



ENDING HOMELESSNESS IN ILLINOIS: PARTNERSHIPS ACROSS HOUSING & HEALTH

COSDA ANNUAL TRAINING CONFERENCE SEPTEMBER 15, 2025



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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 Illinoisians facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

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OPEH SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM



Chief Christine Haley	Colleen Mahoney	Brenda O'Connell	Richard Rowe	Eugenia Olison
Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (OPEH)	Assistant Director, Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)	Senior Policy Advisor, Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA)	Senior Policy Advisor, Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC)	Senior Policy Advisor, Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH)
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HOME ILLINOIS FOUNDATION

- 2021: Illinois Governor JB Pritzker signed Executive 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
- 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

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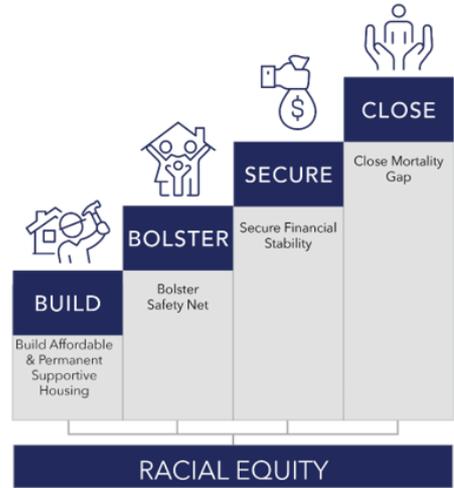
HOME ILLINOIS FRAMEWORK




Foundational goal: Underlying the organizing pillars, the **foundational goal** of the plan is **ending the racial disparity** that exists in homelessness.

Organizing pillars: To prevent and end homelessness across Illinois, and care for Illinoisans experiencing homelessness, we must:

- **Increase** the supply of **affordable and supportive housing**
- **Bolster our safety net supports**, including shelter and other services for people experiencing homelessness,
- **Secure financial stability** for low-income Illinois families, and
- **Close the mortality gap** between people experiencing homelessness and the general population.



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OPEH ROLES




Drive state investments in scaling solutions to end homelessness

Build state agency and community capacity

Identify policy solutions to homelessness

Incubate program innovations

Advance research and data capacity

Engage community, government and elected officials in partnerships

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ADVANCE DATA & RESEARCH



Population Reports

- Rural Homelessness
 - Housing Assistance Council
- Morbidity and Mortality Report
- Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement
 - UIC Public Health

Racial Equity

- Black Homelessness in Illinois: Structural Drivers of Inequity
- Racial Equity Roundtable on Latino Homelessness
 - UIC Institute for Research on Race & Public Policy

Randomized Control Trial

- Stability Investment for Family Housing
 - Inclusive Economy Lab

Access Assessments

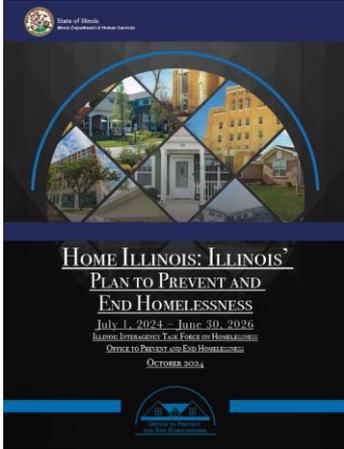
- Food Access Report
 - IRRPP
- Homeless Services Workforce
 - Northern Illinois University

HOME ILLINOIS FY25-26 PLAN



- Over 125 specific State commitments
- FY25: An overall budget of **\$722,204,215** in Illinois investment in homelessness
 - **\$174,974,775 in federal funding** that goes through the State
 - **\$547,229,440 in State funding**
- Increase of 2.5x in State funding alone
 - From \$211 million in FY23 to over \$547 million in FY25
- Find the full plan at endhomelessness.illinois.gov

HOME ILLINOIS FY25-26 PLAN



Download the plan at endhomelessness.illinois.gov or via the QR code.



