

**Sign-On Letter: Urge Governor Pritzker to Increase State Funding
to Prevent and End Homelessness**

**Help Us Reach Our Goal of 250 Organizational Signers
(We have 314 Signers as of December 17)**

**Thanks to all who Signed the Letter by Our Deadline:
December 15, 2023**

The letter is no longer open for additional signatures.

December 18, 2023

Hon. JB Pritzker
Governor of Illinois
Office of the Governor
100 West Randolph Street, Suite 16-100
Chicago, IL 60601

Dear Governor Pritzker:

The undersigned 314 organizations—including religious congregations—urge you to propose a total amount of new funding of at least \$85 million in next year's state budget, fiscal year 2025, to keep making progress on the HOME Illinois plan to prevent and end homelessness. Between fiscal year 2024 and fiscal year 2025, this would bring the total increased funding over two years to \$170 million.

We have greatly appreciated past statements from you, as well as representatives of your administration, that housing is a human right. We wholeheartedly agree.

To make sure that everyone has an affordable place to live will require consistent, annual significant new state budget investments to support the HOME Illinois plan.

Our minimum \$85 million request for the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) budget includes the following priority components, totaling \$49.1 million:

- \$20.1 million increase for the Emergency and Transitional Housing Program to continue to improve staffing and operations of existing programs and to continue making progress towards eliminating the severe shortage of emergency shelter beds statewide. According to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, in December 2022 there was a shortage of 4,551 emergency shelter beds statewide.
- \$11 million for Supportive Housing Services to maintain and enhance supportive service staff and services, including new supportive housing developed in 2024. According to the Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness, there is a need to create 6,092 units of permanent supportive housing units and/or other permanent affordable housing in order to reach the goal of functional zero homelessness statewide.
- \$10 million increase for the Homeless Prevention Program to provide additional grants to people in need and allow additional funding to be used to fund case management and other operational expenses. Based on past average grant amounts and households served and other factors, this increase in funding will assist 4,000 to 5,000 households to stay housed, more than half of them families with children.
- \$8 million increase for the Homeless Youth Program to ensure that youth seeking services have access to case management, more scattered site supportive housing for youth and psychiatric services. Further, as there are areas of the state that are not currently providing youth specific services, increasing funding will allow new providers, as well as providers who serve adults, to expand their expertise and services to meet the needs of youth.

For the remaining \$35.9 million, it should be spent on expanding other current HOME Illinois initiatives (e.g., shelter diversion, street outreach, rapid rehousing, scattered site supportive housing, access to counsel for people in eviction cases) and other uses. We ask you to work with the Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness to determine the best specific uses for these funds.

We also ask that our request be considered in addition to any new funding that has and/or will be provided to specifically serve people who are new arrivals, including the

\$160 million reallocated from this year's IDHS budget, which we also strongly support in order to ensure that everyone has shelter and housing based on their specific needs. We want to work with your administration and others to determine how these funds can be used to serve the needs of any and all people once the current emergency is over.

While the emergency related to people who are new arrivals continues, we ask that parity be kept in mind when crafting the budget's investments, to better serve both new and longstanding populations of people who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness.

The policies and investments your administration has implemented to eventually get us to the point where all people have access to housing have made Illinois a national leader in efforts to reach functional zero homelessness. We look forward to working with you and your administration during the next year to continue making progress.

[Contact information to be added.]

Sincerely,

360 Youth Services, Naperville
4-C: Community Coordinated Child
Care, McHenry
A Work of Faith Inc, Chicago and
Evanston
ACA Consumer Advocacy, Highland
Park
Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
Action Now Institute, Chicago
Advanced Correctional Healthcare,
Alton
African American Christian Foundation,
Oak Park
Agape Missions, NFP, Joliet
AgeGuide Northeastern IL, Lombard
AgeOptions, Oak Park
AIDS Foundation Chicago

All Chicago Making Homelessness
History
Alliance to End Homelessness in
Suburban Cook County
Andrew Technology, Mount Prospect
Anew: Building Beyond Violence and
Abuse, Homewood
Apna Ghar, Inc. (Our Home), Chicago
Arab American Family Services, Worth
Ascension Health & Housing Alliance,
Chicago
Association for Individual Development
(AID), Aurora
Aurora Area Interfaith Food Pantry,
Aurora
Aurora Mutual Aid (AKA Indivisible
Aurora), Aurora
BCMw Community Services, Centralia

