

AIDS Foundation

OF CHICAGO

411 South Wells Street
Suite 300
Chicago, IL 60607

Tel (312) 922-2322
Fax (312) 922-2916
TDD (312) 922-2917

www.aidschicago.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 6, 2009

MEDIA CONTACT
Maude Carroll (312) 334-0913

AIDS FOUNDATION OF CHICAGO (AFC) AWARDED RENEWABLE, TWO-YEAR HUD GRANT FOR \$4.2 MILLION

AFC's New Housing Collaborative One of the Highest Awarded Groups in Nationwide Homeless Assistance Program

CHICAGO – Nearly 200 chronically homeless people in Chicago with disabilities, including HIV/AIDS, will now be able to access permanent, supportive housing through AFC's new Supportive Housing for Health Partnership, thanks to a renewable, two-year \$4.2 million grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The grant is part of nearly \$1.6 billion in grants that HUD has awarded to approximately 6,300 homeless assistance projects through its Continuum of Care programs, and will provide rental subsidies for 195 units of supportive permanent housing in Chicago.

"We are very grateful and excited for this wonderful opportunity, and look forward to increasing our ability to assist homeless people in our city find a safe and secure home in which to care for themselves and their loved ones," said AFC President/CEO Mark Ishaug.

The Supportive Housing for Health Partnership (SHHP) was born out of the Chicago Housing for Health Partnership (CHHP), a four-year research project that showed how stable housing and intensive case management services to chronically, medically ill homeless individuals improve their health and access to primary care, and save money.

SHHP operates on a "housing first" principle, which means that the long-term homeless are rapidly moved from the streets or shelters into their own apartments where they can work on the underlying causes of their homelessness. SHHP is led by AFC and consists of three Chicago hospitals (John Stroger Hospital Medical Center, Mt. Sinai Hospital Medical Center, and the West Side VA Medical Center) and nine interim and permanent housing providers (Bonaventure House, Chicago House, Christian Community Health Center, Heartland Health Outreach, Heartland Human Care Services, Housing Opportunities for Women, Interfaith House, Mercy Housing Lakefront, and Vital Bridges).

Members of the partnership work together to provide a range of housing options, as well as intensive case management (15 to 1 client-to-case manager ratio) for clients.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for both our clients and our community," said Angelique Miller, AFC Director of Housing Partnerships. "The collaborative element of SHHP allows us to be highly responsive

to the diverse needs of our clients. At the same time, service providers benefit from working with each other by sharing resources and experience, so even in these tough economic times, we can continue to meet client needs.”

AFC worked for three years to obtain the HUD grant, which will be ready for execution this fall.

Founded by community activists and physicians in 1985, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is a catalyst for local, national, and international action on HIV/AIDS.

aidschicago.org

###