



**Illinois
Housing
Development
Authority**

A self supporting public agency

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State to Hold Public Hearings on Application to HUD for \$70 million in Annual Funds

*Draft ‘Consolidated Plan’ will access Community Development
Block Grants, HOME Funds, Emergency Shelter Grants, and
Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Funds*

CHICAGO – In an annual ritual that yields nearly \$70 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, announces the completion and availability of the proposed Consolidated Plan for Calendar Year 2005-2009. A 30-day public comments period begins September 28, 2004, and three public hearings have been scheduled across the state for interested parties and the general public.

The Consolidated Plan serves as the State's annual funding application to HUD for formula grant programs, including 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. Additionally, the Consolidated Plan sets forth priorities for the State's housing and non-housing community development needs for Calendar Year 2005-2009, highlights all known funding projections for Program Year 2005 (January 1, 2005 to December 31, 2005) under all major federal and State housing programs, and includes the Housing and Homeless Needs Assessment, Housing Market Analysis, Strategic Plan, Action Plan, Developer Certifications and comments from Illinois citizens.

In September 2003, through Executive Order 18, Governor Blagojevich identified affordable housing as one of his top priorities and created an Affordable Housing Task Force charged with developing a comprehensive housing plan to identify affordable housing development, preservation, and rehabilitation initiatives in all regions of the state. The Governor's Affordable Housing Task force will submit a Comprehensive Housing Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by the end of the year and will incorporate the many components of the Consolidated Plan into the State's Comprehensive Housing Plan..

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

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Add 1/ State to Hold Public Hearings on Application to HUD for \$70 million in Annual Funds

Three public hearings are scheduled during the 30-day public comments period to solicit comments on the State's priorities and its allocation of funds. All sites are fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The public hearings schedule is as follows:

Wednesday, September 29, 2004
Public Hearing #1
Chicago - IHDA
401 North Michigan Ave.
9th Floor (Reception)
Chicago, Illinois
1:00 P.M.

Thursday, October 5, 2004
Public Hearing #2
Marion-State Reg. Office Bldg
2309 West Main Street
Conference Room
Marion, Illinois
6:00 P.M.

Wednesday, October 6, 2004
Public Hearing #3
State Capital Bldg
500 South Second Street
Room 122B
Springfield, Illinois
1:00 P.M.

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 28, 2004** to be considered.

Written comments should be sent to the following:

**Illinois Housing Development Authority
Office of Housing Coordination Services (OHCS)
Attention: Consolidated Plan
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 900
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.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) 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 \$6 billion and financed more than 150,000 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 State's Donations Tax Credit 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.