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JB Pritzker, Governor

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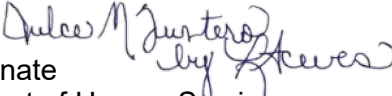
Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary Designate

100 South Grand Avenue, East • Springfield, Illinois 62762  
401 South Clinton Street • Chicago, Illinois 60607

DATE: November 3, 2024

## **MEMORANDUM**

TO: The Honorable John F. Curran, Senate Minority Leader  
The Honorable Don Harmon, Senate President  
The Honorable Tony McCombie, House Minority Leader  
The Honorable Emanuel "Chris" Welch, Speaker of the House

FROM: Dulce Quintero   
Secretary Designate  
Illinois Department of Human Services

SUBJECT: **Home Illinois FY24 Annual Report**

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The Illinois Department of Human Services respectfully submits the Home Illinois FY24 Annual Report on behalf of the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness in order to fulfill the requirements set forth in Public Act 103-0269.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Christine Haley, Chief Homelessness Officer, at [homeless.office@illinois.gov](mailto:homeless.office@illinois.gov).

cc: The Honorable JB Pritzker, Governor  
John W. Hollman, Clerk of the House  
Tim Anderson, Secretary of the Illinois Senate  
Legislative Research Unit  
State Government Report Center



State of Illinois  
Illinois Department of Human Services



# HOME ILLINOIS: ILLINOIS' PLAN TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

## Annual Report

November 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

OFFICE TO PREVENT AND END HOMELESSNESS

OCTOBER 2024





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# WHO WE ARE

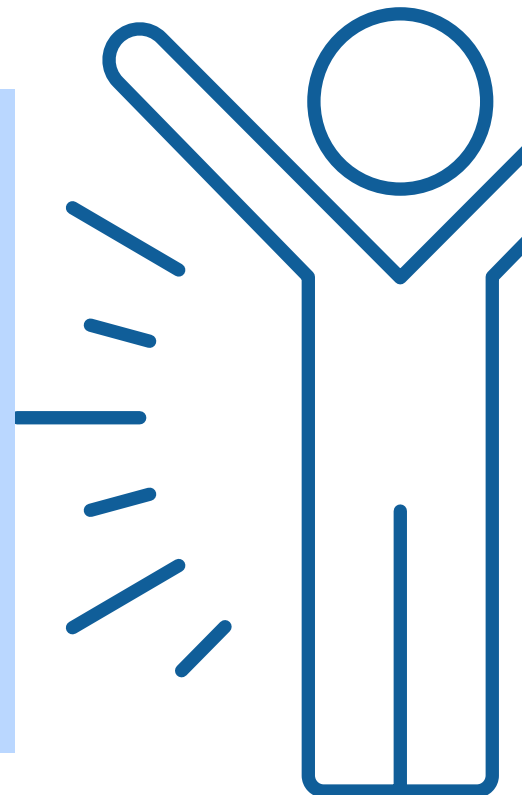
## VISION



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 Illinoisans facing homelessness and housing insecurity.



# ILLINOIS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON HOMELESSNESS

**Delrice Adams**, Executive Director, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

**Brian Durham**, Executive Director, Illinois Community College Board

**Kristin Faust**, Executive Director, Illinois Housing Development Authority

**Christine Haley**, Chief, Illinois Office to Prevent and End Homelessness (Chair)

**Latonya Hughes**, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Corrections

**Representative Lilian Jimenez**, State Representative 4th District

**Senator Adriane Johnson**, State Senator 30th District

**Brendan Kelly**, Director, Illinois State Police

**Mary Killough**, Acting Director, Illinois Department on Aging

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**Heidi Mueller**, Director, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services

**Ginger Ostro**, Executive Director, Illinois Board of Higher Education

**Terry Prince**, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

**Dulce Quintero**, Secretary Designate, Illinois Department of Human Services

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**Robert Vickery**, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice

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**Elizabeth Whitehorn**, Acting Director, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services

**Katherine Ulmer**, State Coordinator for McKinney-Vento Homeless Education, Illinois State Board of Education

# COMMON ACRONYMS

ARPA	American Rescue Plan Act
CoC	Continuum of Care
DoE	U.S. Department of Education
HUD	U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development
HMIS	Homeless Management Information System
IBHE	Illinois Board of Higher Education
ICCB	Illinois Community College Board
ICJIA	Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
DoA	Illinois Department on Aging
DCFS	Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
DCEO	Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
IDOC	Illinois Department of Corrections
IDES	Illinois Department of Economic Security
HFS	Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
IDHS	Illinois Department of Human Services
IDJJ	Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice
IDPH	Illinois Department of Public Health
IDVA	Illinois Housing Development Authority
OPEH	Illinois Office to Prevent & End Homelessness
ISBE	Illinois State Board of Education
ISP	Illinois State Police
PSH	Permanent Supportive Housing
PIT	Point-in-Time Count
PHA	Public Housing Authority
SRN	Statewide Referral Network
USICH	U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness

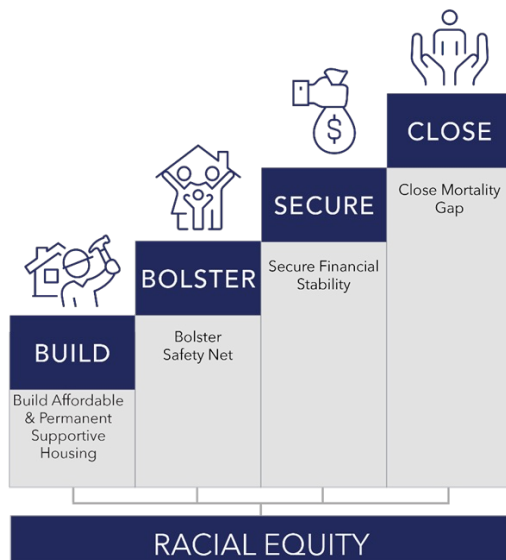
# ILLINOIS PLAN TO PREVENT & END HOMELESSNESS

NOVEMBER 1, 2023-JUNE 30, 2024

The Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness delivers the FY2024 Annual Update on implementation of Home Illinois FY23-24: Illinois' Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness (Plan). The Plan is the framework for Illinois to meet the goals outlined in the Public Act 103-0269:

- Address homelessness and reach functional zero of homelessness
- Address unnecessary institutionalization
- Improve health and human services outcomes for people experiencing homelessness
- Strengthen the safety nets that contribute to housing stability

The organizing themes of the Plan are:



1. building affordable and permanent supportive housing,
2. bolstering safety nets,
3. securing financial stability, and
4. closing the mortality gap between people experiencing homelessness and the general population.

