

ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Rental and Legal Assistance Program

November 18, 2021



State of Illinois

Rental Assistance Programs

IDHS operates several programs to provide rental assistance, including:

- **Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA)** funded by the U.S. Treasury
- **Homeless Prevention Program** funded by GRF
- **Emergency Solution Grant (ESG)** program funded by HUD
- **Special Rental Assistance Initiative for Immigrants & Refugees** funded by GRF

IDHS' ROLE AND APPROACH

- IDHS seeks to complement IHDA's larger programs through an equity, de-centralized strategy that anchors the work in trusted neighborhood organizations across the state.
- Through this structure, IDHS is able to reach vulnerable households at risk of homelessness, immigrants, and other populations that may not have ready access to technology and may need more personal in-person assistance with completing the rental assistance application, including gathering required documentation.



IDHS COMMUNITY-BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE APPROACH

IDHS provides grants to the following networks of service providers located in communities across the state:

- **HOMELESS PREVENTION PROVIDERS** work with families and persons at risk of homelessness.
- **WELCOMING CENTERS** provides multi-lingual and multi-cultural services to help households facing language and other social-economic barriers.
- **FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS** outreach and assist eligible families to prepare and submit applications for the program.
- **COMMUNITY OUTREACH ORGANIZATIONS** conduct community education to raise awareness about the program and link families with the services they need.
- **LEGAL AID AGENCIES** provides legal information and assistance to prevent evictions.

IDHS Rental Assistance Program Totals

Through its rental assistance programs (ERA, Homeless Prevention, ESG, and Special Rental Assistance for Immigrants and Refugees), covering various time during the pandemic periods detailed further below, IDHS has:

- **ASSISTED: 11,729 Households**
- **PROVIDED: \$33,853,837**
in Rental Assistance Funding

ERA PROGRAM DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

Average rent assistance: \$4,793

Income of households assisted

30% of AMI or less: 63%

30 – 50% of AMI: 28%

50 – 80% of AMI: 9%

Race/ethnic make up of households served:

- Ethnicity: 25% Latinx
- Race: 50% Black/African American, 40% White, 1% Asian American, 9% Multi-Racial/Other

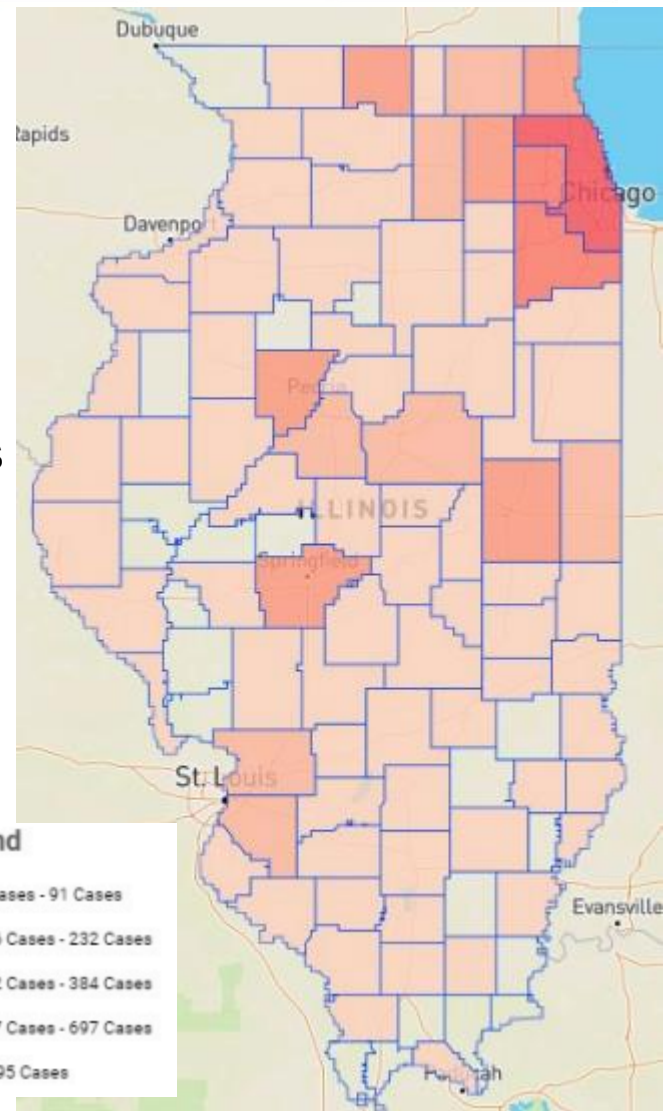
Gender

Female: 70% Male: 30%

STATUS OF EVICTIONS

From August 1, 2021 – November 17, 2021

- 7,698 evictions cases have been filed statewide
- The circuit courts with the most cases are:
 - Cook County, Chicago : 2,857 cases
 - Cook County – Suburban areas: 1,438 cases
 - DuPage County: 697
 - Will County : 507 cases
 - Lake County: 384 cases
 - Champaign County: 345
 - Kane County: 358 cases
 - Winnebago County: 334 cases
 - Sangamon County: 334 cases
 - Peoria County: 322 cases