BEDS Plus Inc., La Grange
Believe You Can Counseling, Highland
Bethel Family Resource Center,
Chicago Heights
Beyond Hunger, Oak Park
Blue Eddy Community Advisors, LLC,
Chicago
Bridge Communities, Glen Ellyn
Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Chicago
Care for Real, Chicago
Carle Health, Champaign
Carpenter's Place, Rockford
CASA Blue Island, Blue Island
Casa Central Social Services
Corporation, Chicago
CasaYSalud, Chicago
Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of
Chicago, Chicago
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet
Catholic Conference of Illinois
Catholic Urban Programs, East Saint
Louis
CDBG Operations Corporation, East
Saint Louis
CEDA of Cook County, Inc., Chicago
Center for Changing Lives, Chicago
Center for Disability & Elder Law,
Chicago
Center for Housing and Health, Chicago
Center of Concern, Des Plaines
Center on Halsted, Chicago
Central Illinois Friends, Peoria
Centro de Informacion, Elgin
Champaign County Regional Planning
Commission, Urbana
Champaign-Urbana Public Health
District, Champaign
Champaign-Urbana Tenant Union,
Champaign
ChangeBridge Consulting, Springfield

Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance
(CAFHA)
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Chicago Community Loan Fund,
Chicago
Chicago House
Chicago Housing Initiative
Chicago Housing Trust
Children's Home Association of Illinois,
Peoria
Chinese American Service League,
Chicago
Christian Community Health Center,
Chicago
Church of the Holy Spirit-St. Vincent de
Paul Ministry, Schaumburg
City of Rockford HHS - A Community
Action Agency, Rockford
Coalition for Equitable Community
Development, Chicago
Community Consolidated School District
15, Palatine
Community Partners for Affordable
Housing, Libertyville
Community Service Council of Northern
Will County, Bolingbrook
Connections for the Homeless,
Evanston
Connections of Illinois, Inc., Barrington
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of
Northern Illinois, Woodstock
Contact Ministries, Springfield
Cook County Health
COOL Ministries, Waukegan
Cornerstone Community Outreach,
Chicago
Corporation for Supportive Housing
(CSH)
Crisis Center for South Suburbia, Tinley
Park and Joliet

Crittenton Centers, Peoria
Cunningham Township, Urbana
Deborah's Place, Chicago
DIMENSION-F, Urbana
Disability Resource Center, Joliet
Dove, Inc., Decatur
Dream Center, Peoria
DuPage Habitat for Humanity, Wheaton
DuPagePads, Wheaton
Ecker Center for Behavioral Health,
Elgin
Elk Grove Interfaith Council, Arlington
Heights
Embarras River Basin Agency, Inc.,
Greenup
Erie Neighborhood House, Chicago
Facing Forward to End Homelessness,
Chicago
Faith Coalition, Edwardsville
Family Rescue, Chicago
Featherfist, Chicago
Fifth Street Renaissance, Springfield
Forest Park Public Library, Forest Park
Fortitude Community Outreach,
Bourbonnais
Fox Valley Citizens for Peace & Justice,
Elgin
Franciscan Outreach, Chicago
Freeport Area Church Cooperative,
Freeport
Friendship Community Place, Chicago
Full Circle Communities, Chicago
Garfield Park Community Council,
Chicago
Genesis Garden, Macomb
GLCC Social Services, Broadview
Goodwill Industries of Central Illinois,
Peoria
Greater Community AIDS Project of
East Central Illinois, Champaign

