



November 2023

PLEASE SHARE WITH YOUR CO-WORKERS & COLLEAGUES





~ LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER ~
DEADLINE IS FRIDAY 11/10

There's Something for Everyone!

Summit Sessions:

Government Affairs

Homelessness

Supportive Housing Development

Professional Development & Capacity Building

Peer Leadership & Development

For more information on these and other sessions click here: [Agenda](#)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Thank you to our 2023 Sponsors, there is still time to join these sponsors by supporting this year's event, click [HERE](#) for sponsorship opportunities.





SOARWorks Illinois TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

SOARWORKS
SOAR Enhances Recovery by Supporting Our Veterans

What is the Need?
37,252 Veterans were homeless on a single night during the Point in Time (PIT) count. In January 2021, 37,252 Veterans were experiencing sheltered homelessness, staying in emergency shelters, safe havens, or transitional housing. An unsheltered count was not conducted in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Half of Veterans experiencing homelessness have **serious mental illness** and over half have other health issues.

High prevalence of traumatic brain injury (TBI), post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and **sexual trauma** among Veterans experiencing homelessness contributes to difficulty in maintaining employment and housing.

Importance of SSI/SSDI for Veterans and their Families

Income
Veterans can receive SSI/SSDI in conjunction with, or as an alternative to, VA disability benefits and employment. Children in Veteran households who have serious mental or physical health conditions and have low income and resources may be eligible for SSI.

Health Insurance
Veterans can use Medicaid and Medicare health benefits that come with SSI/SSDI to supplement VA health services.

Housing Stability
The right combination of income supports (SSA benefits, VA benefits, employment) can help Veterans obtain and maintain housing stability.

Federal Partnerships Supporting SOAR

In February 2022, the VA released an [updated memorandum](#) that directed VA staff working in homeless programs to identify a plan for connecting eligible Veterans to SSI/SSDI using the SOAR model. This memo supports ongoing federal efforts between the VA and SSA to allow federal VA staff to serve as SSA-1696 Appointed Representatives, gather required documentation, and complete SSI/SSDI applications using the SOAR model. VA staff using the SOAR model should first complete the SOAR Online Course and connect with their state and local SOAR leads.

SOAR Implementation: Veterans

4,000 Veterans have been assisted with their applications using SOAR

- In the June 2019 VA, HUD, and United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) Community Planning Survey, 202 out of 366 respondents (55 percent) indicated that they are using the SOAR model in their HUD Continuum of Care (CoC) Coordinated Entry System to help Veterans with disabling conditions access SSI/SSDI. An additional 77 respondents (21 percent) are in the process of implementing the SOAR model to serve Veterans.
- The notice of funding for SSA's grantees includes the expectation that grantees will use the SOAR program through community linkages or staff training.

SSA Fast Track Programs
100% Permanent & Total Veterans Initiative
Wounded Warriors

For more information: soar@pranic.com | (518) 439-7435 | <https://soarworks.samhsa.gov/>

November 11th is Veterans' Day. SOARWorks Illinois recognizes and thanks all members of the Armed Services for their sacrifice and commitment to protect and serve our great nation so that we can be free. For those SOAR Case Managers that are working with the Veteran population, please utilize the SOAR VA toolkit when completing applications.

[VA-SOAR-508.pdf](#)

[SSA and VA Disability Benefits: Tips for Veterans | SOAR Works! \(samhsa.gov\)](#)

[New VA Tool Helps Maximize Income | SOAR Works! \(samhsa.gov\)](#)

[Home \(veteranscrisisline.net\)](#)

SOARWorks Illinois has submitted a statement in favor of the Proposed Change to SSA 2023-004, CFR 405-416 20 CFR Parts 404-416 that would affect our clients. (see attached)

The Social Security Administration ("SSA") has suggested a Proposed change to the 20 CFR Parts 404 – 416; the definition of past relevant work (PRW) by reducing the relevant work period from 15 years to 5 years.

This Proposed change will improve the outcomes for those individuals with limited to no prior employment history to be approved for SSI and/or SSDI benefits.

Your input is greatly appreciated!

Please submit your comments in support of 20 CFR Parts 404 – 416 no later than **November 28, 2023**

Reference: Docket No.: SSA-2023-0024 to <https://www.regulations.gov>

You can also fax your comments to **(833) 410-163**





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.

Show Your Work

If it's Not Documented, it Didn't Happen

Thursday, November 30, 2023 @ 1:00p CDT

Documenting Program Services is critical to know your program's accomplishment and effectiveness. Efficient use of financial resources is becoming more important, especially as funding sources become scarce and harder to secure. Accurately documenting services shows the value of your program and supportive housing while providing data and statistics to advocate for more funding.

