

HOMELESS

Specific Homeless Prevention Elements

*Please also refer to the Homeless Needs Table in the Needs.xls workbook.

1. *Sources of Funds—Identify the private and public resources that the jurisdiction expects to receive during the next year to address homeless needs and to prevent homelessness. These include the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act programs, other special federal, state and local and private funds targeted to homeless individuals and families with children, especially the chronically homeless, the HUD formula programs, and any publicly-owned land or property. Please describe, briefly, the jurisdiction's plan for the investment and use of funds directed toward homelessness.*

Response: This jurisdiction expects to receive the following federal resources to address homeless needs. McKinney-Vento Homeless funds, Emergency Solution Grant Program funds and Community Services Block Grant funds. From a state perspective, Illinois Department of Human Services Homeless Prevention funds are expected to be received. Locally, this jurisdiction expects to United Way funds and assistance from Rockford Township to carry out these efforts as well.

Prevention and permanent housing will continue to be our focus with both of these methods proving to have higher success rates and lower costs than emergency or transitional housing. With the depletion of our federal Homeless Prevention Rapid re-housing Program funds and a 66% cut in State homeless prevention funds we will be significantly limited in our prevention efforts.

2. *Homelessness—In a narrative, describe how the action plan will address the specific objectives of the Strategic Plan and, ultimately, the priority needs identified. Please also identify potential obstacles to completing these action steps.*

Response: Our priorities under the homeless strategic plan focus on permanent housing for the disabled and for homeless families. In order to accomplish this, we utilize the McKinney Vento funds as well as Illinois Housing Development Authority funds. We have developed over 150 units of permanent housing over the last three years utilizing this strategy and will continue utilizing the same strategy next year. Potential obstacles include a decrease in funding available for renewals through the Illinois Housing Development Authority due to the slow real estate market.

3. *Chronic homelessness— The jurisdiction must describe the specific planned action steps it will take over the next year aimed at eliminating chronic homelessness by 2012. Again, please identify barriers to achieving this.*

Response: Our primary action regarding chronic homelessness is to continue to fund and support permanent housing projects that identify the chronically homeless as their target population. This includes Shelter Plus Care and Permanent Housing Projects which are identified as priorities in our 2012 NOFA application. The primary barrier to achieving this is the amount of non-local resources that can be leveraged and brought to this community.

4. *Homelessness Prevention—The jurisdiction must describe its planned action steps over the next year to address the individual and families with children at imminent risk of becoming homeless:*

Response: With almost the entire allotment Homeless Prevention Rapid-rehousing Program funding exhausted and the State of Illinois Homeless Prevention funding cut by 66%, we are facing significant obstacles in providing prevention services over the next year. Our goal is to seek new funding in this area as we become aware of opportunities to support prevention. In addition, agencies that offer prevention services have been asked to pool their resources in an attempt to improve their overall effectiveness.

5. *Discharge Coordination Policy—Explain planned activities to implement a cohesive, community-wide Discharge Coordination Policy, and how, in the coming year, the community will move toward such a policy.*

Response: The City has made significant strides in discharge planning this year coming to formal agreements with local hospitals and the Illinois Department of Corrections as well as the local inpatient mental health center. Plans for the upcoming year include further interaction with the hospitals and IDOC to create and integrate a discharge transition policy that will ensure that there is no gap in services for those being discharged.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG)

(States only) Describe the process for awarding grants to State recipients, and a description of how the allocation will be made available to units of local government.

Response: N/A