All Home Illinois activities drive toward at least one of these core goals.

Underlying the organizing pillars, the foundational goal of the plan is ending the racial disparity that exists in homelessness. A recent study by the University of Illinois Chicago Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy in partnership with OPEH found that in Illinois, Black residents are almost eight times more likely to experience homelessness than white residents. These disparities are

severe and pervasive and must be centered in our efforts to prevent and end homelessness for all people. This understanding infuses Home Illinois. For information on the data and other context on homelessness in Illinois, see Home Illinois: Illinois' Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness July 1, 2024-June 30, 2026. This second two-year plan is being released in tandem with the FY24 report and contains OPEH and Task Force agency's FY25-26 commitments.



# IMPLEMENTING HOME ILLINOIS:

NOVEMBER 1, 2023 - JUNE 30, 2024

Below, please find the progress made by OPEH, the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness and community partners in the implementation of Home Illinois. The activities reported are in process or completed during this reporting period.

## Annual Updates: Office to Prevent and End Homelessness

The Office to Prevent and End Homelessness implemented the following activities to support all strategies within the plan.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
Policy	Create Homelessness & Racial Equity Roundtable; Commission a study on the root causes of racial disparities of homelessness in Illinois; Create a concrete plan with strategies to end the disparity.	In Process	The report <i>Black Homelessness in Illinois: Structural Drivers of Inequality</i> and an accompanying Action Plan was released on April 25, 2024. The report outlines an action plan to be implemented by state agencies.
Policy	Join HUD and US Interagency Council on Homelessness House America Initiative; Partner with other IL communities participating in House America to set and achieve re-housing families and building new affordable and supportive housing.	Completed	Illinois participated in the House America Initiative, submitting all Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing units entered into the pipeline. The Initiative ended on December 31, 2022.
Policy	Lead a joint Task Force and Community Advisory Council work group on securing access for housing for persons with sex offenses on their record; Explore legislative and program strategies to secure housing.	In Process	The Community Advisory Council on Homelessness (CACH) included the recommendations in their December 2023 report to the Interagency Task Force on Homelessness (ITHF).
Policy	Create Rural Homeless Initiative to understand root causes and structural barriers to homelessness in rural communities; Develop strategic initiatives to end rural homelessness.	In Process	Rural 100-Day challenge completed in previous report.  One recommendation of the Housing Assistance Council Illinois Rural Homelessness Report was to expand housing resources to farmworkers. OPEH has also made invitations to the Racial Equity Roundtable on Latino Homelessness and has included rural Latino stakeholders who can speak to the needs of farmworkers. OPEH directed the UIC - Institute for Research and Public Policy (IRRPP) to include in their scope research on the housing status and housing needs of farmworkers.  Another recommendation of Rural Homelessness report is expansion of 2-1-1 coverage. OPEH is including 2-1-1 strategy development as a continued strategy in the Home Illinois FY25-26 plan.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
Policy	Together with the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security, complete study of the impact of Child Tax Credit on family homelessness; Implement guaranteed income pilot with families experiencing homelessness and/or at-risk of homelessness	In Process	Completed 2nd year of pilot. FY25 pilot will expand access to families identified through McKinney-Vento Liaisons and develop IDHS capacity to distribute cash transfer payments.
Policy	Build the data infrastructure through supporting state agencies in tracking housing status within mainstream service programs; Support data matching activities between local Homeless Management Information Systems and applicable databases to identify target populations for housing and services; Create statewide homeless dashboard to understand population needs and trends; Explore feasibility and capacity for a Statewide HMIS system.	In Process	<p>Homebase provided their projections on State resource needs to be incorporated in the plan. OPEH is working with Community Solutions to create the Illinois Quality Data Collaborative. Six CoC's have joined up and Action Cycle 1 is in process.</p> <p>The Statewide Homelessness Dashboard is still in development. Work is in process on the data foundation for the structure. Exploring a Statewide HMIS system is no longer an objective. Instead, OPEH is exploring replication of California's statewide data warehouse. Conversations with CoCs will commence in the next reporting period.</p>
Policy	The HUD Illinois State Office of Public Housing and the IL Office to Prevent & End Homelessness will convene a Public Housing Authority (PHA) & Homelessness Work Group. The work group will explore local and national models of PHA engagement with homeless systems. The work group will support PHAs in implementation of key strategies to end homelessness. Strategies explored include utilization of homeless preferences, housing & health initiatives, participation in local planning efforts to end homelessness, and community partnerships to develop affordable, supportive and student housing	In Process	CSH convened OPEH and HUD to discuss outreach strategies to PHAs. The group reviewed publicly available data on Emergency Housing Voucher utilization and discussed opportunities to engage PHAs with distressed properties. Activities will continue in the next plan.
Policy	Convene Homeless Youth Subcommittee to support young adults aging out of care from DCFS, being discharged from IDJJ, IDHS-Division of Mental Health and IDOC to ensure discharge planning and procedures support housing stability for young adults leaving State systems of care.	In Process	IDHS applied and was awarded a Youth Homelessness Systems Improvement (YHSI) grant. The grant has two components - a data matching project with HMIS data and data from DCFS, DJJ, DHS and IDOC. UIC- Department of Public Health will lead the data matching process. The second component is youth engagement and empowerment, including the creation of a statewide Youth Advisory Committee. This work will be done in collaboration with the Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee, The Night Ministry and Chapin Hall. The Youth Homeless Prevention Subcommittee which is co-chaired by a young adult with lived experience and the policy leader of youth homeless service provider The Night Ministry.

Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
Policy	Convene a Transit System and Homelessness Work Group, tasked with identifying effective and compassionate models for supporting and linking to housing persons seeking shelter on public transportation.	In Process	DOT, IDPH, IDHS, OPEH and the Governor's Office completed the internal encampment policy. The policy will be updated in the next plan period.
Policy	Convene a work group for state employee program staff to discuss innovative and promising practices, identify areas for inter-agency collaboration.	In Process	Not started during this reporting period. OPEH will convene in FY25.
Policy	Complete an evaluation of the emergency rental assistance and court-based assistance programs; Create statewide homeless prevention and eviction dashboard.	Completed/ In Process	<p>Completed: The University of Chicago, Inclusive Economy Lab (IEL) submitted a working paper outlining the distinct role of homeless prevention programs, such as the Emergency Rental Assistance Program.</p> <p>In process: IEL has worked to expand the reach of the Chicago Housing Stability dashboard. There is not sufficient publicly available data to make the eviction dashboard a statewide resource. However, IEL will expand the dashboard with what data is available.</p>
Policy	Convene Health Care and Homelessness Work Group to advance initiatives focused on improving health and human services outcomes for persons facing housing instability, with an eye towards preventing unnecessary institutionalization in nursing homes and post-incarceration. The work group will engage hospitals and Managed Care Organizations in developing health focused housing development, support initiatives in advancing medical respite/ recuperative care models and explore a statewide flexible housing pool.	In Process	<p>CJIA funds the Chicago and Cook County Flexible Housing Pool for persons with complex medical needs exiting IDOC custody.</p> <p>Convening health care organizations around the data released in the IDPH morbidity and mortality report will be a priority in the next plan.</p>
Policy	Create Homelessness Capacity Building and Technical Assistance Center; Provide technical assistance to state agencies with new legislatively mandated or agency-initiated housing programs to quickly onboard programs; Provide technical assistance to community providers on implementation of promising practices in service delivery which may include low barrier service delivery, serving returning citizens and increasing capacity to bill Medicaid for medically necessary supportive services.	In Process	Pilot year 2 ending, the Technical Assistance Center's ongoing projects include: Data quality Initiative-Phase 2, Medicaid Capacity Billing, Peer Leadership, 100-day challenge, Triage shelter development support, Home Illinois Summit 2024, Evicted Exhibit, Low barrier Shelter Training and Capacity Building, Systems integration for New arrivals.
Policy	Connect with Princeton's Eviction Lab to bring The Evicted Exhibit to communities across the Illinois; Explore opportunities for community education campaigns around access homeless prevention and homeless services.	In Process	The Evicted exhibit completed the first phase of the tour beginning at the National Public Housing Museum in Chicago. The tour has moved on and is currently located in Moline Illinois hosted by Project Now.

# STRATEGY #1:

## BUILD AFFORDABLE & PERMANENT SUPPORTIVE HOUSING

The key strategy for ending homelessness is building more affordable and permanent supportive housing. These activities drive toward the State’s goals of expanding the supply of and access to affordable and permanent supportive housing.

### Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDJJ	Process	Advance homeless diversion strategies by supporting youth transition plans that prioritize kinship and relationship development.	In Process	Family engagement efforts have focused on helping to increase the likelihood of youth being placed in relational or kinship housing. Moreover, the departmental definition has been expanded to include fictive kin. This change provides more supports in the community for youth and additional potential placement locations. Release and discharge planning continues to begin at intake of youth into facilities.
DCFS	Program	Partner with two public housing authorities to administer the Fostering Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative providing housing subsidies to youth aging out of care; Conduct outreach to additional housing authorities to administer the program.	In Process	The Chicago Housing Authority received 25 additional non-competitive FYI vouchers in 2024. This brings their total to 225. They applied for an additional 68 competitive FYI vouchers in the Spring of 2024. The Housing Authority of Cook County currently has 75 FYI vouchers and applied for an additional 75 competitive FYI vouchers. in the spring of 2024. The Housing Authority of Joliet and the Winnebago County Housing Authority also applied for 26 and 19 competitive FYI vouchers, respectively. The Oak Park Housing authority received funding for 15 competitive FYI vouchers last year. The Champaign County, Peoria and Mt. Vernon Housing Authority have already received funding for non-competitive FYI vouchers (vouchers on demand) and are currently serving 14, 2 and 11 youth, respectively. The DuPage Housing Authority applied for up to 25 non-competitive FYI vouchers and are waiting for HUDS approval. In FY24, DCFS referred 219 youth to 6 different housing authorities for an FYI voucher and housed 131 youth. Most of the youth who were not housed are currently looking for housing with their FYI voucher.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
HFS	Program	Implement a housing support services pilot program with federal approval.	In Process	In the fall of 2023, stakeholder engagement and planning for federal approval to implement housing supports began. This process involved sharing information and discussing opportunities with housing supports providers, advocates, and sister state agencies. In December 2023, a working group was formed with representatives from all state health and human services agencies to develop a workplan for implementing various 1115 services, including housing supports. In January 2024, a survey was conducted of housing support providers to inform planning. Later in the spring, a focus group assessed current capacity and identified implementation opportunities. Throughout the reporting period, HFS negotiated with CMS to refine the parameters of the state's policy and program goals to secure demonstration authority for housing supports. As of June 30, 2024, formal approval from CMS for Section 1115 waiver authority to cover medical respite care (referred to by CMS as recuperative care, a subset of housing supports) had not been granted. Approval was received on July 2, 2024.
IDHS	Program	Through the Housing is Recovery Program, prevent institutionalization and overdose deaths, improve health outcomes and access to recovery support services and reduce State Costs; Provide bridge rental subsidies for persons at high risk of unnecessary institutionalization and individuals at high risk of overdose by providing housing to stabilize mental illness symptoms and/or substance use.	In Process	The Housing is Recovery Program has 99 individuals enrolled after the first partial year of services, either in temporary or permanent housing, this is out of a capacity of approximately 225. Referrals have increased in the past month from IDOC, and efforts are in place to increase awareness of this program. The partnership with IDOC has strengthened to include IDOC in monthly DMH meetings. Coordination continues with hospitals and community organizations to identify eligible individuals. A change in the eligibility criteria was passed by the General Assembly (SB3297, awaiting the Governor's signature), which will lower the program eligibility age to 18; this will enable more referrals.
IDHS	Program	Through the Supportive Housing Services Program, fund services for persons living in Permanent Supportive Housing; service delivery includes case management, advocacy, counseling, job training and transportation.	In Process	Funding was awarded through competitive NOFO beginning FY23-FY25 (every three years).

