

Metropolitan Mayors Caucus Webinar on Housing

OPEH + DHS Resources and Context
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WHO WE ARE

VISION

No resident in the State of Illinois lives on the street, in a shelter, or in overcrowded housing. Illinoisians earn a living wage that allows them to afford housing in their community, without fear of eviction. When a housing crisis occurs, safety net supports allow quick resolution to stabilize housing.

MISSION

Coordinating State of Illinois agency strategies and investments and partnering with the community to build a strong safety net and permanent housing for Illinoisans facing homelessness and housing insecurity.



HOME ILLINOIS FOUNDATION

- 2021: Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive Order to Fight Homelessness
 - Creating Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness
 - Community Advisory Council on Homelessness
 - Chief Homelessness Officer & IL Office to Prevent & End Homelessness
- 2022: First state plan to prevent and end homelessness, Home Illinois, released, covering State FY23-24
- July 2023
 - HB2831: Home Illinois Bill codifies the executive order that created the Interagency Task Force, Advisory Council and Office
 - Home Illinois Program created with \$200M general revenue investment
- 2024: Second State Home Illinois plan, covering State FY25-26



ONE SYSTEM INITIATIVE



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

dol.gov/agencies/whd
1-866-487-9283

WHAT IS THE ONE SYSTEM INITIATIVE?

The One System Initiative (OSI) is a process to integrate the systems supporting new arrivals and other people experiencing homelessness in the Chicago area.

Through OSI, the shelter systems have merged to maximize access, equity and efficiency.

The One System Initiative is a system-wide initiative effecting all homeless services in Chicago. It is not limited to specific shelters.

ONE SYSTEM INITIATIVE: PLANNING, INTEGRATION, IMPLEMENTATION

Phase 1- March-September 2024: Community-led Vision and Recommendations Phase

- Over 50 community organizations and people with lived expertise in both shelter systems were engaged.
- Community partners developed a report of recommendations for priorities in the unified shelter system.

Phase 2- Fall 2024: Implementation Planning Phase

- Planning for initial implementation.

Phase 3- December 2024 - Present: Rolling Implementation

- The work to support integration of these two systems is ongoing, but there is no longer a separate new arrivals shelter system.
- See some progress to date on next slide.

ONE SYSTEM INITIATIVE – IMPLEMENTATION HIGHLIGHTS TO DATE

Shelter Access: A new 24/7 physical access point for connection to shelter, called the Shelter Placement and Resource Center (SPARC) is now open as of 12/17/2024. This replaces the former Landing Zone operating in the new arrivals system and was a best practice from the new arrivals response now available to all adults seeking shelter. There is a comparable access point for families.

Shelter Populations: As part of the One System Initiative, all shelters serve anyone experiencing homelessness, regardless of the length of their tenure in Chicago. Shelters are operated by delegate agencies (community-based nonprofits).

OSI Provider Training:

- Training curriculum for all delegates on foundational topics: serving people experiencing homelessness, immigration supports, and case management
- Transitional support for shelters formerly serving new arrivals
- Support and resource sharing for street outreach providers during monthly coordination meetings

BRIEF OVERVIEW OF STATE HOMELESS AND HOUSING PROGRAM CONTINUUM



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CONTINUUMS OF CARE (CoCs)

Homeless services are administered across Continuums of Care (CoCs) that receive federal funding. Illinois has 19 CoCs.