STATUS OF EVICTIONS

From August 1,
2021 – November
17, 2021



COURT-BASED PROGRAM

With the lifting of the eviction moratorium, IDHS has also worked with IHDA, All Chicago, and legal service providers to establish a court-based rental assistance program to expedite rental payment for eligible households going through eviction courts. **The program serves residents outside of Cook County since Cook County has its own court-based program.** The IDHS/IHDA court-based program began on 9/15/2021. As of 11/17/21, the program has the following results:

- Total # of applications in progress: 1,046
- Total # of completed applications with both tenant and landlord: 413
- Number of applications approved for rental payment: 132
- Total amount of rent payment made: \$1,182,4766
- Top five counties: DuPage (95 applications), Madison (34), Sangamon (29), St. Clair (25), Will (21)

Legal Aid Services

In addition to providing rental assistance, IDHS also provides free legal services to prevent evictions through the partnership with the Illinois Equal Justice Foundation and its network of free legal aid and mediation services.

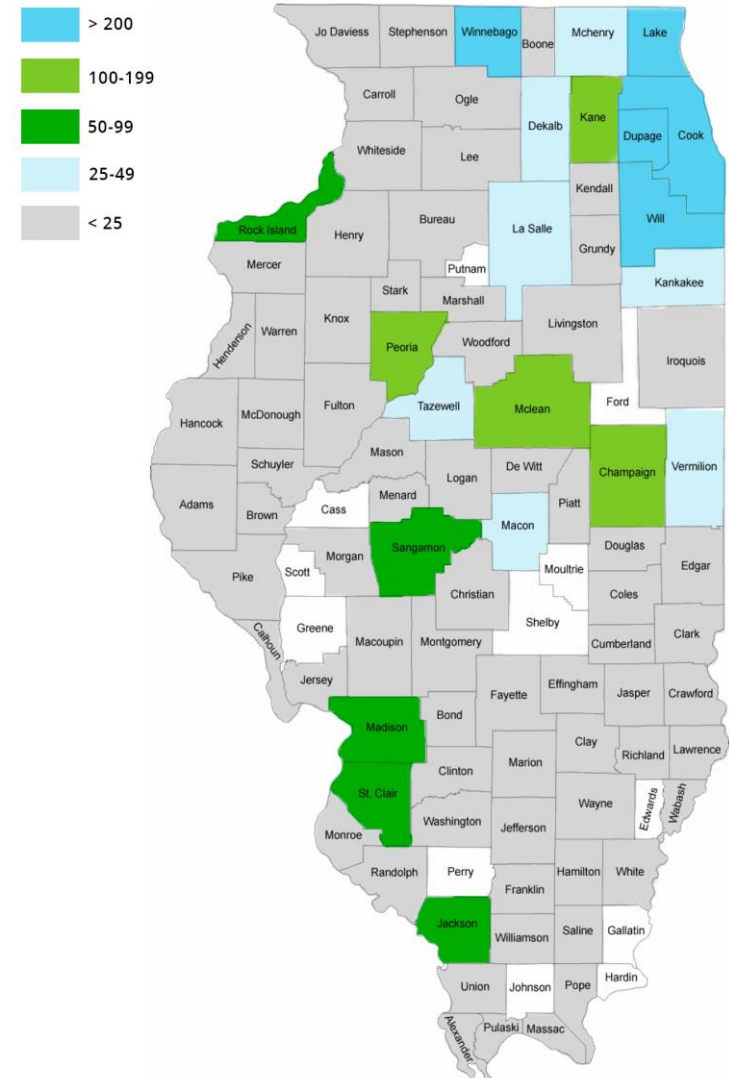
From January – September 2021

- 99,228 people accessed the hotline, website, or text service for legal aid information
- 5,459 legal cases were opened
- 81 mediators were trained and 56 mediation sessions have occurred
- 13,077 referrals to rental assistance were made by legal service providers

Legal Aid Services

- 73% of primary household members were female
- 9% of primary household members were immigrants
- 34% of primary household members identified as age 50+
- Most households seeking legal aid were from Cook and Collar Counties
- Primary household members identified as:

44% White
37% Black
13% Latinx
4% Multiracial



IDHS Rental Assistance Programs

Residents across the state can apply for rental assistance through non-profit organizations funded by IDHS. Information on eligibility and providers can be found via the link below.

<https://www.illinoisrentalassistance.org/>