Greater Peoria Empowerment, Peoria
Grundy Area P.A.D.S., Morris
HANA Center, Chicago
Health & Medicine Policy Research
Group, Chicago
Healthcare Alternatives Systems,
Broadview and Matteson
HEAR US Inc., Naperville
Heartland Alliance, Chicago
Heartland HOUSED, Springfield
Helping Hands of Springfield, Springfield
Hesed House, Aurora
Holsten Human Capital Development
NFP, Chicago
Home of The Sparrow, Woodstock
HOPE Fair Housing Center, Wheaton
Hope Haven of DeKalb Co., Inc.,
DeKalb
Hope UCC, Moline
Housing Action Illinois
Housing Forward, Maywood
Housing Opportunities & Maint. for the
Elderly, Chicago
HOW, Chicago
ICNA Relief, Chicago
Illinois Aging Together
Illinois Association of Community Action
Agencies
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of
Pediatrics
Illinois Housing Council
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent
Living, Rock Island
Illinois Legal Aid Online (ILAO)
Illinois National Organization for Women
Illinois Network of Centers for
Independent Living
Illinois Partners for Human Service,
Chicago
Illinois Public Health Institute

Illinois Shelter Alliance
Impact Behavioral Health Partners,
Evanston
IMPACT CIL, Alton
Impact for Equity, Chicago
Indivisible Chicago Alliance, Chicago
Inner City Mission, Flourish
Communities, Edwardsville
Inspiration Corporation, Chicago
Institute for Community Alliances,
Rockford
Interfaith Housing Development
Corporation, Oak Park
Jessica Hill Consulting, LLC, Decatur
Jewish Council on Urban Affairs,
Chicago
Journeys | The Road Home, Palatine
Kenneth Young Center, Elk Grove
Village
Keys To Evolve, Chicago
La Casa Norte, Chicago
Lake County Coalition for the Homeless
Lake County Crisis Center
Lake County Housing Authority,
Latino Policy Forum, Chicago
Law Center for Better Housing, Chicago
Lazarus House, St. Charles
League of Women Voters of Illinois
Legal Council for Health Justice,
Chicago
Life Span, Chicago
Lincoln Park Community Services,
Chicago
Lincoln Park Presbyterian Church,
Chicago
LISC Central IL, Peoria
Lived Experience Advisory Council,
Alliance to End Homelessness in
Suburban Cook County

Madison County Urban League, Inc.,
Alton
Mano a Mano Family Resource Center,
Waukegan
Manufactured Home Owners
Association of Illinois
Mattoon Area PADS dba The Haven,
Mattoon
McHenry County Coalition to End
Homelessness, Antioch
McHenry County Housing Authority,
Crystal Lake
McHenry County, McHenry
MERCY Communities, Springfield
Mercy Housing Lakefront, Chicago
Metropolitan Family Services, Chicago
Mid Central Community Action,
Bloomington
Milie's Manor Inc., Merrillville IN
Moline Community Development
Corporation, Moline
Morningstar Mission Ministries, Joliet
NAMI Illinois
NAMI Champaign County, Champaign
NAMI Kane-South, DeKalb, and Kendall
County, Aurora
NAMI Lake County, Waukegan
NAMI McHenry County, Crystal Lake
NAMI Northern Illinois, Rockford
NAMI Northwest Suburbs Chicago, Deer
Park
NAMI Sauk Area, Sterling
NAMI South Suburbs of Chicago, Hazel
Crest
NAMI Southwestern Illinois, Granite City
NAMI Tri-County Illinois, Peoria
Near North Health, Chicago
Neighbors for Affordable Housing,
Chicago

New Beginnings Recovery Homes
Incorporated, Decatur
New Moms, Chicago
Niles Township Government Respite
Center, Skokie
North Cook Intermediate Service
Center, Des Plaines
North Cook Regional Office of
Education, Des Plaines
North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic,
Highland Park
North West Housing Partnership,
Schaumburg
North-Northwest Suburban Task Force
on Supportive Housing for Individuals
with Mental Illness, Wheeling
Northfield Township, Glenview
Northfield Township, Mount Prospect
Northwest Center, Chicago
Northwest Compass, Inc, Mount
Prospect
Northwest Side (NWS) Homeless
Outreach, Chicago
Northwest Side Housing Center,
Chicago
ONE Northside, Chicago
Open Communities, Evanston
OSF Healthcare Saint Anthony's Health
Center, Alton
Out Helping Others, Homewood
Outreach, Carol Stream
PACE, Inc. Center for Independent
Living, Urbana
PADS Lake County, Waukegan
PADS of Elgin, Elgin
Partners for Our Communities (POC),
Palatine
PATH Crisis, INC., Bloomington
Peoria Friendship House of Christian
Service, Peoria