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHA	Program	Release rounds of funding for acquisition, new construction or rehabilitation for permanent supportive housing in the annual tax credit application round; creating an estimated 121 units of PSH targeted to persons experiencing homelessness.	Completed	IHDA's 2024 9% Low-income housing tax credit (LIHTC) round awards are anticipated to be announced in July 2024. During the reporting time- period (November 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024), IHDA board approved a total of 421 Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) units across all funding programs (9% LIHTC, 4% LIHTC, and the PSH Development Program).
IDHA	Program	Units created with 9% Tax Credits will have a 10% set aside for the Statewide Referral Network.	Completed	The 2024-2025 Qualified Allocation Plan (QAP) is still in effect and stipulates all 9% Tax Credit properties in Chicago, Other Metro and Metro Chicago have a 10% set aside for State Referral Network (SRN) units. 9% Tax Credits in the Rural set-aside are required to have 5% due to demand constraints. Further incentives are included to encourage additional (SRN) units above these minimums.
IDHA	Program	Through partnership with CSH, deliver the Supportive Housing Development Institute to increase new PSH development projects; Provide financial support through a Project Initiation Loan Pool.	In Process	IHDA entered into a new agreement to continue the Supportive Housing Institute (SHI) in 2024 and 2025. 11 teams are currently participating in the 2024 Institute, and a total of 27 teams have participated from 2022-2024. A total of 9 SHI participants have had projects submitted and funded by IHDA. An additional Institute will be held in 2025.
IDOC	Program	Continue to support the housing transition of 75 persons leaving correctional facilities by facilitating access to the IHDA Rental Housing Support Program.	In Process	IDOC has referred a total of 138 individuals to IHDA for placement, and 62 of those individuals were placed into housing. IDOC meets monthly with the IHDA Re-Entry Pilot/LAA staff and receives updates in regard to open units for placement/referral. Unit availability through the LAAs continues to remain a barrier with all of the LAAs, especially those outside of Cook and Lake Counties.
IHDA	Policy	Make an intentional effort to expand access to capital for developers of color in the 2022-2023 Low Income Housing Tax Credit Qualified Action Plan (QAP), by including point incentives for projects sponsored or co-sponsored by Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC)-led or governed entities.	Completed	In 2024, IHDA continued to monitor outcome of the point incentive for developments sponsored or co-sponsored by BIPOC companies that was established in 2022 and maintained, with slight revisions, in the 2024-2025 QAP. In 2024, IHDA received 44 9% LIHTC applications, 24 of which indicated BIPOC participation. Final awards for 9% LIHTC credits are expected to be made in July 2024. 6 of the 14 awarded developments in the 2024 PSH Development Program Round X received a point incentive for BIPOC participation.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHA	Policy	Advocate for additional Federal and State funding to go towards the annual PSH Development Round; Maintain the current funding structure through FY23 & FY24.	Completed	IHDA's Board approved 14 developments with a total of 392 units and total funding from IHDA of \$123,080,019 under the PSH Development Program Round X in May 2024. 193 of these units are in developments with explicit targeting for people experiencing homelessness.

## Expansion Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IHDA	Process	Partner closely with state agency and community stakeholders to develop detailed analysis of housing needs for IOPEH populations in HDA publications.	Not Yet	Continue to participate with state agencies to further analyze housing needs across the state for OPEH populations and include in IHDA publications.
IDPH	Program	Administer the Ryan White and Housing for Persons Living with AIDS (HOPWA) programs, providing support services, short-term rental assistance, tenant-based rental assistance, mortgage and utility assistance.	Completed	The IDPH HIV/AIDS Section's Ryan White Part B Program integrates its HIV Housing Portfolio from funds received by the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Housing Opportunities for People Living with HIV/AIDS (HOPWA) and funding from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration's (HRSA). The RWPB Program has integrated its HOPWA and RWPB housing programs to ensure greater efficiency and maximization of both funding sources. IDPH's HIV/AIDS Section awards 7 grantees statewide covering 8 regions who oversee the full-service delivery of Core and Support Services allowed under both these federal awards, which one joint service encompasses HIV Housing. These grants operate on the HRSA RWPB federal grant period. To this end, for the 4/1/2023-3/31/2024 cycle, the current 7 grantees have been awarded and obligated \$23,282,183 in HOPWA funds. As of 7/1/2024, \$21,387,462 has been invoiced and paid by the RWPB Program.
IHDA	Policy	Add persons experiencing chronic homelessness to the FY19 Section 811 Program; Increase of access to \$7M FY19 811 housing portfolio.	Not Yet	In February 2024, IHDA responded to a NOFO for additional Section 811 funding. The intent remains to continue discussions around updated eligibility for Section 811 to include persons experiencing chronic homelessness.

## New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDOC	Process	Explore financial, housing and services models for permanent supportive housing for persons at risk of correctional system recidivism.	In Process	Continue to partner with the City of Chicago's Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS) Spring Forward housing program. IDOC has made a total of 50 referrals and 16 individuals have been accepted into that program. The program has exceeded the housing budget and is not taking any further housing referrals from IDOC. The Justice Advisory Council and Cook County Housing Authority program has not re-opened enrollment to IDOC as of yet. IDOC continues to explore all options for permanent supportive housing for returning citizens.
IDHA	Process	Provide technical assistance and training to property managers on increasing accessibility to units through changes in project Tenant Selection Plans. Partnering with CSH and CoC Coordinated Entry Systems, strengthen referral processes for persons experiencing homelessness to access SRN units.	In Process	IHDA continues to hold quarterly trainings including best practices around tenant selection practices and fair housing. IDHS/CSH has produced a self-paced training series for property managers that includes information on Reasonable Accommodations and other topics related to legal documents and these will be updated to include additional topics as relevant.
IDOC	Program	Partner with the Chicago & Cook County Flexible Housing Pool (FHP) to pilot housing returning citizens with complex health needs in supportive housing.	In Process	53 referrals for FHP have been submitted. At this time, there are 27 individuals who are housed from IDOC and 6 individuals who have been accepted and are waiting to release to FHP. IDOC is in the process of making 17 more referrals prior to 7/31/24. FHP referrals stopped for several months while they switched their contracted case management partner. Their new partner, Wholistic Alliance, is well versed in high need medical and mental health case management and supportive re-entry services; they have been responsive and overall successful. IDOC will place a total of 50 individuals with complex medical, mental health and criminal histories in permanent supportive housing with FHP by 7/31/24.
IHDA	Program	The HOME Investment Partnerships Program- American Rescue Plan (HOME-ARP) statewide allocation of \$62 million will include creating new rental units and non-congregate shelter for homeless households.	Completed	IHDA is still planning to release a NOFO/RFA for Non-Congregate Shelter and incorporate HOME-ARP funding for rental housing into the Permanent Supportive Housing Development Program in FY25.



# STRATEGY #2:

## BOLSTER THE SAFETY NET

Strengthening the systems that prevent people from entering the literal homeless system is a central focus of the Plan. State agencies work with community agencies to provide relevant services including supporting persons who are at risk of eviction, seeking homeless prevention assistance, providing temporary housing to persons leaving carceral systems, and supporting those in need of crisis shelter options. A key piece of this strategy is assessing the amounts of prevention, diversion, and shelter resources needed to meet community needs and working to scale programs to meet those needs.

### Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IHDS	Process	Accessing and maintaining permanent supportive housing for Class Members (CM) and FDDP Participants is a key component to supporting community integration. The bridge program supports CMs and FDDP Participants with access to the least restrictive housing options to support community transition and diversion. The subsidy administrator assists with housing rental payments for CMs and FDDP Participants with or without income. Housing retention funds are also available for those individuals that experience a short-term change in level of care needs, incarceration, hospitalization, etc. The continuation of rental payments ensures that the individual is able to maintain housing and minimize disruption to housing stability.	Ongoing	As of 7/9/24 for FY24, the total # of FDD Participants that have achieved PSH is 196. There have been total of 738 move-ins through the Williams and Colbert Consent Decrees through the CCMTF. In addition, there were a total of 216 move-ins through CTI as of 7/5/24. This is a total of 1,150 move-ins via PSH or some other permanent supportive housing option as identified by the Class Member (CMs) or FDD Participant. Efforts continue to maintain subsidy rental payments for CMs and FDD Participants. Tracking mechanisms are being reviewed and enhanced to improve the identification of the number of subsidy rental payments are maintained for out-of-home stays. Efforts are underway to identify the management and oversight of a referral system to manage Bridge Subsidy program implementation. There were roughly 30 dedicated FTEs among the Bridge Subsidy Administrators that were dedicated to the housing retention and overall program support efforts.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDOC	Process	Through contracted agencies, provide transitional housing upon mandatory supervised release from a correctional facility, including persons with a sex offense on their record.	In Process	IDOC continues to utilize Intensive Reintegration Community Program (ICRP) for placement of individuals with sex offense convictions in need of transitional housing. The ICRP program currently has 13 vendors and 426 beds. At this time, most individuals with convictions of sex offenses are able to be placed at the time of Mandatory Supervised Release. There is still a large barrier for placement of individuals with sex offense convictions requiring nursing home placement or higher need medical or mental health care. There are still barriers for placement of individuals without convictions of sex offenses who are in need of higher medical or mental health care, are unable to live independently, are medication non-compliant, or who have arson convictions or a significant history of violence.
IDOC, IDHS	Process	Identify and find appropriate placements for mandated supervised release for persons with Serious Mental Illnesses (SMI), non-adherence to medication regimens and histories of violence.	In Process	IDOC has 7 vendors who are able to serve the SMI and sex offender populations. One of those vendors has the ability to accommodate individuals with arson convictions, which totals approximately 2 beds. IDOC continues to partner with IDHS and the Housing is Recovery program grantees to place individuals with serious mental illness at risk of homelessness releasing from custody. IDOC has made 122 referrals to this program. 46 referrals have been approved, 20 individuals have been placed, and 11 placements have been withdrawn by the participant prior to housing since October 2023. There is a barrier that still exists for individuals with sex offense convictions, violence or arson in their background and in need of a more structured environment or a higher level of mental health care due to instability, self-harm and medication/treatment non-compliance.
IDPH	Process	Explore policy change to waive medical cannabis registry card fee for unhoused persons with a qualifying condition.	Not Yet	This activity has been on hold awaiting the launch of a new medical cannabis registration platform, which is expected to launch in early FY25.
IDPH	Process	Provide operational guidance to ensure needs of runaway or homeless youth, homeless families and individuals are addressed in the development of emergency response systems	Completed	Completed

