



Media Contacts: Man Yee Lee (IHDA)  
(312) 836-5234

Rebecca Boykin (IHDA)  
(312) 836-5343

Katrina Van Valkenburgh (CSH)  
(312) 332-6690 x14

For Immediate Release  
December 9, 2009

## State-funded Program Helps Increase Housing for Illinois' Homeless

*Non-profit groups complete training to build supportive housing in Cook,  
Winnebago, Rock Island, LaSalle, St. Clair and Union Counties*

**CHICAGO** – Hundreds of Illinois families and individuals who are homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless, will soon get more housing options as a result of funding provided by the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) to the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH). Nine not-for-profit organizations around the state and one municipality recently became the third class of participants to complete training from CSH-Illinois' Supportive Housing Institute that will enable them to build affordable, safe rental homes with supportive services for more than 300 residents, some with serious mental illnesses.

Established by CSH and funded by IHDA, the Supportive Housing Institute has trained 29 potential developers since it opened with a \$750,000 IHDA technical assistance grant awarded in 2006. IHDA invested another \$500,000 from the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund in December 2008 to sustain the Institute.

“We’re already beginning to see our efforts bear fruit through the Supportive Housing Institute. Three graduates from the Institute’s previous two classes have submitted strong applications to IHDA and have received a total of \$5.7 million in financing from us to build safe and decent homes for 38 people who are homeless and with a mental illness in Decatur and Massac County,” said Gloria L. Materre, IHDA Executive Director.

Each supportive housing development will offer crucial supportive services to help tenants overcome their issues and get back on their feet to a life of self-sufficiency.

“Supportive services are a key component to solving homelessness. IHDA’s funding helps CSH build on the state’s capacity to increase housing options for those who don’t have a safe home,” said Katrina Van Valkenburgh, CSH Executive Director.

The Supportive Housing Institute participants undergo six months of intensive training starting with planning the project, identifying the target population, all the way through to construction and operations, after which they are encouraged to present a plan that puts their work into practice.

“For the last 15 years, we have been working to develop a permanent housing facility. Now, thanks to the Supportive Housing Institute, we’re coming into this as a confident, educated partner and hope to open the doors to our development by late 2012,” said Michael Wasserberg, executive director of South Suburban Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS).

The recent class of graduates are:

	<b>Organization Name</b>	<b>Area To Be Served</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Units</b>
1.	Bethany Village/Union County Counseling	Anna, Union County	20
2.	N/NW Suburban Task Force, Thresholds, and Daveri Development	Palatine, Cook County	20
3.	North Central Behavioral Health Systems, Inc	LaSalle, LaSalle County	14
4.	Primo Center for Women & Children	Chicago, Cook County	44
5.	Robert Young Center	Rock Island, Rock Island County	15
6.	Zion Development w/City of Rockford	Rockford/ Winnebago County	55
7.	Salvation Army	E. St. Louis/St. Claire County	12
8.	South Suburban Public Action to Deliver Shelter (PADS)	Homewood, Cook County	100
9.	Transitions	Rock Island/Rock Island County	25
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>305</b>

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA ([www.ihda.org](http://www.ihda.org)) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$9.67 billion and financed more than 204,000 affordable units 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, and HOME Investment Partnership funds. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing in Illinois.

About the Corporation for Supportive Housing

CSH ([www.csh.org](http://www.csh.org)) is a national non-profit organization dedicated to helping communities create permanent housing with services to prevent and end homelessness. CSH offers technical assistance, grants and loans, trainings, publications, and resource tools, and works to reshape public policy and systems to improve the nation's response to long-term homelessness. Since inception in 1991, CSH has committed nearly \$217 million in loans and grants to support the creation of 39,742 units of supportive housing that are operational or are underway. The units in operation have ended homelessness for at least 28,720 adults and children.