STATE OF HOMELESSNESS IN ILLINOIS



dol.gov/agencies/whd
1-800-487-3333

2024-2025 IL HOMELESSNESS TRENDS



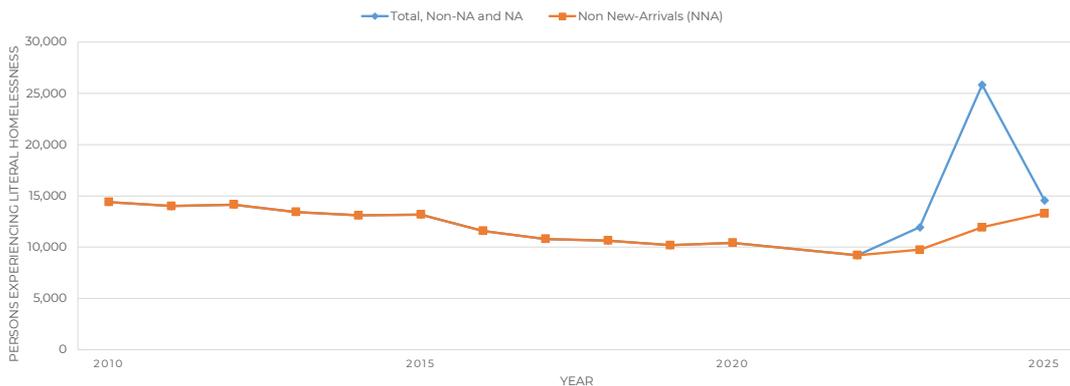

2024-2025 Point in Time Count:

- Statewide 44% decrease in persons experiencing homelessness
- New Arrivals/Newcomers 91% decrease
- Unhoused Illinoisans 18% sheltered increase
- Unhoused Illinoisans 16% unsheltered decrease
- Many communities saw a decrease in their 2025 homelessness county

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HOMELESSNESS IN ILLINOIS, POINT-IN-TIME COUNT

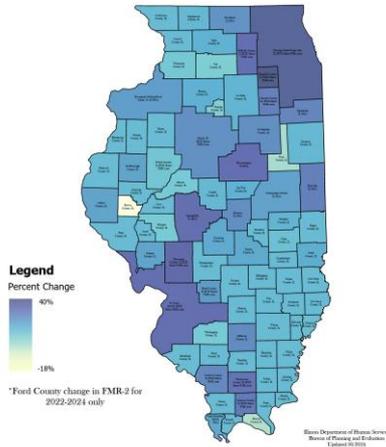


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INCREASES IN RENT FROM 2020-2024



Percentage of Change in FMR-2 from 2020-2024



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STRENGTHENING OUR HOUSING SYSTEM



Home Illinois FY25-26 contains an updated understanding of:

- the amount of shelter and housing needed
- to shelter people experiencing homelessness
- and quickly connect them to housing,
- reflecting the understanding that homelessness is fundamentally a housing problem.

This analysis is based on Federal FY23 Illinois data.

Unmet Need: Housing and Shelter Projections



5,379 Shelter Beds



10,428 Rapid Rehousing Units (short-term rental assistance with supportive services)



10,972 Permanent Supportive Housing Units (affordable housing units with supportive services)

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STATE STRATEGIES TO CLOSE MORTALITY GAP



WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

dol.gov/agencies/whd
1-800-487-4600

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IL MORTALITY & MORBIDITY REPORT FINDINGS