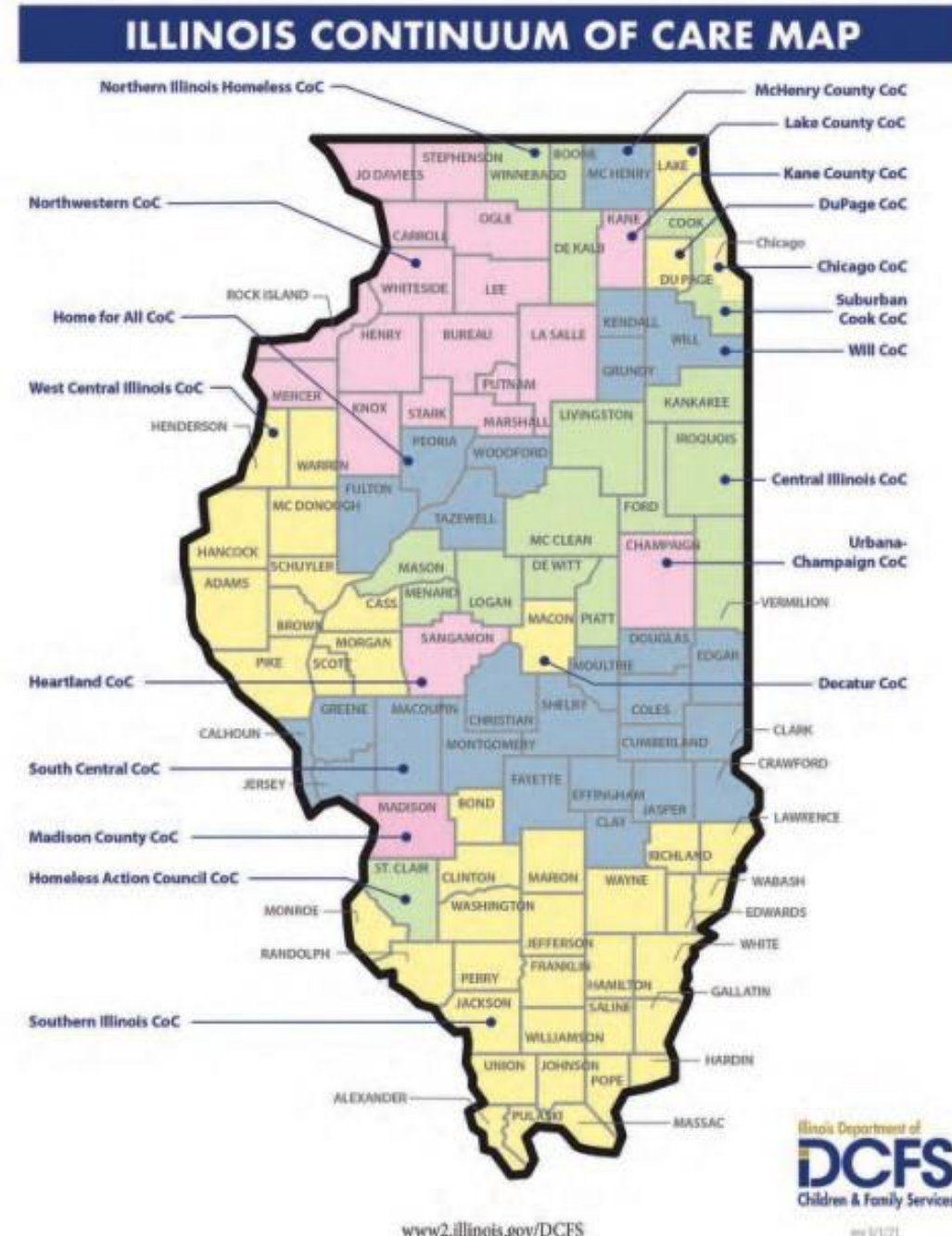
CoCs are community coalitions that coordinate homeless services and housing for people experiencing homelessness in a geographically defined community.

CoCs jointly apply for federal grants, conduct annual Point-in-Time (PIT) counts, and manage homeless management information systems (HMIS).

Some DHS funding sources utilize CoCs for local project selection.

