



PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS & COLLEAGUES

December 2023

Happy Holidays





Thank you to everyone who attended this year's 2023 Annual Supportive Housing in Bloomington, IL on November 16-17th! A record-breaking event with over 220 attendees and 21 Sessions. A huge thank you to Governor JB Pritzker for his special welcome video during the opening plenary.

This year, SHPA recognized multiple members of the General Assembly who went above and beyond in their support of SHPA's legislative and budget priorities. The three members who were chosen as the inaugural Legislative Champions for 2023 are Senator Adriane Johnson, Representative Lindsey LaPointe and Representative Will Guzzardi for the unwavering commitment and support of HB2831 and SHPA's budget priorities.

SHPA also announced the **2023 David A Harrison** Recipient, **Audrey Thomas**. We then recognized the **2023 Allison Gaiter Peer Leadership Award** Recipient, **Marketta Sims**. Marketta was presented this award at our 2023 Annual Peer Leadership Conference in August.

This year's summit was a great success, and we hope to see you all next year!

Governor Pritzker's Welcome:



Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors.





Governor J.B. Pritzker kicked off the summit with opening remarks via recorded video much to the surprise of the 200 + in attendance. He applauded the advocacy work carried out by SHPA and its partner organizations which lead to the passage of HB2831 with bi-partisan support in both chambers. Governor Pritzker went on to highlight the \$6.5 million that SHPA secured for the Supportive Housing Services line item included in the Home Illinois budget.

Bi-partisan support wouldn't have come to fruition were it not for the tireless work and leadership of Senator Adriane Johnson, Representatives Lindsey LaPointe, and Will Guzzardi. Befittingly these distinguished members of the Generally Assembly were recognized as the inaugural Legislative Champions, an honor in which SHPA will bestow on a deserving member or members of the General Assembly each year recognizing the work that he/she did on behalf of SHPA's legislative & budget priorities from the spring session. Senator Johnson & Representative LaPointe participated in a panel following their recognition in which they both delivered impassioned answers to questions generated by SHPA members.

Other highlights from the summit were the presentation of leadership awards to SHPA members, election of new officers to the board of directors, and the advocacy platform for 2024. Areas of concentration at this year's summit included, but was not limited to, Advocacy, Supportive Housing Development, Homelessness, Provider Capacity Building, & Resident Engagement. Conversations and information presented by guest speakers help SHPA to strengthen the supportive housing sector in developing and operating quality supportive housing while delivering evidence-based practice services so that people have access to affordable housing and can survive and thrive in their community with services individually tailored to their needs.

Gov. Pritzker addresses homelessness in remarks to organization:

<https://newschannel20.com/news/local/gov-pritzker-addresses-homelessness-in-remarks-to-organization>

Watch for the December Government Affairs Newsletter for

SHPA's 2024 Policy & Budget Priorities



DECEMBER 2023 SOAR NEWS...

SOARWorks Illinois has been on the go! Since February 2023, we have been working on our latest venture, the SOAR/Peer Initiative to create workforce opportunities for Peer professionals to join the SOAR community. We are excited to be working with the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health, and SAMHSA on this project. We recently hosted our first SOAR/Peer Steering Committee Meeting to help educate and provide insight into this project. If you are interested in learning more about the SOAR/Peer Collaboration, feel free to reach out to: Alexis Ritchie, Statewide SOAR Coordinator at a.ritchie@shpa-il.org



Congratulations to everyone that recently completed the SOAR training! Your hard work and perseverance have paid off. Thank you for your commitment to service, professionalism, and community.

None of this is possible without YOU!

BIG Congratulations to the folks that are celebrating their SOARiversary!

Be on the watch for information on how to receive your SOAR Certification status. Stay tuned!

WHAT SSA/DDS wants you to know...

Next update December 2023

SSA's Office of Retirement and Disability Policy has released the following on its website:

[Monthly Statistical Snapshot, September 2023](#)

A monthly snapshot of statistics on Social Security beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income recipients.

[SSI Monthly Statistics, September 2023](#)

These monthly tables provide statistics for federally administered payments and awards under the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program.

The following program policy instructions were updated on 11/28/2023

Emergency Messages

EM-23071_- FY 2024 Redeterminations – One-Time-Only Instructions

Summary: This emergency message (EM) provides guidance on achieving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 redetermination (RZ) and limited issue (LI) goals. It also reminds field offices (FOs) to follow the order of priority when scheduling RZs and LIs and best practices for managerial processing of RZs and Lis.

