

For Immediate Release
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News Release

State to Hold Public Hearings on Annual HUD Application for \$60 million in Funds

State agencies coordinate housing and community development planning to help low-income families, seniors, and people with special needs across Illinois

Chicago - In an annual ritual that yields nearly \$60 million in federal funds to support housing related activities across Illinois, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), in coordination with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and other state agencies, today announced that Monday, September 25, 2006, will mark the start of a 30-day public comments period for the proposed 2007 Action Plan under the Consolidated Plan. Three public hearings in Chicago, Springfield and Marion have been scheduled to solicit feedback on the latest Action Plan.

The annual Action Plans required for every year of the five year Consolidated Plan set out Illinois' projected spending plans of federal funds for the upcoming calendar year. They also serve as the state's annual funding application to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for formula grant programs that include the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program.

HUD determines the size of the allocation using a formula and allocates the funds to the appropriate agencies to administer. Last year, the state received more than \$58 million from HUD for the four programs, including more than \$22.7 million for the HOME Investment Partnerships Program administered by IHDA, almost \$32.5 million for the CDBG program and more than \$2.5 million for the ESG program both administered by DCEO, while \$875,000 went to IDPH to administer for the HOPWA program. The funding applications for each year are based on the previous year's allocation.

"The compilation of the Action Plan is just one example of how state agencies continue to work together on housing issues and coordinate their resources to help the people of Illinois find affordable homes. This endeavor was made permanent when Governor Rod. R. Blagojevich signed into law the Comprehensive Housing Planning Act on June 30, 2006, to ensure that state agencies really address the affordable housing needs of those families who need help the most," said Kelly King Dibble, executive director of IHDA.

The Comprehensive Housing Planning Act requires that a housing plan be developed every year until 2016 to guide state agencies as they work to increase affordable housing options for Illinois. It specifically identifies six underserved populations that must be addressed in the state's annual comprehensive plan: very low income households and families; low income seniors; low income people with disabilities; homeless people and those at risk of becoming homeless; people unable to find affordable housing near jobs or transportation; people living in existing affordable housing in danger of becoming unaffordable.

The law also requires IHDA to submit an annual progress report to the Governor and the General Assembly to evaluate the progress made toward achieving the projected goals of the housing plan, which will be developed by an Interagency Subcommittee advised by a permanent State Housing Task Force.

"The 30-day public comments periods for the Action Plans are an important component in the compilation of the Action Plan and Consolidated Plan," added Director Dibble. "It provides an opportunity for state agencies to find out more about what the organizations who use the funds do."

Approximately 600 copies of the proposed Consolidated Plan are being distributed across the state and will be available to the public at designated libraries, including the state's library network. Copies can also be accessed on the internet at www.ihda.org.

The public hearings schedule is as follows:

Public Hearing #1

Thursday, September 28, 2006
Chicago – IHDA Office
401 North Michigan Ave.
7th Floor (Reception)
Chicago, Illinois
1:00 p.m.

Public Hearing #2

Wednesday, October 4, 2006
Marion-State Reg. Office Bldg
2309 West Main Street
Conference Room
Marion, Illinois
6:00 p.m.

Public Hearing #3

Wednesday, October 11, 2006
Stratton Office Building
401 South Spring Street
Room 413
Springfield, Illinois
1:00 p.m.

All sites are fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The public is invited to provide public comments prior to, at, or after these scheduled hearings. Individuals who wish to give oral testimony or comments at any of these hearings must register prior to the start of each public hearing, and are encouraged to bring a written summary of their comments to the public hearings to ensure that their concerns receive a written response from the state. The time allotted to each respondent may be limited based on the number of individuals registered to speak.

Written comments, with or without oral testimony, will be collected at each hearing and may also be mailed directly to IHDA afterwards. All written public comments must be received by IHDA by close of business on October 27, 2006 to be considered and should be sent to:

Illinois Housing Development Authority
Office of Housing Coordination Services (OHCS)
Attention: Consolidated Plan
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Hearing-impaired and sight-impaired individuals in need of services such as an interpreter or documents in large-print/Braille should make requests directly to IHDA at the telephone numbers below at least three (3) days before the hearing which they plan to attend. IHDA will make reasonable efforts to accommodate such requests. To obtain additional information concerning these public hearings, please

call (312) 836-5383 or TDD/TTY (312) 836-5222.

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA was designated the lead state entity for developing the Consolidated Plan in 1994.

IHDA (www.ihda.org) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation by an act of the Illinois legislature in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$7.27 billion and financed more than 174,000 units of affordable housing across the state. IHDA accomplishes its mission through a number of federal and state funding sources, including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credits Fund, the allocation of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME Investment Partnership funds and others. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing across the state.

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