$515,995,000)

Non-congregate emergency supportive housing is an intervention that emphasizes housing-focused case management services, to help reduce trauma and improve exits to permanent housing.

-The statewide minimum need is 3,329 Emergency Supportive Housing beds.

-The projected funds needed to support annual costs during a 5 year start up estimates operations needs to be \$133,160,000 and supportive services needs to be \$116,515,000.

-Total Need: \$515,995,000

Projected Program Cost and Statewide Investment Need

	One Bed	Statewide Need
Capital (Acquisition/ Renovation)	\$80,000	\$266,320,000
Operations (Annual)	\$8,000	\$26,632,000
Supportive Services (Annual)	\$7,000	\$23,303,000

****The annual cost of this program is calculated to be \$15,000/unit***

Improve Infrastructure of/for the Homelessness Response System (\$25,000,000)

Homelessness Is Systemic Issue- Its Solution Requires a Systemic Response. Basic organizational and systemic structures can be improved to increase the capacity of Illinois’ homelessness response and supportive housing providers- servicing the current pandemic and the ongoing crises of homelessness and housing instability.

- Build Capacity of Systems, Strengthen Infrastructure to Leverage Funding and Improve Technology and Data Use

Summary of SHPA Work Groups & Statewide Discussions

Work groups convened by SHPA met with the purpose of developing a strong recommendation for federal resource allocation and state policy that improves Illinois' response to homelessness and creates housing stability. SHPA led statewide work groups on Emergency Supportive Housing and Permanent Supportive Housing. We also hosted planning discussions with the Continuum of Care in Illinois. These sessions took place between August 2021 through November 2021. The groups provided systemic (big picture) strategies to improve the components of the Homeless Response Systems and expand Permanent Supportive Housing in Illinois.

Recommendations:

Implement the Housing Assistance Program (HAP)

- Assist the 10,431 households experiencing homelessness today.
- The Housing Assistance Program would allocate necessary funding through DHS to local Continuum of Care for rental assistance, supportive services, tenancy and move in assistance, and program administration support based on community need. Written standards will be developed and adopted by each community.
 - *The Housing Assistance Program's Systemic Impact:*
 - This bold initiative will immediately connect over 10,000 Illinoisians to stable housing and services.
 - Statewide crisis of homelessness will be resourced with the solution- Supportive Housing
 - Less burdened by the crisis, Homeless Response Systems will be able to create sustainable prevention, diversion, and recidivism reducing strategies
 - Cross sector collaborations will also be possible- allowing the most housing vulnerable Illinoisans to have access to systemic responses
 - Progressive engagement philosophies will ensure that people in HAP are connected to the appropriate resources for their household long term success

Commit To Expanding Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH)

- Supportive housing is critical to ending homelessness in Illinois and achieving housing stability for many Illinoisians.
 - Other households best served by supportive housing are those exiting or at risk of institutions/residential programs for people with mental health or intellectual/developmental disabilities, those exiting criminal justice systems, the aging population, and youth and families involved with child welfare systems.
 - Illinois will need an additional 40,749 units of supportive housing to serve these households
- With an appropriation of \$250 million of emergency relief funding, Illinois has the potential to develop 700 units of supportive housing over the next 3 years.

Develop Emergency Supportive Housing (ESH)

- Non-congregate emergency supportive housing is an intervention that emphasizes housing-focused case management services, to help reduce trauma and improve exits to permanent housing.
- The creation of non-congregate emergency supportive housing is not expected to completely alleviate other modalities of crisis housing in communities. It is important to focus on right-sizing community responses to homelessness. Illinois is in need of 10,749 crisis beds in order to appropriately respond to the public crisis of homelessness.
 - Many communities lacked the capacity to provide appropriate crisis housing for all households seeking crisis housing prior to the pandemic and crisis housing capacity was drastically decreased due to the pandemic. Twenty-one percent of Illinoisians who experience homelessness are unsheltered.
- The statewide minimum need is 3,329 Emergency Supportive Housing beds.

Improve Infrastructure of/for the Homelessness Response System (IHRS)

Homelessness Is Systemic Issue- Its Solution Requires a Systemic Response. Basic organizational and systemic structures can be improved to increase the capacity of Illinois' homelessness response and supportive housing providers- servicing the current pandemic and the ongoing crises of homelessness and housing instability.

- **Build Capacity of Systems:** Effective Coordinated Entry Systems ensure Illinoisans have access to comprehensive and coordinated resources, across many sectors. Building capacity of systems can provide a comprehensive housing and service plan for Illinoisians in need- Coordinated Entry should be supported with services like housing navigation and community/mainstream service connection.
- **Strengthen Infrastructure to Leverage Funding:** Improving both state systems and providers' ability to access Medicaid as a revenue source for services can leverage this resource and increase reimbursement to the state. Providing funding for these improvements would also incentivize cross-system programs, better positioning health and housing to achieve shared objectives.
- **Improve Technology and Data Use:** Real time data contributes to effective implementation of strategies to combat homelessness. Data driven decision making is a key component to be successful in responding to the homelessness and housing crises in Illinois.

End Homelessness

Homelessness is an ongoing crisis in Illinois, which has been exacerbated by COVID-19. We are in a time of unique opportunity that will shape Illinois' response to this urgent multisystem crisis and could put us on a path to end homelessness among Illinoisians. We know that to end homelessness many sectors must work together with urgency and commitment.

This is a time to dream big, align our diverse expertise, and ensure that Illinoisians who face a housing crisis have a system that provides them with housing and services that meet both their emergency and permanent needs.

*SHPA is committed to gaining ongoing input from thought leaders throughout our state to help inform our activities-
turning ideas into actions*