Facilitator: SHPA Staff

[REGISTER HERE](#)

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



- [Fiscal & Administrative Review Assistance for IDHS Providers: IDHS Related Party Transactions](#)
- [Fiscal & Administrative Review Assistance for IDHS Providers-Procurement Overview](#)



⚠ Attention: Illinois Link card customers and non-customers are reporting that they have received phishing texts to their cell phones that state, “Your Link card is blocked” with a phone number to call. Click the link below to learn how to

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/illinois-department-of-human-service-bureau-of-recruitment-and-selection_attention-illinois-link-card-customers-and-activity-7125854286239936512-1ygC?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_ios

October IDHS Stakeholder Newsletter!

Read a message from Secretary Dulce Quintero about a new proposal for the creation of a new early childhood State Agency with Governor JB Pritzker in last month’s newsletter. You can also find grant information, an article on Healing Illinois, and more IDHS News using the link below!

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



Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative (Next Gen)

CHICAGO – The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC) launched the Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative (Next Gen), a new program designed to expand the talent pipeline and increase diversity within the housing development field and related industries. Next Gen will provide training and technical assistance to expand access to pre-development financing and housing resources administered by the state, with a focus on reducing barriers to entry for developers of color in the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program. This joint initiative between IHDA and LISC is part of the Authority’s continuing efforts to support the capacity and growth of a diverse pool of affordable housing developers in Illinois. Applications from Black, Indigenous, or People of Color (BIPOC) developers seeking to participate in the Next Gen training program can be found [here](#).

If you are interested, you can learn more about the program and begin that application process [here](#).

Applications for Next Gen will be accepted through **5 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 1, 2023**.

[Illinois Housing Development Authority, LISC Launch New Program to Support Emerging Housing Developers](#)

Website: [Next Generation Capacity Building Initiative | LISC Central Illinois](#)

Illinois Housing Development Authority Approved and Released the 2024-2025 Qualified Allocation Plan

Last week, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) approved 2024-2025 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) and posted it on the [Developer Resource Center – IHDA](#) webpage.



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

- [Gov. Pritzker, IDPH Announce \\$9.5M to Strengthen Mental Health Services for Youth Across Illinois](#)
- [Governor Pritzker Launches \\$15.4 Million Tourism Grant Programs](#)
- [Fort Massac Encampment returns to Metropolis Oct. 21-22](#)
- [Gov. Pritzker Announces \\$21 Million for CEJA Contractor Incubator Hubs](#)
- [Department on Aging to Provide Medicare Counseling During Open Enrollment Period](#)
- [HFS announces upcoming Director transition](#)
- [Gov. Pritzker, IDPH Announce \\$3.5M to Boost Mental Health Services for Youth Across Illinois](#)
- [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 Announces Paid Tech Trainee Program to Diversify and Strengthen State's Workforce
City Colleges of Chicago and Lincoln Land Community College will host training sites while participants earn \$54k salaries.

Learn more at:

[DoT Employment \(illinois.gov\)](#)

Chicago's First Chief Homelessness Officer



As many of you know, on Tuesday, October 3rd, Mayor Johnson signed an Executive Order creating the first-ever Chief Homelessness Officer (CHO) position for the City of Chicago. CFTEH is excited to partner with the City to help fund the position for the first three years. A big thank you to Dixon Romeo of Not Me We, Debbie Reznick of Polk Bros. Foundation, Christine Haley of the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, and Emily Krisciunas of CFTEH for being part of this momentous occasion. See the photo attached. The Mayor's Office has issued a press release highlighting the CHO's role in advancing long-term solutions, enhancing policy and coordination, and ultimately working towards ending homelessness in Chicago.

Read more at:

[City of Chicago: Mayor Brandon Johnson Signs Executive Order Establishing City of Chicago's First Chief Homelessness Officer](#)

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](#)

The September Social Security Newsletter includes:

- September Social Security Connection
- Reminder: Supplemental Security Income Reporting Responsibilities
- New- Online Form to Consent to and Authorize SSA to Disclose Certain Privacy Act Protected Records to a Third Party
- Faxed Applications No Longer Being Accepted
- SSA.gov- Check out our Frequently Asked Questions
- An Important Notice Regarding Transition-Aged Youth
- Social Security Administration Expedites Decisions for People with Severe Disabilities- Agency Adds to its Compassionate Allowances List

