

Overview of SHPA's Education and Technical Assistance Initiatives on Illinois Homelessness

The Supportive Housing Providers Association (SHPA) of Illinois is an organization dedicated to promoting and advocating for quality supportive housing in the state. This type of housing combines affordable living with essential supportive services, aiming to help vulnerable individuals and families achieve stability in their lives. By collaborating with housing providers, developers, and other stakeholders, SHPA ensures that people in need have access to housing and services tailored to their unique circumstances. Through initiatives like training and technical assistance, SHPA empowers its members and partners to offer the highest standards of supportive housing.

Overview

Now is an important time for homeless services and supportive housing providers in Illinois. Both unprecedented needs and political will to provide emergency and long-term housing solutions, new funding models, and adapting the local crisis response concepts to immigrant-serving networks. It is an era of capacity building and growth that has only been made possible through the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness, established in 2021. This new office spurred the creation of the Illinois Homelessness, Education, and Technical Assistance (HETA) Center. First funded in FY23 (2022) to support the implementation of initiatives tied to Governor Pritzker's Executive Order to Fight Homelessness and the subsequent Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness, the HETA Center is sponsored by SHPA, who manages the state annual allocation and provides project development and oversight for partners.

Inaugural Projects Include:

- Housing Assistance Council, Rural Homelessness Report
- Community Solutions Statewide Data Quality Initiative
- Re!nstitute Rural 100-Day Challenge
- Urban Labs Statewide Homelessness Prevention Dashboard and Guaranteed Income Pilot
- CSH Medicaid Supportive Housing Services Budget Planning
- Illinois State Police Homelessness Guidebook
- Statewide Training Summit

FY24 Homeless Education and TA Center Projects

Organization	Overview	Highlights
Community Solutions	<p>Statewide Data Quality Initiative A strategy to refine Illinois' current data structure to enhance the state's response to homelessness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Optimize existing data systems. 2. Standardize data policies and procedures. 3. Build on current infrastructure to provide a detailed overview of homelessness in the state.
CSH	<p>Medicaid Capacity Building CSH aids in preparing supportive housing agencies to participate in the Medicaid Waiver Benefit, targeting individuals experiencing homelessness with health-related challenges.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Empower housing providers to understand potential Medicaid changes. 2. Streamline the waiver benefit's implementation through data assessment.
CSH	<p>Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee A committee to strategize on preventing and eradicating youth homelessness throughout Illinois.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Facilitate quarterly meetings focused on youth homelessness. 2. Collaborate with multiple agencies to identify gaps and improve systems.
CSH	<p>Public Housing Authority Coordination A collaborative effort with PHA leaders across Illinois to bolster efforts against homelessness.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Share PHA best practices across Illinois. 2. Develop a strategy for continuous collaboration and alignment.
CSH	<p>Unsheltered Homeless and Public Transportation Coordination A strategic approach to assist individuals on state-owned properties, focusing on creating consistent protocols.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establish a clear policy for managing individuals on state properties. 2. Collaborate with communities to enhance support mechanisms.
Housing Action Illinois	<p>Housing Needs Assessment and Action Plan Housing Action Illinois is embarking on a mission to rejuvenate housing in Cairo, Illinois. Steeped in rich history yet faced with housing and environmental challenges, Cairo stands at a crossroads.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Engage and empower Cairo's residents to identify and address their housing needs, ensuring solutions are deeply rooted in local insights and aspirations. 2. Partner with government agencies, local stakeholders, and community leaders to harness resources and expertise, making Cairo's housing vision a reality.
IFF - Triage Center Facility Assessment	<p>Triage Housing Facility Identification and Assessment A review of potential triage housing models, acting as the initial touchpoint for individuals seeking housing solutions.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identify potential sites for triage housing. 2. Consult shelter operators on facility improvements.
ISG	<p>Evicted Exhibition - Illinois Tour A traveling exhibit highlighting the national eviction crisis, aiming to foster awareness about housing insecurity.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Educate the public on the eviction crisis affecting millions. 2. Collaborate with local venues across Illinois to host the exhibition.
Legal Aid Chicago	<p>Mainstream Benefits Training A training project aimed at helping professionals assist low-income clients in accessing essential</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop comprehensive training webinars. 2. Adjust training based on emergent needs and legislation.

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	public benefits.	
ReInstitute 100-Day Challenge	100-Day Challenge: Unsheltered Homelessness An innovative challenge targeting homelessness in Illinois through rapid-action plans and community collaboration.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce short-term goals to combat homelessness. 2. Promote community involvement and data-driven performance tracking.
Urban Labs IEL	Homelessness Prevention and Housing Stability Dashboard A collaboration with IDHS on data projects to enhance interagency policy and program development.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Create a dashboard to monitor eviction and homelessness service allocations. 2. Research the impact of initiatives like the Child Tax Credit on housing stability.