



SUPPORTIVE HOUSING IS A SOLUTION

It Can Ensure All Illinoisans Facing Homelessness and Housing Vulnerability Have a Home That Meets Their Needs

Illinois Supportive Housing Providers Respectfully Request a Funding Increase from General Revenue for Program Expansion in FY23

Illinois supportive housing providers are grateful for Gov. J.B. Pritzker's proposed budget of \$42.586 million for supportive housing services in FY23.

However, as we continue to respond to the social and economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, supportive housing providers are working to meet increased demand for services from individuals who, but for our support, would be homeless or institutionalized, and facing steep barriers to housing, health and behavioral healthcare, and human services. Instead, they'd rely on hospital emergency rooms, jails, and prisons to meet their immediate needs.

- 10,431 Illinoisans are Homeless Tonight- 20% are experiencing chronic homelessness.
- Illinois had the 5th highest increase in the rate of chronic homelessness in the nation.
- 17,684 Supportive Housing beds are currently dedicated to Illinoisans who have experienced homelessness or unnecessary institutionalization
- 40,749 Additional Illinoisans need Supportive Housing now- 47.5% have a disabling condition.
- 8 times higher for Black/African Americans households to experience homelessness in Illinois.

We respectfully urge lawmakers to appropriate an additional \$5.1 million — for a total appropriation of \$46.9 million. The request includes an allocation of \$3.0 million to provide services to the residents of 875 new units coming online in the next fiscal year- which doubles the units added in FY22. Also, we request \$2.1 million, (5% cost-of-living) increase to support existing grants as providers combat the employment crisis. Providers have not received a cost-of-living increase in 4 years and providers face serious staffing challenges.

Illinoisans need Supportive Housing in every community- from Chicago to Cairo, Rock Island to Greenup, Marion to Waukegan.

Supportive Housing is as diverse as the people and communities it serves. It is a powerful change factor- helping individuals and families throughout Illinois by providing affordable housing and supportive services. It can stop unnecessary institutionalization, end homelessness, build communities, and strengthen Illinois!

Supportive Housing is a solution that combines housing and services. Housing is the platform where Illinoisans can achieve wellness, reach economic stability, and be a part of their communities. The supportive services are critical to a person's stability once they enter housing.

Housing is Health Care- decades of research and experience with supportive housing have taught us that a holistic view of health necessarily accounts for housing and other social factors. Illinois supportive housing providers are committed to reducing homelessness throughout the state and, in doing so, promoting health, safety and quality of life for our most vulnerable residents.