

Homeless and Other Special (Non-Homeless) Subpopulation Needs

§91.220(e) Homeless and Other Special Needs

Homeless and Other Special Needs Activities

In the Program Year 2005, the County proposes to continue to allocate financial resources and human (staff) resources to strongly support the Joliet/Will County Continuum of Care system as the primary vehicle to address the needs of the homeless and at-risk populations. With a Steering Committee comprised of diverse community representatives, including representation from *all* Will County shelters and transitional housing programs, the Continuum offers the County the most comprehensive tool in order to evaluate, analyze and understand homeless/at-risk issues.

The County believes that its combination of staff support plus financial support to the Continuum is the broadest, strongest, most valuable, and highest-yielding service it can provide to the community in support of preventing homeless and guiding their return to self-sufficiency. Through staff support to the initiative, the County works one-on-one with providers to address and solve local homeless problems. Steering committee member organizations are as follows:

Aids Ministry of Illinois	Catholic Charities/Daybreak
City of Joliet	Cornerstone Services
Crisis Line of Will County	Groundwork
Illinois Dept. of Employment Security	Lamb's Fold Women's Center
Morningstar Mission	Shepherd's House
Trinity Services	United Way of Will County
Will County Center for Community Concerns	Will County Community Development Dept
Will County Habitat for Humanity	Will County Regional Office of Education

The County proposes to fund \$100,000 in CDBG Program Year 2005 funds, which provides direct administrative staff support to the H.M.I.S. initiative as a Targeted Activity (non-competitive) to demonstrate its strong support for unifying community efforts to determine and solve homeless problems. Included also in this investment is \$16,000 in CDBG funds for match required for the Technology HMIS initiative mandated by HUD, and \$20,000 for SuperNofa application preparation other Continuum based activities as deemed appropriate.

Specific Activities to Address Emergency Shelter and Transitional Housing Needs

The County proposes to undertake the following specific activities to address emergency shelter needs; transitional housing needs; transitional services leading to independent living; and homeless prevention:

- 1) To provide staff and financial support as indicated above.
- 2) To provide County Board representation on the Continuum's Steering Committee.
- 3) To foster continued relationships with homeless social service providers in order to

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- understand how local governmental polices can best serve the needs of the homeless and those at-risk.
- 4) To support and participate in the annual Federal SuperNofa application process, including participation on the Continuum’s ranking committee, to assist local service providers in securing funding for numerous eligible homeless programs.
 - 5) To provide staff support to chair the Continuum’s Ranking Committee and to work with local service providers to assist in filling gaps.
 - 6) Through its strong Continuum linkage with homeless service providers, work to connect low-income households to the County’s “FirstHome” first-time home buyer program funded through the HOME program (see program description in this document);

 - 7) Through its strong Continuum linkage with homeless service providers, work to provide both a Tier 1 and Tier 2 transitional housing program (leading to self-sufficiency) to all appropriate homeless candidates in Will County; “ADVANCE” is a Tier 2 tenant-based rental assistance program combined with a case management self-sufficiency program that is funded (rental subsidy portion) with the County’s HOME program funds.

Activities to Address the Special Needs of Persons Who Are Not Homeless

As stated above, the County’s extensive involvement in the Continuum of Care system provides an ongoing linkage to a broad range of service providers who utilize the Continuum forum for information exchange and problem-solving. These providers include those who represent the needs of special populations who are not homeless, giving the County direct participation in these issues as well. Providers include:

Provider Organization In Continuum of Care	Subpopulation Served
Senior Services Center	Elderly/Frail Elderly
Cornerstone Services	Developmentally Disabled
Trinity Services	Mentally Disabled
Center for Independent Living	Physically Disabled
Stepping Stones & Lifeworks	Substance Abuse
AIDS Ministry of Illinois	Persons with HIV/AIDS
Housing Authority of Joliet	Public Housing Residents
Veterans Assistance Commission	Veterans
Groundwork	Victims of Domestic Violence
Guardian Angel Home & Aunt Martha’s Youth Services & Children’s Advocacy Center	Youth

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