To read more of this newsletter go to: [Communications Corner | SSA](#)

HUD Exchange:

- [Register Today: Pre-Application Webcast for FY 2023 HOPWA Competitive Grant: Housing Interventions to End the HIV Epidemic NOFO \(mailchi.mp\)Register Today: 2023 CDBG-CV Problem Solving Clinics – October 2023](#)
- [Notice CPD-23-12: CPD Implementation Guidance for BABA's Domestic Content Procurement Preference as Part of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [HUD and HHS Housing and Services Partnership Accelerator Announcement & Webinar – November 13, 2023- 2:00 PM ET \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [HUD Publishes \\$13.5 Million SHOP NOFA on Grants.gov \(mailchi.mp\)](#)
- [FY 2023 Section 811 Supportive Housing for Persons with Disabilities Funding Opportunities \(mailchi.mp\)](#)

U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness Newsletters

- [USICH Elects New Cabinet Leadership and Announces New "ALL INside" Community \(constantcontact.com\)](#)
- [New Homelessness Research Funding, Updated Guidance for Homeless Children and Youth, and More \(constantcontact.com\)](#)



Peer Leadership Development Workshop Opportunity

"I learned how to work on leadership skills I thought I already knew."

Last Year's Workshops were a tremendous success and SHPA is pleased to announce that we are launching another round. SHPA is planning to conduct four regional Peer Leadership Development Workshops across Illinois for Person's with Lived Expertise.

"I felt included. My experience mattered to the facilitators- they were awesome and really cared!"

The workshop was designed by Peers and will offer interactive discussion and education in Communication, Temperament Styles, Leadership, Emotional Intelligence, Professional Responsibility, Self-Care, Soft Skills and sharing your truth. Each workshop will host speakers with Lived Expertise who will share their experience in becoming a leader including the challenges and skills necessary to fulfil their role. Opportunities for networking will be scheduled as part of the training to encourage Lived Experience opportunities.

The three-day workshop will be available to ten leaders with Lived Expertise, per region and every Peer Leader Development Workshop will be facilitated by a Peer leader.

The statewide Peers selected for this workshop will be paid a stipend for attending the workshop, as well as any travel, lodging, or meal expense involved. Upon successful completion of the workshop, Peers may be asked to co-facilitate future workshops with SHPA staff throughout the state and will receive a living wage stipend.

Future workshop locations:

January - Chicago, IL

February - North Western Illinois

March - Central Illinois

April - Southern Illinois

All specific locations to be determined

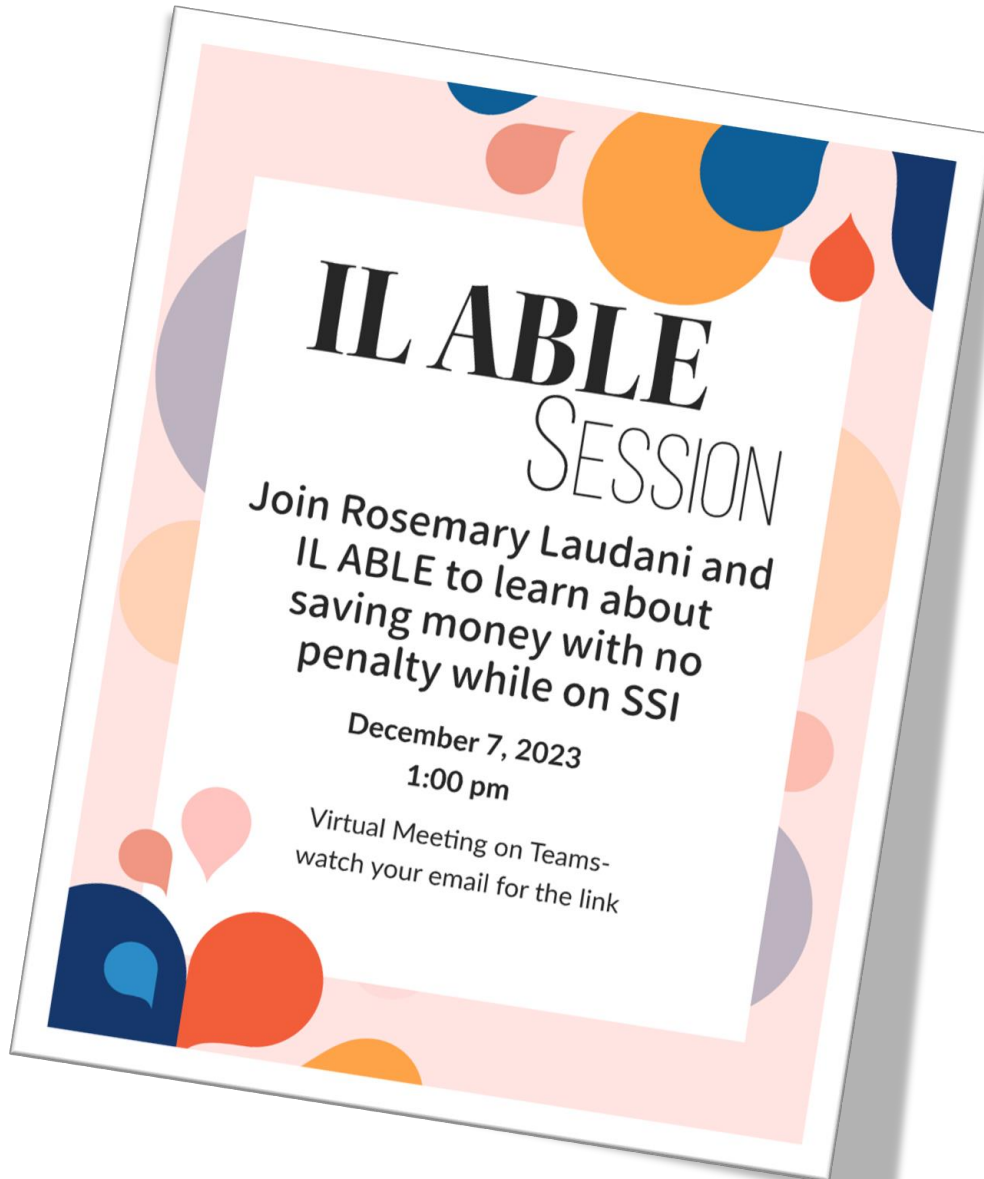
"I loved connecting with and empowering my Peers."