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDVA	Process	Promote and partner with the US Department of Veterans Affairs to educate and assist veterans apply for federal VA care and benefits, inclusive of access to VA homeless housing programs, HUD-Veteran Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) and Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF)	In Process	No changes to report at this time.
IDVA	Process	Maximize partnership with Illinois Joining Forces Foundation (IJF), a public-private network of military and veteran-serving organizations to create a no-wrong-door system to support veterans.	In Process	Director Prince attended IJF's Annual Summit in Schaumburg, IL on 5/1/2024. He gave remarks and participated in roundtable discussions that touched on behavioral health, suicide awareness, employment, women veterans, and housing/homelessness/material needs. This year's Summit was also attended by 5 IDVA Regional Veteran Service Officers who also participated in the roundtable discussion noted above.
IDVA	Process	Enhance VSOs internal database system, CyberVet, to promote a warm handoff approach to a community resource when a veteran indicates they do not have an address or are experiencing homelessness	In Process	No changes to report at this time.
IDVA	Process	Foster collaboration with the County Veterans Assistance Commissions (VAC) that provide county resources such as rental assistance, utility assistance, food vouchers; Enhance engagement with Commissions through inclusion in mutual training and services activities and event support.	In Process	As in the previous two years, VACs were invited to our Annual Training Conference, May 6-9, held in Springfield. We have initiated a co-location presence at two additional VAC offices, one will be a full-time office in Macoupin County and the other will be a full-time office in Livingston County, which will be operational in FY25. Currently we have offices co-located with the Will County VAC and the DuPage County VAC.
DCEO	Program	Administer the Community Development Block Grant, providing funding for capital for non-congregate shelter	In Process	The Urban Shelter Construction NOFO was released in February 2024 followed by a Technical Assistance session. This NOFO is specifically for those areas considered "entitlements" by HUD, that receive their own allocation of CDBG funds. Applications are due July 31, 2024. The Rural Shelter Construction program will be for the areas we normally serve with the CDBG funds allocated to the State by HUD. The NOFO is currently being created, and we anticipate will be released this quarter.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
DCEO	Program	The Urban Shelter Construction NOFO was released in February 2024 followed by a Technical Assistance session. This NOFO is specifically for those areas considered "entitlements" by HUD, that receive their own allocation of CDBG funds. Applications are due July 31, 2024. The Rural Shelter Construction program will be for the areas we normally serve with the CDBG funds allocated to the State by HUD. The NOFO is currently being created, and we anticipate will be released this quarter.	In Process	CSBG does not track costs specifically related to homelessness. Expenses are tracked for "housing," which can include "homeless" assistance. While the dollars are not explicitly tracked, the number of services performed for people without housing is tracked. In 2023, CSBG expended \$8 million in providing 81,000 housing services. Of those 81,000 housing services, 13,526 were explicitly identified as services for the homeless population. As a result, we can assume that approximately \$1,330,000 was expended to provide 13,526 services to people experiencing homelessness across the State.
DCEO	Program	Administer federal funding, which provides resources to assist business and industry leaders, policy makers, community organizations and workforce professionals in achieving success under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA)	In Process	During the 4th Quarter of SFY24, Office of Employment and Training (OET) issued the NOFO and held two orientations with interested partners. OET is currently finalizing the recommendations for funding. There will be 5 to 6 grants awarded. It is anticipated that the projects will begin in late summer.
DCFS	Program	Support the Youth Cash Assistance (YCA) program, providing assistance to youth aging or aged out of DCFS care, to stabilize housing situations; Funding supports rent, security deposits, utilities, landlord home repairs, beds, furniture, clothing and household items.	In Process	In FY24, DCFS personnel authorized \$331,142.68 for 214 youth who are aging out or have aged out of DCFS care. DCFS authorized these funds for many purposes. DCFS personnel authorized \$177,009.24 for rent, security deposits and move-in fees. DCFS personnel authorized \$9,777.23 for assistance with utility bills. DCFS authorized \$24,920 for housing subsidies for youth whose DCFS case closed prior to their 21st birthday. The rest of the cash assistance authorized were for items like, beds, clothes, dressers, exterminators, food and other items.
DCFS	Program	Norman Cash Assistance (NCA) funds private agencies to purchase items for families at risk of having their children place in foster care due to issues related to poverty, including homelessness; Funding supports rent, security deposits, utilities, landlord home repairs, beds, clothing and household items.	In Process	In FY24, DCFS personnel authorized \$5,931,318.30 to 4,597 DCFS involved families. DCFS authorized these funds for many purposes. DCFS personnel authorized \$3,210,654.40 for rent, home repairs, security deposits and move-in fees. DCFS personnel authorized \$980,159.50 for assistance with utility bills. The rest of the cash assistance authorized were for items like, beds, clothes, dressers, exterminators, food and other items needed to care for the children.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
DCFS	Program	Support the Youth Housing Advocacy (YHA) program, helping youth aging out or aged out of DCFS care, locate adequate housing; Supportive service delivery continues until the youth reaches age 21, with an extension to age 23 if housed with a federal subsidy.	In Process	In FY24, DCFS referred 341 youth to the Youth Housing Advocacy Program for assistance obtaining and/or maintaining adequate housing. In FY24, DCFS processed \$1,191,279.51 in bills from DCFS contracted housing advocacy providers who reported serving 640 youth (many youth receive services for up to three years). Most CoCs have told DCFS that they cannot provide services required by HUD to youth the CoC identified who receive an FYI voucher after their 23rd birthday. To address this service gap, DCFS expanded services to serve youth that have a FUP or FYI voucher until they turn 27.
DCFS	Program	Norman Services assist families in danger of having children placed in foster care, or unable to return home, due to issues related to poverty, including homelessness; Norman Housing Advocacy (NHA) supports DCFS involved families with housing location and supportive services.	In Process	In FY24, DCFS referred 1,439 DCFS involved families to a DCFS contracted housing advocacy provider. In FY24, DCFS processed \$2,977,693.68 in bills from DCFS contracted housing advocacy providers who reported serving 2,260 families (some families receive services for more than one year).
ICJIA	Program	Continue funding of transitional housing program for persons leaving Illinois Correctional Facilities	In Process	Administered funds to the Flexible Housing Pool (FHP), ensuring that essential housing services were provided to a significant number of individuals. Conducted regular contract monitoring and of the program to ensure effective utilization of resources and achievement of intended outcomes. Transfer to Next Fiscal Year: FHP was appropriated \$1,000,000 for FY25. This activity will continue into the next fiscal year with a focus on expanding the reach and impact of the FHP.
IDES	Program	Administration of the federal Jobs for Veterans State Grant to work veterans with significant barriers to employment, including housing instability; Partner with agencies funding through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, that provides services to assist veterans access meaningful employment and develop effective service delivery systems for homeless veterans	In Process	This is an ongoing activity of the IDES JVSG program; IDES staff work with these current grantees (these can change depending on USDOL-VETS decisions): America Works of IL (Cook, DuPage, Kane, Lake, Will, Kankakee); Of Color, Inc (Cook Co); Goodwill Industries of the Heartland (Rock Island, Whiteside, and Henry); and Transitional Living Services (Boone, Cook, Lake, McHenry, Winnebago).
IDHS	Program	Support the Eviction Mitigation Legal Assistance Program that supports tenants at risk of eviction through central intake and needs assessment, eviction prevention tools and resources, virtual legal clinics, direct legal representation, and courtroom access to rental assistance.	In Process	The Illinois Equal Justice Foundation serves as the program intermediary for the program. IEJF awarded grants to 12 organizations for civil legal assistance, mediation services and technology driven service delivery, providing 130,786 eviction related services in FY24.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Program	Administration of the Emergency Solutions Grant that supports emergency shelter and homeless prevention activities including street outreach, Rapid Rehousing programs and administration of the Homeless Management Information System	In Process	ESG funded services were provided, including shelter and Rapid ReHousing. FY 25 contract is in the process of being set up and approved to be published.
IDHS	Program	The Home Visiting for Homeless Families (HVHF) Demonstration Program ensures home visiting is more responsive to the needs of homeless families, informs practice and policy change, increases integration and alignment across homeless services and home visiting systems	In Process	The IDHS Division of Early Childhood (DEC) continues to implement the demonstration project alongside partners. The DEC is beginning work to develop recommendations for state scale-up and implementation.
IDHS	Program	The Child Care Assistance Program provides subsidized childcare for parents who are working, in school or in a training program. Families experiencing homelessness are allowed a 12-month eligibility period without an activity. From program participation in previous years, the CCAP anticipates serving 628 children experiencing homelessness in FY23.	In Process	The Division's Child Care Assistance Program continues to support families experiencing homelessness via exceptions to general eligibility requirements. This is a permanent feature of the program.
IDHS	Program	Administer the federal Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH) program, serving persons with a Serious Mental Illness (SMI) and experiencing homelessness through street outreach and referrals to housing, primary care, job training and educational services.	In Process	The FY25 competitive NOFO process was recently completed; IDHS Department of Mental Health (DMH) now has nine providers providing coverage to most of the State. Some areas lost coverage in the current competitive process, but DMH is collaborating with other community mental health providers and Continuums of Care to ensure that individuals continue to receive services. The PATH Provider Conference was held in June 2024, and it was well attended and received. The feedback that was gathered from surveys will be used to tailor more training topics for the upcoming year.
IDHS	Program	Under the Williams Consent Decree implementation, the IDHS-funded Front Door Diversion Program (FDDP) evaluates and offers Medicaid eligible persons Community-Based services and supports prior to admission to a Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitation Facility (SMHRF). Housing assistance, provision of basic needs, and supportive/healthcare services are provided to these individuals to avoid admission into a SMHRF after experiencing a mental health crisis and remain in a Community-Based Setting.	Ongoing	For FY24, the total diverted consumers as of 7.9.24 is 453 individuals. We have achieved the State's IP commitment of offering support services and housing to FD eligible individuals; the State has diverted 93% of individuals following an accepted offer of community-based services and supports. The program has 151 transitional housing units for individuals in need of a safe, transitional housing option post diversion. Pilot efforts are underway to secure providers to support individual access to community-based services and supports under FDD regardless of their location at the time of referral to the program.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDJJ	Program	Fund community based Therapeutic Residential, Transitional Living Program and Independent Living Programs for youth in custody with the IL Department of Juvenile Justice; Youth complete their sentence in community-based re-entry settings	In Process	During this reporting period, an additional Transitional Living/Foster Home placement provider has been contracted with to provide services to youth leaving facilities. Also, an additional inpatient and outpatient substance abuse provider has been contracted with to provide services to youth leaving facilities and or in community in need of substance abuse re-entry services. For 22 total housing vendors.
IDVA	Program	Strengthen and bring awareness to Prince Home, a housing program serving 15 veterans experiencing homelessness	In Process	The Prince Home has continued to foster and promote independence while creating a sense of community among the residents. We continue to encourage community involvement by inviting community partners in to educate veterans on topics such as obtaining VA Service-Connected Disability Benefits, Education Benefits, and accessing employment opportunities.
IDVA	Program	Administer the Veterans Cash Grant Program, that supports agencies providing homeless services, employment and training programs	In Process	From 11/1/2023-6/30/2024, the Veterans Cash Grant Program awarded \$300,000 in grants under the homelessness funding category. During that same time period the following amounts were awarded for additional categories that can directly impact homelessness issues: Behavioral Health - \$247,487, Employment Training - \$394,369, Emergency Assistance - \$50,000.
ISBE	Program	Administer the Federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Funding, supporting local school districts address the needs of students experiencing homelessness and housing instability; Services provided include tutoring, supplemental instruction, professional development for educators on the needs of homeless students, and before and after school programs.	In Process	This work is continuing.
ISBE	Program	Lead Area McKinney-Vento Liaisons facilitate access to homeless assistance trainings on a monthly basis to school districts, families and the larger community.	In Process	This work is continuing.
ISBE	Program	Award funding from the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relive Fund II & III Community Partnership Grants; Homeless students are prioritized for projects where schools work in partnership with local communities to assess and meet the immediate pandemic-related, or social emotional, and/or trauma needs identified	In Process	This funding ends September 30, 2024.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
ISBE	Program	Administer the American Rescue Plan - Homeless Children and Youth Funds to support housing insecure students; Activities include increasing outreach and identification of students experiencing homelessness, hiring systems navigators to help families and youth access education and offering early childhood education services for young children experiencing homelessness.	In Process	This funding ends September 30, 2024.
ISP	Program	Conduct trainings to ensure ISP personnel are informed on most effective and informed method to interact with persons experiencing homelessness and carry lessons learned over into interactions with other law enforcement officers when serving with officers of other jurisdictions or assisting with relocation efforts.	In Process	No changes to report at this time.

