

Chicago Area 5-Year AIDS Housing Plan

Report Card – March 2010

29 Recommendations

“For persons battling HIV/AIDS, a stable place to live may decide the length and quality of life itself. It is nearly impossible for a person on the streets to engage in a needed continuous AIDS Treatment regimen when the basic questions of where that person will rest his or her head when darkness comes in just a few hours is unresolved. When danger lurks in the streets, when cold numbs the limbs, when tiredness overwhelms the mind, when fear breaks the spirit, a place to call home would make all the difference.”

Henry Cisneros

SUCCESS – 11 Recommendations:

- 1.3 - Contingent upon available funding and local circumstances, appropriate stakeholders in the Chicago Region will have an open short-term rental/mortgage assistance program that accepts new clients on an annual basis.
- 1.4 - Appropriate stakeholders in the Chicago Region will apply for any new HUD SHP, S+C, HOPWA, and other federal opportunities in the city and metropolitan area to increase the capacity of AIDS housing. [1.4]
- 1.5 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will partner with the Chicago Low Income Housing Trust Fund to access State Rental Assistance dollars in the City of Chicago.
- 1.8 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will encourage the development of more long-term AIDS housing options for clients in interim and transitional housing, in an effort to move clients into permanent housing in a timelier manner.
- 1.9 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will increase the number of AIDS housing units by 10% annually for all the main three categories (interim or transitional housing, housing assistance, and permanent supportive housing), or by a cumulative total of 50% during the 2008–2012 period.
- 2.1 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will undertake advocacy efforts to maintain non-time-restricted, short-term rental assistance programs.
- 2.4 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will collaborate with the Homeless Prevention Call Center to confidentially screen HIV-positive individuals and households in danger of becoming homeless and refer them to services.
- 3.8 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will seek other supportive-service dollars that can be matched with housing dollars.

4.2 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will work collaboratively with other homeless providers to set up a network to identify and provide appropriate services to homeless persons living with HIV/AIDS.

4.3 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will use AIDS housing research data as an advocacy tool to bring about policy changes.

4.5 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will work to advance funding for housing advocacy services that support housing placement stabilization, eviction defense, and HUD Section 8 subsidies.

IN PROGRESS - 14 Recommendations:

1.1 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will establish a formula to determine the actual number of units needed for AIDS housing.

1.2 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will establish a system to estimate the gap between available and needed AIDS housing on an annual basis.

1.7 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will pursue flexible funding sources and housing options. (For example: non-HUD, non-state, non-restricted funds, private foundation grants, prevention and emergency funds.)

2.3 - in the Chicago Region will promote the use of the STRMU program as a bridge to move people into permanent, long-term housing through home sharing, the State of Illinois Rental Assistance Program, HUD Section 8 housing, and other housing funds.

2.6 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will develop a needs assessment tool to be used in addressing AIDS housing services, with special attention given to youth living with HIV/AIDS.

3.1 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will adopt a harm-reduction housing approach for AIDS housing programs, and set annual targets for the required number of non-sobriety-based and sobriety-based harm-reduction units.

3.2 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will adopt Housing First policies that include: (1) Discharge of clients only in the most severe circumstances, which would not include isolated program or agency rule violations; (2) Due-process procedures; (3) Every possible effort to utilize community resources to re-house clients in a more appropriate housing setting; (4) Discharge to a shelter should be the absolute last resort; (5) Discharge to the streets is never appropriate. [3.2]

3.3 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will adopt a Housing First approach for AIDS housing programs, with a policy that no program residents can be discharged without an appropriate alternative housing placement.

3.4 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will coordinate Tenancy and Life Skills training for clients.

3.5 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will require eviction prevention policies and procedures that include due-process rights for all AIDS project-based and scattered-site supportive housing programs. Policies and procedures will be focused on broad education of consumers, landlords, and providers. Procedures will discourage eviction proceedings whenever possible.

3.6 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will work closely with other organizations and institutions to address discharge planning.

3.7 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region discharging clients from supportive housing programs will provide linkages to case management, housing, and other supportive services.

3.9 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will work to improve access to medical services and medications for homeless youth and adults living with HIV/AIDS in the shelter system, including issues of confidentiality and safety.

4.1 - The HOPWA Formula Grantee will maintain a structured process to gather recommendations from appropriate stakeholders on priority housing needs for persons living with HIV/AIDS. These stakeholders include, but are not limited to, the HIV/AIDS Consumer Advisory Board, SPC Housing Committee, and Ryan White Planning Council.

NOT POSSIBLE - 4 Recommendations:

1.6 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will form an alliance with other disability service providers to access and administer state Rental Assistance dollars in the metropolitan area.

2.2 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will promote home sharing as a housing alternative.

2.5 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will seek to establish a special fund to address crisis intervention and immediate, unexpected homelessness when traditional shelters are not available or appropriate.

4.4 - Stakeholders in the Chicago Region will seek funds to provide technical assistance (TA) to AIDS housing providers.