The following program policy instructions were updated on 10/31/2023

Program Operations Manual System

DI 34005 TN 32 - Listings of Impairments - Current Part B Listing

Summary: We have published a Temporary Final Rule in the Federal Register revising the definition of the "pandemic period" in the introductory text to the Listing of Impairments that we use to evaluate claims involving musculoskeletal disorders under section 101.00. Specifically, this rule extends the flexibility in evaluating the "close proximity of time" standard through May 11, 2025. The rule is effective on October 30, 2023.

DI 34121 TN 5 - Obsolete Musculoskeletal Listings for 01/06/86 to 10/29/23

Summary: We have published a Temporary Final Rule in the Federal Register revising the definition of the "pandemic period" in the introductory text to the Listing of Impairments that we use to evaluate claims involving musculoskeletal disorders under section 1.00. Specifically, this rule extends the flexibility in evaluating the "close proximity of time" standard through May 11, 2025. The rule is effective on October 30, 2023.

DI 34001 TN 31 - Listings of Impairments - Current Part A Listings

Summary: We have published a Temporary Final Rule in the Federal Register revising the definition of the "pandemic period" in the introductory text to the Listing of Impairments that we use to evaluate claims involving musculoskeletal disorders under section 1.00. Specifically, this rule extends the flexibility in evaluating the "close proximity of time" standard through May 11, 2025. The rule is effective on October 30, 2023.

DI 34221 TN 5 - Obsolete Musculoskeletal Part B Listings 01/06/86 to 10/29/23

Summary: We have published a Temporary Final Rule in the Federal Register revising the definition of the "pandemic period" in the introductory text to the Listing of Impairments that we use to evaluate claims involving musculoskeletal disorders under section 101.00. Specifically, this rule extends the flexibility in evaluating the "close proximity of time" standard through May 11, 2025. The rule is effective on October 30, 2023.



Standards of Quality through the Sustainability Lens
Wednesday, December 6, 2023 @ 1:00p – 3:00p CDT

This training will focus on the Sustainability within the Four Project Components

- Project & Design Administration
- Property and Housing Management
- Supportive Services and
- Community

with an emphasis on creating long term advocacy, policy, and infrastructure for quality supportive housing.

This training is open to any SHPA member that is interested in learning about the importance of sustaining quality supportive housing including direct service staff and leadership in supportive housing organizations.

Facilitators: Johnna Lowe and Richard Rowe

[REGISTER HERE](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.



Illinois Shelter Alliance



Urge Governor Pritzker: Increase State Funding to Prevent and End Homelessness

Governor JB Pritzker will introduce his proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 on February 21, 2024.

Along with partners at Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, Illinois Shelter Alliance, and SHPA, we have developed an [organizational sign-on letter](#) to demonstrate widespread support for a \$85 million increase in state funding for programs to prevent and end homelessness.

This new funding will allow the State of Illinois to keep making progress on the HOME Illinois plan to prevent and end homelessness. Our request includes meeting high priority needs for additional homeless prevention, emergency shelter, homeless youth, and supportive housing programming.

Including \$85 million in new funding in next year's budget would bring the total increased funding for the HOME Illinois plan to \$170 million over two years.

[Learn more here](#) and add your organization's name to the letter by **11:59 p.m. CT on Friday, December 15 2023!**



- [Fiscal and Administrative Assistance for IDHS Providers – Accounting Policies Overview](#)
- [Fiscal & Administrative Review Assistance for IDHS Providers- Indirect Cost Overview](#)

November IDHS Stakeholder Newsletter!

Read a message from Secretary Dulce Quintero on how IDHS is helping thousands of asylum seekers apply for work permits in the coming months. You can also find grant information, an article on Native American Heritage Month, and more IDHS News using the link below!

[IDHS Stakeholder Newsletter - November \(mailchi.mp\)](#)



Spotlight on the TA Center and Our Valued Grantees

In the dedicated journey to combat homelessness in Illinois, the Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) and the Illinois Homelessness, Education, and Technical Assistance (HETA) Center are at the forefront, driving impactful initiatives alongside our esteemed grantees. This collaborative effort, cemented by expertise and innovation, is forging pathways to stable, supportive housing for our vulnerable populations.