## Expansion Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDJJ	Process	Increase agency capacity to strengthen and sustain housing supports for youth, such as employment and education activities	In Process	Chapin Hall has an ongoing contract to provide technical assistance and research in building a stronger, more comprehensive service map. Regular meetings occur to help shape these deliverables and ensure that the work provides utility to the Department.
IDHS	Program	Through the Emergency and Transitional Housing Program, provide funding for community-based crisis housing for persons experiencing or at risk of homelessness, including emergency, overnight, motel/ hotel based and transitional housing programs.	Completed	17,841 households were served in FY24. Funding was awarded through competitive NOFO beginning FY23-FY25 (every three years).
IDHS	Program	Homeless Youth Services	In Process	All currently funded FY24 Homeless Youth grantees were offered an opportunity to request additional funding if they were in a position to expand services to increase the number of available beds/slots and serve more youth. 18 existing Homeless Youth grantees submitted proposals to expand. 18 providers were awarded \$3M in expansion funding for the final 3 quarters of FY24. FY25 grants have been processed that include annualized funding for those 18 expansion providers totaling \$4M.



Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Program	Funding short-term housing and services for survivors of domestic violence inclusive of shelter and transitional housing programs, landlord advocacy, case management and safety planning.	In Process	<p>One Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for domestic violence health services was supported by state general and federal funds. This NOFO provided enhanced supportive services for survivors that are safe and accessible, where they need them, most ensuring the safety, sustainability, and capacity building of domestic violence advocacy workforce during and after the COVID 19 pandemic. Prior NOFO agreements were renewed for expanded services and supported community-based efforts addressing the comprehensive needs of domestic violence, including addressing counseling, advocacy, and shelter needs. Sheltering for victims includes, emergency shelter stays at domestic violence facilities, hotel placement, temporary refuge, short term rental assistance, and relocation expenses. In addition to community-based efforts, IDHS funding has been directed toward building the capacity of the statewide victim service networks. Specifically, training and technical assistance geared toward building the capacity of local programs has been prioritized as the complexity of individual and agency needs was exasperated as a result of the pandemic. This entails working with local Domestic Violence agencies building a capacity in fiscal, administrative, and programmatic functions to better position victim services to meet the needs of survivors, including housing stability.</p>
IDPH	Program	Support the development of a Statewide 2-1-1 system, to ensure equitable access to homeless services and supports and strengthen the crisis safety net.	In Process	<p>In FY24, DHS continued work to support the development of a Statewide 2-1-1 system, to ensure equitable access to homeless services and supports and strengthen the crisis safety net. The Office of Preparedness and Response awarded United Way Lake County \$1.8 million in funding for statewide 2-1-1 coverage and expansion on behalf of 211 Illinois. From January 1, 2023 - June 30, 2024, 211 Illinois has disbursed funds to local 211 Contact Centers and United Way and Health Department partners across the state. This has uplifted 2-1-1 service coverage from 38% to 97% of the state population with 85% of the counties covered, the coverage goal for FY24.</p>

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Policy	Provide training and technical assistance to Division of Substance Use, Prevention and Recovery grantees on implementation of harm reduction practices and low-barrier services to expand access for those currently using substances to crisis, transitional and permanent housing resources.	In Process	SUPR utilizes their medical director and other staff to provide training on harm reduction and recovery services in our housing programs. SUPR is also contracting with the IDPH to provide opioid settlement funds to expand harm reduction/syringe service programs across the state.