Phoenix Community Development
Services, Peoria
Pioneer Center for Human Services,
McHenry
Preservation Futures, Chicago
Primo Center for Women & Children,
Chicago
Progress Center for Independent Living,
Forest Park
Project NOW, Rock Island
Promise Healthcare, Champaign
Puentes de Esperanza, Fairview
Heights
RAMP Center for Independent Living,
Rockford
Rebuilding Together Metro Chicago,
Chicago
Regional Office of Education #26,
Macomb
Regional Office of Education #30,
Murphysboro
Renaissance Social Services, Chicago
Respond Now, Chicago Heights
Retired, Quincy
ReVive Center for Housing and Healing,
Chicago
Richland Bridge Pantry Community
Services, Peoria
Riverbend Family Ministries, Wood
River
Rockford Area Habitat for Humanity,
Loves Park
Sankofa Safe Child Initiative, Chicago
Sarah's Circle, Chicago
Scalelit, Chicago
Share Our Spare, Chicago
Shelter Care Ministries, Rockford
Shriver Center on Poverty Law
Skokie School District 73.5, Skokie

Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Bridgeview
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Elgin
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Flossmoor
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Forest Park
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Fox River Grove
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Homewood
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Lake In The Hills
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Lakewood
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Midlothian
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Niles
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Orland Park
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Palos Heights
Society of St Vincent de Paul Ministry,
Worth
South Suburban Council on
Homelessness, Harvey
South Suburban Housing Center,
Homewood
South Suburban PADS, Chicago
Heights
Southern Illinois Center for Independent
Living, Harrisburg
Southsiders For Peace, Blue Island
Spannaus Consulting, Decatur
Springfield Center for Independent
Living, Springfield
St. Andrew's Lutheran Church,
Glenwood

St. John's Episcopal Church, Chicago
St. Vincent de Paul at St. Marcelline
Church, Schaumburg
St. Vincent de Paul Society, Prince of
Peace Conference, Lake Villa
Staben House, Waukegan Township,
Waukegan
State Representative Lindsey LaPointe,
Chicago
State Representative Michelle
Mussman, Schaumburg
Stopping Woman Abuse Now (SWAN),
Olney
Supportive Housing Providers
Association, Springfield
The Boulevard of Chicago, Chicago
The Harbour, Park Ridge
The Inner Voice, Inc., Chicago
The Journey Forward, Chicago
The Network: Advocating Against
Domestic Violence
The Night Ministry, Chicago
The Night's Shield, West Frankfort
The ReBirth Of Greater Roseland,
Chicago
The Renaissance Collaborative,
Chicago
The Salvation Army Lincoln 360 Life
Center, Lincoln
The Salvation Army, Chicago
The Salvation Army, Marion
The Samaritan Well, Inc., Macomb
The Statewide Independent Living
Council of Illinois
The Well Experience, Urbana
Thresholds, Chicago
Together We Cope, Tinley Park
Transitional Living Services dba
Veterans Path to Hope, Crystal Lake
Trilogy Behavioral Health, Chicago

Trinity Services, Joliet
Turnstone Development Corp, Northlake
United Methodist Church (NIC), Chicago
United Methodist Church of Geneva,
Geneva
United Way of Champaign County,
Savoy
United Way of Illinois
United Way of Livingston County,
Pontiac
United Way of Pekin, Pekin
Unity Parenting and Counseling, Inc.,
Chicago
Universal Housing Solutions CDC,
Chicago
Victory Apostolic Church, Olympia
Fields and Matteson
Voice of the People in Uptown, Inc.,
Chicago
Warp Corps, Woodstock
Will County Continuum of Care (serving
Will, Kendall and Grundy Counties),
Joliet
Will-Grundy Medical Clinic, Joliet
Winnebago Homes Association,
Rockford
WISDOM, Chicago
Women in Need Recovery (WIN
Recovery), Chicago
Worker's Center For Racial Justice,
Chicago
Working Family Solidarity, Chicago
Youth Advocacy Foundation, Chicago
YWCA, Chicago
ZION Development Corporation,
Rockford