Meet the Awardees:

- **Community Solutions:** Steering the 'Built for Zero' initiative to optimize data systems for a targeted, effective response to homelessness.
- **CSH:** Championing capacity building for supportive housing agencies, devising a statewide strategy against youth homelessness, and fostering PHA collaboration.
- **Housing Action Illinois:** Embarking on the Cairo Housing Initiative, aimed at addressing the housing needs of Cairo's residents, emphasizing community engagement, comprehensive housing solutions research, and advocacy strategy development to rebuild Cairo's housing landscape.
- **IFF:** Orchestrating the Shelter Development Acceleration Project to identify and evaluate potential sites for triage housing models.
- **ISG:** Bringing the powerful "Evicted" exhibition to communities across Illinois, illuminating the eviction crisis and its profound implications.
- **Legal Aid Chicago:** Offering technical training to social service professionals, equipping them to guide low-income clients in accessing public benefits.
- **ReInstitute:** Launching the 100-Day Challenges™, a rapid, focused action plan to connect the unsheltered homeless to stable housing and essential services.
- **Urban Labs IEL:** Partnering with IDHS to enhance interagency policy and program development through dynamic data and research projects.

Lookout For:

- **Innovative Data Utilization:** Watch how enhanced data systems like the 'Built for Zero' initiative and the State Dashboard by Urban Labs IEL are transforming our understanding and response to homelessness.
- **Engaging Exhibitions & Revitalization Projects:** Don't miss the touring "Evicted" exhibition, an eye-opening exploration of the eviction crisis affecting millions of Americans, and stay informed on Housing Action Illinois' Cairo Housing Initiative, aiming to reshape and uplift the Cairo community.
- **Empowering Trainings:** Stay tuned for Legal Aid Chicago's series of trainings aimed at enabling social service professionals to effectively assist low-income clients.
- **Focused Action Plans:** Observe the transformation as the 100-Day Challenges™ by ReInstitute mobilize communities to offer immediate, impactful solutions to unsheltered homelessness.

Each project and initiative, underpinned by collaboration, innovation, and data-driven insights, is a stride towards a future where every individual and family has access to the stability and support of a home. Join us in this pivotal journey of change, impact, and empowerment! **Learn more at:**

[Overview of Homelessness Education and Technical Assistance Initiatives FY24.docx- Google Docs](#)



ILLINOIS CAPITOL NEWS

- [Department on Aging to Provide Medicare Counseling During Open Enrollment Period](#)
- [Gov. Pritzker Announces Proposal to Create Unified Early Childhood State Agency \(illinois.gov\)](#)
- [Medicare Open Enrollment runs through December 7, 2023. During this time, you can review and compare options for health and prescription drug coverage.](#)
- **Community Development Block Grant Housing Rehabilitation Program (Notice of Funding Opportunity 1633-2632)** Read the entire funding opportunity at:
<https://dceo.illinois.gov/aboutdceo/grantopportunities/1633-2632.html>

Gov. Pritzker Issues Statement on Passage of SB1559

Springfield — Governor JB Pritzker issued the following statement concerning the passage of SB1559, the Transporter License Moratorium & Fee Deferral:

“The passage of SB1559 through both chambers of the General Assembly is another step towards guaranteeing Illinois is the home of an equitable legal cannabis system that does not disregard the injustices of the past. The two-year moratorium on new transporter licenses will allow the current, smaller independent transporters to secure contracts and grow their businesses. License holders will also have a two-year holiday from paying annual fees to further aid these small businesses as the industry develops.

Since day one of the fight for legalization, I have stressed that this accomplishment is meaningless without reinvestment and repair for the communities left behind by the war on drugs. Small businesses, whether transporters, growers, or dispensaries, must be able to succeed if we wish to achieve that equity. This bill is another step on the ongoing path towards achieving that goal, and I look forward to reviewing it when it reaches my desk.”

FEDERAL NEWS

Cost-of-Living Adjustment (COLA) Information for 2024

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefits for more than 71 million Americans will increase 3.2 percent in 2024.

[Cost-of-Living Adjustment \(COLA\) Information | SSA](#)

December [Social Security Update | SSA](#)

[Social Security Administration | Agency Financial Report FY23 \(ssa.gov\)](#)

HUD #Homefortheholidays

To kick off the holiday season, we're sharing helpful information about the agency's work to make homes more affordable for Americans across the country.