"I learned how to practice self-care and how to set healthy boundaries."

If you are a Person with Lived Expertise who is interested in this learning opportunity and becoming a peer leader, or an agency who knows of a Peer you would like to recommend, please contact Susan Day at s.day@shpa-il.org.



"The best part was the interactive conversations on the topics presented."



For more information, contact Susan Day at

s.day@shpa-il.org

OTHER NEWS & RESOURCES:

Thresholds Housing Waitlist

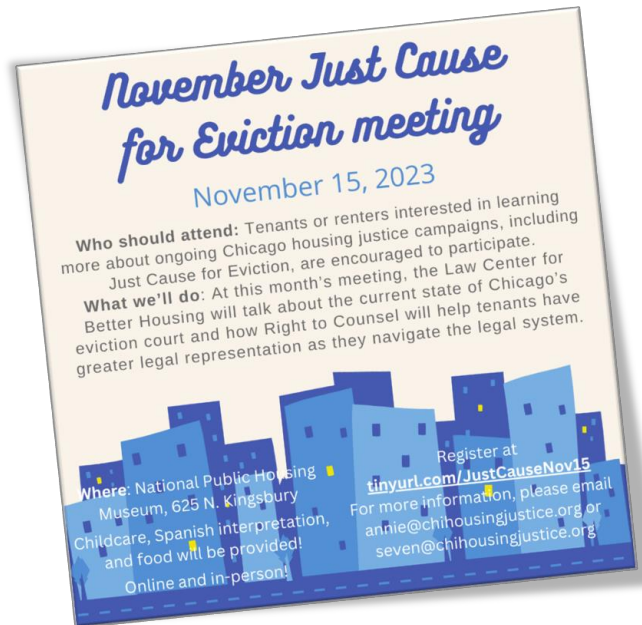
Thresholds is very happy to announce that the waiting lists for **Dorchester Apartments and Doan Apartments, formerly Carroll Street Apartments**, will be opening for a very limited time. Please read below for details on this exciting opportunity! Please email Donni Williams at housingadmin@thresholds.org with any questions.

Keep in mind that these two locations are independent apartments for adults with CSI level staffing.

- If your member is already on the Thresholds Housing Waitlist, they only need to complete the one-page "Housing Selection Add On" which will also be sent to them in the mail.
- If your member is **not** on the Thresholds Housing Waitlist, they need to complete a brand-new application.

Find more information here: [Home- Thresholds](#)

Chicago Housing Justice League



Join us that night online and in person at the National Public Housing Museum, located at 625 N. Kingsbury Street! You can register for both options at tinyurl.com/JustCauseNov15.

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 event
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