56.3 v 74.2
Average age of death

38x more likely to die from cold exposure

3x more likely to die by homicide

Over 15,000 ER visits for suicide attempts

\$16B in health care billing

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STRATEGIES



Increasing Medical
Respite

Increasing Health
Focused Permanent
Supportive Housing

Hospital Housing
Navigator Pilot

Creating New
Funding Mechanisms
through Medicaid
1115 Waiver

Launched Substance
Use Disorder Focused
Street Outreach
Program

Hired OPEH Senior
Policy Advisors at
Medicaid & Public
Health Agencies

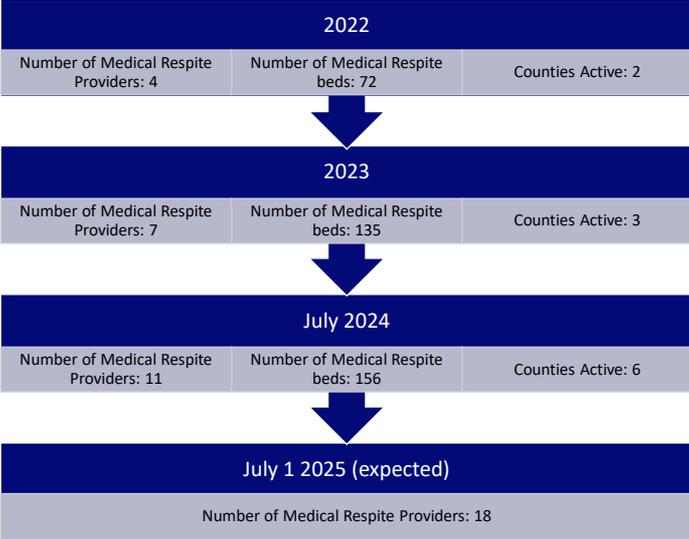
STRATEGY #1 INCREASING MEDICAL RESPITE



- IL Department of Commerce & Economic Development & IL Housing Development Authority awarded federal funding for non-congregate shelter, inclusive of medical respite programs
- OPEH funds partners at the Illinois Public Health Institute (IPHI) to operate the **Illinois Medical Respite Capacity Building Initiative**
- **Medical respite (MR)** is post-acute care for people experiencing homelessness who are too ill or frail to recover from an illness or injury on the street or in shelter, but who do not require hospital level care.
- MR Capacity Building Initiative includes:
 - Capacity building subgrants to individual providers to support medical respite planning, new project implementation, and existing project continued implementation
 - Statewide and regional learning collaboratives
 - Provider technical assistance with National Institute for Medical Respite Care (NIMRC)
 - Public communications and awareness-building on medical respite
 - Informing development of Illinois' Medicaid 1115 waiver for Medical Respite

MEDICAL RESPITE GROWTH – STATE OF ILLINOIS, BY YEAR





INCREASE HEALTH FOCUSED PSH




IHDA & IDHS: \$20M Opioid Settlement Funding

IHDA: \$15M PSH Capital Development Program for Health Care

ICJIA & IDHS: Chicago & Cook County Flexible Housing Pool

HFS: Healthcare Transformation Projects

HOSPITAL HOUSING NAVIGATOR PILOT



- Funded a pilot with a homelessness services organization in Chicago, Renaissance Social Services, Inc (RSSI)
- Year 1: Loretto Hospital; Year 2: Loretto & Mt Sinai; Year 3: Mt Sinai
- Received credentials to be within hospital system & access Electronic Health Record
- Directly connect unhoused participants with off-site drop in center
- Entered participants into coordinated entry/PSH waitlist

HFS 1115 WAIVER



Housing
Tenancy
Supports

Medical
Respite
Services

NEW STREET OUTREACH CAPACITY



- IL Department of Human Services – Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery
- Utilized Opioid Settlement Funding to create street outreach program, focused on persons with Substance Use Disorders
 - *Provides peer and recovery coaching
 - *Connections to treatment and recovery housing

THANK YOU! STAY IN TOUCH AT:
HOMELESS.OFFICE@ILLINOIS.GOV
ENDHOMELESSNESS.ILLINOIS.GOV



EQUITY

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION
 UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

dol.gov/agencies/whd
 1-800-487-0333