

For Immediate Release
October 26, 2006

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News Release

Illinois' supportive housing providers get training, technical assistance and pre-development funds to create hundreds of supportive housing units for the state's homeless



Selected recipients of the state-funded program are announced

Chicago - The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) and the Corporation for Supportive Housing (CSH) today announced 10 non-profit organizations that will receive valuable technical assistance, training and pre-development funds to help them build and manage supportive housing facilities. An estimated 400 additional units for homeless families and individuals will be built across the state by the participating organizations. The program was made possible by a \$750,000 grant awarded by IHDA from the State Affordable Housing Trust Fund to CSH in March.

"This program was designed to strengthen Illinois' capacity to provide permanent supportive housing facilities by empowering local non-profits so that they can better help the state's most at-risk populations," said Kelly King Dibble, executive director of IHDA. "Governor Rod R. Blagojevich understands the crucial role permanent supportive housing plays to help homeless individuals and families get back on their feet." Housing for homeless, and for those at-risk of becoming homeless, was identified as one of the state's priorities in the Governor's 2003 Executive Order. "We believe that our support of the Corporation for Supportive Housing's Opening New Doors program will result in many more viable and successful units being built across the state to address the Governor's priority." Dibble said.

"The Corporation for Supportive Housing has financed and developed supportive housing in Illinois for more than 13 years. While we have made progress, and helped create 2,447 units of permanent supportive housing for the homeless, we realize that this is not enough, and no small task. This funding from IHDA will make a huge difference to address homelessness statewide. The IHDA grant enables us to pass on our development knowledge to these 10 service providers, all of whom want to become developers of supportive housing but not the experience to do so," said Sue Augustus, Executive Director of CSH's Illinois office.

The 10 organizations selected to participate in the first phase of Opening New Doors were revealed today during a news conference at The Night Ministry's Open Door Youth Shelter - West Town, a

supportive housing facility for homeless runaway teens. The recently-opened shelter currently provides short-term housing for youth ages 14-21, including those who are pregnant or parenting. Its transitional living program serving youth ages 16-21 will start in January 2007. IHDA provided \$704,158 in State Affordable Housing Tax Credits to develop the facility in 2003.

“Often putting a roof over someone’s head is just not enough. Supportive housing provides relationships and stability on-site. Here at the Open Door Youth Shelter - West Town, we serve some of the most vulnerable members of the community: homeless teens. We empower the youth to recognize their self-worth and guide them towards a life of self sufficiency, which is crucial to helping them get on their feet,” said Tom Behrens, President of The Night Ministry.

The 10 selected organizations will work closely with CSH’s Supportive Housing Institute to develop individual supportive housing project plans in Cook, DuPage, Massac, Vermilion, Warren and Williamson counties. Over the next six months, they will participate in training sessions that will cover budget development, service planning, property management and one-on-one technical assistance tutorials. The groups aim to increase permanent supportive housing options for the homeless, the mentally disabled, ex-offenders, former substance abusers, war veterans, and people living with HIV and AIDS. The type of housing and population served will be based on the needs of each local community.

Of the \$750,000 awarded to CSH, \$320,000 will provide technical assistance to train 16 to 20 organizations over a two-year period, \$330,000 is earmarked for predevelopment funding to help launch the organizations’ supportive housing facilities and \$100,000 will be used for capacity building grants. Another six to 10 organizations will be selected to participate in the second phase of the program next fall.

The developments created by the organizations will have a minimum of 25% of the units in each project available to people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Most of the projects will provide 100% of the units for the homeless.

“Upon completion of the Opening New Doors program, our goal is to develop 30 tenant-based units of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless, homeless and people formerly incarcerated,” said Lenoris Perkins, Director of Resource and Development at Bethel Human Resources. “We have limited housing development experience from a couple of small federally-funded supportive housing projects. This program gives us the knowledge base and confidence to take on bigger projects and impact more individuals.”

Last year the state committed \$30.8 million to help finance 628 units of supportive housing across Illinois.

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

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.

Opening New Doors Program - Phase One
Selected Participants

	Organization Name	Area To Be Served	Population To Be Served	Estimated Number of Units
1.	Alexian Brothers	Chicago	HIV/AIDS	23
2.	Bethel Human Resources	South Suburban Cook County	Re-entry	30
3.	Bethel New Life	Chicago	Youth; families	20
4.	Bridgeway Inc.	Monmouth, IL	Serious mental illness	15
5.	Catholic Charities	Western Cook County	Homeless	50
6.	Crosspoint Human Services	Danville, IL	Re-entry	11
7.	DuPage PADS	DuPage County	Chronically homeless	12
8.	Massac County Mental Health	Metropolis, IL	Serious mental illness	16
9.	Southern IL Coalition for the Homeless	Marion, IL	Re-entry	10
10.	Trilogy	Niles, Skokie, Rogers Park	Serious mental illness	50

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