<https://www.linkedin.com/feed/update/urn:li:activity:7132455236035629056>

HUD Youth Homelessness System Improvement Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs (SNAPS) has posted the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for Youth Homelessness System Improvement (YHSI) grants. Through this new funding opportunity, \$50 million is being made available for grants that will focus on systemic change to either improve or create response systems for youth at risk of or experiencing homelessness by funding projects that create and build capacity for Youth Action Boards; establish regional committees on youth homelessness to direct efforts across multiple systems including education, justice, and child welfare; collect and use data on at-risk youth and youth experiencing homelessness; develop strong leaders within a community; and improve the coordination, communication, operation, and administration of homeless assistance projects to better serve youth, including prevention and diversion strategies. Read HUD's Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) [here](#).

HUD Exchange:

- [Resource Digest for Homeless Providers – November 28, 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [HUD Publishes \\$13.5 Million SHOP NOFO \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [Resource Digest for Homeless Providers – November 7, 2023 \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Newsletters

- [Our Kaiser Collaboration, HMIS Deadline Extension, New White House Actions, and More \(constantcontact.com\)](#)



Peer Leadership Development Chicago Workshop

January 16, 17, 18 - 9 am - 5pm

Downtown Chicago location to be announced

****Deadline to submit this form is January 2, 2024****

SHPA's Peer Leadership Development program is conducting the 2024 Leadership Development Workshop that includes four regional workshops throughout the state for Persons with Lived Expertise. The workshop is designed with input by peers for skills they desire when asked to step into leadership positions. This year, the workshops will be facilitated by Peer Leaders.

If you are a Person with Lived Expertise who is interested in this learning opportunity and becoming a peer leader, fill out this expression of intent form. Workshop participation will be chosen through the expression of intent form.

For questions, you may contact Susan Day at s.day@shpa-il.org.

Interested? Click Here:

[SHPA Expression of Interest Form](#)



A flyer for an 'IL ABLE SESSION'. The background is light pink with large, colorful circles in shades of orange, blue, and purple. The text is centered on a white rectangular area. The title 'IL ABLE SESSION' is in a large, bold, serif font. Below it, the text 'Join us to learn about saving money with no penalty while on SSI' is in a smaller, bold, sans-serif font. The date and time 'December 6, 2023 1:00 pm' are in a standard sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a blue link that says 'REGISTER HERE'.

Latest Newsletter:



One Life, Too Many. Another Year, Too Long. Homeless Persons Memorial Day 2023

Date: Thursday, December 21st

Time: 3:00pm-4:30pm (ET)

Register Here: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_6s32eb8rQHGO7EEClwVuAw

On the first day of winter and the longest night of the year, people in our communities will die without a home. This event will memorialize and honor the lives lost to homelessness. It will energize us to fight with hope and with fierce determination to do our part to prevent and end homelessness.

Please join the National Coalition for the Homeless and the National Health Care for the Homeless Council to remember and commemorate those who have died.

People with lived experience, providers, and youth will unite us to remember lives, recognize challenges, and inspire hope for transformative change. We hope this year's Homeless Persons' Memorial Day is our time of remembrance to meaningfully memorialize the people who have died and inspire renewed commitment to our collective advocacy and work to end homelessness for all.

NATIONAL
HEALTH CARE
for the
HOMELESS
COUNCIL

NATIONAL
COALITION
FOR THE
HOMELESS



OTHER NEWS & RESOURCES:



Pathways into Homelessness: A Lack of Access to Transportation

<https://invisiblepeople-tv.cdn.ampproject.org/c/s/invisiblepeople.tv/pathways-into-homelessness-a-lack-of-access-to-transportation/amp/>

HOUSING SEARCH?

- [Illinois Housing Search](#)
- [State Referral Network](#)
- [SHPA Interactive Supportive Housing Map](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES:

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES:

- SEE SHPA TRAINING & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER INFORMATION

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES:

2023 CORPORATE SPONSORS



Join these companies in Supporting SHPA's work and events in 2024
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Monthly Memo is supported in part by:

*The Woods Fund, Harris Family Foundation, Polk Bros Foundation, and the IL
Department of Human Services*