Find contact information for your local CoC:

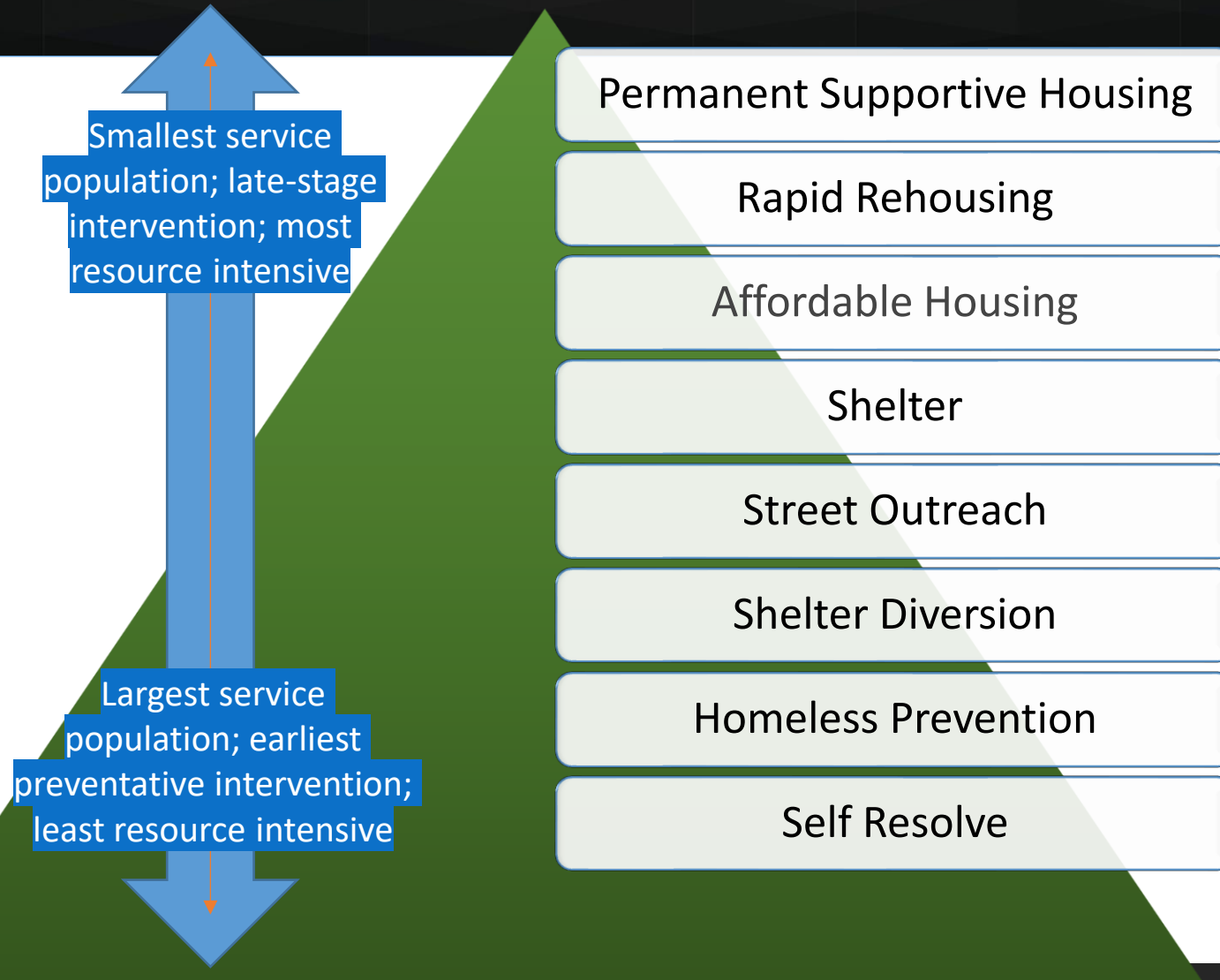
- [HUD locator](#)
- [Housing Action Illinois resource list by County](#)



HOMELESS SERVICES AND HOUSING PROGRAMS



A variety of program models support people experiencing or at risk of homelessness.



HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS



Prevention and Diversion

- IHDA Court-Based Rental Assistance Program – application link on next slide
- DHS Homeless Prevention Program – funded providers:
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=110583>
- DHS Shelter Diversion Program - Referrals happen through local CoCs

Street Outreach

- DHS PATH Program – Provider list here: <https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=83775>
- DHS CORS Program – Provider list here: <https://ilrcca.com/cors-subaward-announcement/>

Shelter

- DHS Emergency and Transitional Housing Program – funded providers:
dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=98150
- DHS Domestic Violence Prevention and Intervention Program – find providers through the DV Hotline - [877-863-6338](tel:877-863-6338)
- DHS Emergency Solutions Grant (several eligible uses)

Housing

- DHS Rapid Rehousing – Referrals happen through local CoCs
- DHS Supportive Housing Services
- DHS Scattered-Site PSH - Referrals happen through local CoCs
- Statewide Referral Network (SRN) – apply with a service provider through <https://www.csh.org/ilsrn/>
- IHDA PSH and Affordable Housing Capital funding - find funded units at
<https://www.ilhousingsearch.org/index.html>

HOMELESS SERVICES RESOURCES



Office to Prevent & End Homelessness

- Statewide Office, housed in the IDHS Office of the Secretary
- Policy & planning body
- Directs the Home Illinois Program (FY26 at \$263.7M)

IDHS Division of Family and Community Services

- Office of Housing Stability
 - Program administration for most of the homelessness services funding in the State of Illinois
- Bureau of Youth Intervention Services
- Bureau of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault & Human Trafficking

IDHS Divisions of Mental Health and Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

- Additional homeless services and supportive housing programs are administered in these divisions.

- **Court Based Rental Assistance Program (CBRAP)**
 - Administered by the Illinois Housing Development Authority
 - Funded at \$50M in FY26 in the Home Illinois Budget
 - Provides rental assistance payments for households in eviction court for past due rent, short term future rent and moving costs
 - For more information and to apply:
<https://www.illinoishousinghelp.org/cbrap>

ACCESSING SHELTER



Lake County:

- If you are facing homelessness, call 2-1-1 or text your zip code to 898211 or visit 211lakecounty.org.

DuPage County:

- See shelter resources at <https://www.dupagehomeless.org/homeless/>.

Will County:

- See shelter resources at <https://willcountycoc.com/emergency-shelters/>.

Other Communities:

- Please contact your local Continuum of Care or call 2-1-1 to be referred to local resources.
- Find contact information for your local CoC: [HUD locator](#)
- **For Domestic Violence Shelter**, call the DV Hotline statewide at [877-863-6338](tel:877-863-6338).

ACCESSING SHELTER



In Chicago:

- Call 311 and request shelter.
- **Single Adults in need of shelter**, may also go to the 24/7 shelter intake location called the Shelter Placement and Resource Center (SPARC). It is located at 2241 S Halsted, Chicago, IL 60608. The SPARC is a central place where single adults are assessed for diversion and shelter placement and receive interim basic services, such as food and overflow shelter. Space is available for up to 200 people. [773-526-3707](tel:773-526-3707) to inquire about capacity.
- **Families in need of shelter:** Please go to the Salvation Army Shield of Hope Center located at 924 N. Christiana, Chicago, IL 60651. If you are unable to make it to that location, call 311 and request shelter.
- **18-24 year olds** have two additional options; "The Crib" at 1735 N Ashland Ave, go after 5pm, or call [773-549-4158](tel:773-549-4158), or "Ujima Center" at 7320 S. Yale Ave or call [312-778-5732](tel:312-778-5732).

Suburban Cook County:

- Call the Suburban Cook Call Center at 1-877-426-6515

THANK YOU

Stay in touch at:

- Email us at homeless.office@illinois.gov
- Visit us and sign up for our newsletter at Endhomelessness.illinois.gov



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