

§91.215(i) Institutional Structure

The purpose of this section is again to discuss the different types of public and private institutions through which the County will carry out its housing and community development plans, including the strengths and gaps in this delivery system.

The Public and Private Structure That Will Assist In Carrying Out The Plan.

As stated in the Coordination section of this plan, the County has an extensive network of community organizations, local governmental units, not-for-profits as well as representatives from the private sector that will assist in implementing of the plan.

County Government

The Community Development Department is one of the main coordinating arms for the County in this effort, along with the Will County Health Department, Will County Community Health Center; Workforce Development Board; Workforce Services Division; Will County States Attorney Child Advocacy Division; Will County Land Use Department; Will County Legal Assistance Program; Will County Treasurers Office, Senior Tax Program Exemptions; Veterans Assistance Commission. These departments all play a roll in delivering community services to all citizens of the county, but especially to a large representation from the special needs populations discussed throughout this plan.

State Government

Will County has established a formalized relationship with the State's Housing Agency by ceding bond cap to the agency in order to provide mortgage assistance in conjunction with the County's home buyer programs.

Not-For-Profit Organizations

The Continuum of Care system has an extensive outreach to the community at-large with over 80 active community agencies represented in its membership, and a mailing/correspondence list of over 500 individuals representing all sectors of the community. Not-For-Profit linkages, both formal and informal, between social service agencies, banks, local governmental units and private, for-profit companies are included in this system. The essential components of the homeless and at risk strategy are carried out through the Continuum.

Relationship with Public Housing Agencies

While Will County has no formal organizational relationship with the Housing Authority of Joliet, the Executive Director of the HAJ is a member of the CDBG/HOME Advisory Board, the policy setting ad-hoc committee that recommends policy to the County Board.

Overcoming Gaps in the Institutional Structure

The County needs to take a more proactive stance in networking with area agencies in an effort to bring more federal and State resources to a cross section of human service needs within the county. The County also needs to participate in regional efforts to expand workforce affordable housing.