## New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
DCFS	Process	Engage homeless youth providers to determine if youth shelter licensing standards need to be updated in relation to federal Runaway and Homeless Youth Act regulations.	Not Yet	DCFS reached out to the Night Ministry and the Chicago Coalition for the Homeless to further explore this need.
ICCB, IBHE, IOPEH	Process	Collaborate with the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security to advance activities to build a strong health and human service workforce pipeline; Explore homeless services course work and certification process for homeless housing and services workforce.	In Process	The ICCB worked closely with IBHE to plan convenings, and the full-day Summit for HOUSE Liaisons. Additionally, the ICCB and the IBHE collaborated on HOUSE Liaison reporting requirements to ensure that data collection was consistent across both systems. ICCB attended the HOME Illinois Summit in June 2024 and gained insight into the needs of self-advocates, the community, and community college HOUSE Liaisons. ICCB participated in a webinar with the IBHE and the Illinois State Board of Education's McKinney-Vento Liaison to provide an update for the K-12 system on the supports available to students as they transition from K-12 to post-secondary education. ICCB attended a two-day Postsecondary Student Basic Needs Security in the Great Lakes Convening, which provided the opportunity to collaborate with stakeholders in Illinois and throughout the Midwest to enhance supports for students. Information gleaned from this event will be used to help support HOUSE Liaisons in their work.
IDHS	Process	The Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) will explore the current community intervention service/rate and support housing recovery specialists at treatment sites.	In Process	IDHS continues to work with providers and partners to develop and coordinate housing related SUD services.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS, IBHE, ICCB	Process	Collaborate with the Illinois Commission on Poverty Elimination and Economic Security to advance activities to build a strong health and human service workforce pipeline; Explore homeless services course work and certification process for homeless housing and services workforce.	In Process	Northern Illinois University (NIU) is completing a study on the homeless services workforce. NIU completed a survey with homeless service providers to understand needs within the workforce, including staff at shelters and permanent supportive housing programs. This report will inform the strategies needed to stabilize the homelessness workforce. The full report is expected to be released in FY25.
IDHS	Process	Review reporting requirements within the Division of Family Services Homeless Services Bureau to identify ability to implement reporting efficiencies with HUD homeless standardized reports.	In Process	Initial discussions with IDHS technical staff indicate it is a one-to-two-year process to implement any changes to custom data portal.
IDHS	Process	The Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery will explore the current community intervention service/rate and support housing recovery specialists at treatment sites.		SUPR will work with providers and partners to develop and coordinate housing related SUD services to ensure that housing residents are able to access clinically appropriate treatment and recovery services.
IDoA	Process	Enhance data collection by adding "homeless" and "at risk of homelessness" to the Community Care Program (CCP) intake form, allowing Care Coordination Units to better respond to older adult housing stability.	In Process	Enhanced data collection by adding "homeless" and "at risk of homelessness" to the Community Care Program (CCP) intake form, allowing Care Coordination Units to better respond to older adult housing stability.
IDOC	Process	Hire a Special Populations Statewide Coordinator to identify additional housing options for individuals with residency restrictions, mental and physical health barriers.	In Process	A person hired into this position on 12/16/23.
IDPH	Process	Maintain communication and relationship with Interagency Task Force to assess and define IDPH contributions.	In Process	IDPH remains in close contact with the State Homelessness Chief to coordinate efforts and hired an IDPH Senior Policy Advisor in March 2024, who will focus on Home Illinois-related work and co-reports to IDPH and to the Office to Prevent and End Homelessness. IDPH is excited to have increased capacity around homelessness through this position.
IDVA	Process	Explore statewide alignment with Unite Us, a shared technology platform to support meaningful collaboration and care-coordination.	In Process	No changes to report at this time.
DCEO	Program	Administer the Community Development Block Grant, providing funding for capital for non-congregate shelter	In Process	Will seek a suitable eligible grantee from the applications that are currently coming in.
DCEO	Program	Administer the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), which provides rental and mortgage assistance, motel vouchers and shelter services.	In Process	During the 4th Quarter of SFY24, the CSBG program executed the \$300,000 of discretionary funds to the migrant/seasonal farmworker organizations.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IBHE, ICCB	Program	Create the administrative infrastructure necessary for the implementation of Public-Act 102-0083, The Higher Education Housing Opportunities Act; Establish the role of homeless liaison as an advocate and resource for homeless students, improve the accessibility and affordability of on-campus housing, require universities and colleges to track and report data on the number of students experiencing homelessness to Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board.	In Process	<p>In FY 2024, IBHE awarded 10 Ending Student Housing Initiative (ESHI) grants of up to \$200,000 each. Awardee institutions have used the funding to address student homelessness and basic needs insecurity through activities such as student bridge programs, creation of off-campus emergency housing, rental and utilities assistance, childcare assistance, and textbook and/or technology loaning programs. After collecting the required information from institutions under the Higher Education Housing and Opportunities Act, IBHE released the first annual report on students experiencing homelessness and youth in care in April 2024. One major finding from the report was a lack of appropriate data collection and tracking on this student population at the institution level. Because of this, one of IBHE's goals for 2024-2026 includes improving knowledge about required data collection and tracking. In May 2024, IBHE in partnership with ICCB hosted the second annual HOUSE Liaison Conference, which was expanded to an entire day (only a half-day conference in 2023) with 2 plenary sessions, and 15 different breakout sessions for HOUSE Liaisons to choose from. Over 100 individuals involved in this work attended the day-long Conference. Throughout FY 24, IBHE has continued to work with ISBE to facilitate a smooth transition from high school to college for McKinney-Vento Students. In March, an IBHE staff member participated in a roundtable at ISBE's McKinney-Vento Conference. In May, ISBE staff was invited to present at a breakout session at the HOUSE Liaison Conference. In June, ISBE, IBHE, and ICCB staff recorded a best practices webinar for McKinney-Vento and HOUSE Liaisons. IBHE has continued to update its website to provide relevant resources for HOUSE Liaisons. In June, the website was revised to provide information on the revised FAFSA and documentation examples for the unaccompanied homeless youth designation.</p> <p><a href="https://ibhe.org/assets/files/Homeless-Liaisons/2024/Annual_Report_on_Students_Experiencing_Homelessness_and_Youth_in_Care_Final.pdf">For more information, see: <u>ibhe.org/assets/files/Homeless-Liaisons/2024/Annual_Report_on_Students_Experiencing_Homelessness_and_Youth_in_Care_Final.pdf</u></a></p>

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
ICCB, IBHE	Program	Create the administrative infrastructure necessary for the implementation of Public-Act 102-0083, The Higher Education Housing Opportunities Act; Establish the role of homeless liaison as an advocate and resource for homeless students, improve the accessibility and affordability of on-campus housing, Require universities and colleges to track and report data on the number of students experiencing homelessness to Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Community College Board	In Process	<p>In FY24, the ICCB continued to provide information on Public-Act 102-0083 requirements for ensuring each campus has a designated homeless liaison on campus. ICCB continued to update and maintain a current list of homeless liaison designees for each college. ICCB maintained an updated listserv to communicate with campus HOUSE Liaisons and communicated available resources and relevant information throughout the year. This support will continue in FY25. The ICCB reviewed available research numbers of homeless students on campus and will continue strategizing data collection related to students experiencing homelessness. This work will continue in FY25. The ICCB created and collected an annual report from HOUSE Liaisons related to the requirements of PA102-0083 including the services and supports provided to students. The report highlighted the depth of need experienced by many students. This report will be revised and collected in FY25. The ICCB worked closely with the Illinois Board of Higher Education, IBHE, the Chicago Coalition Against Homelessness, the designated homeless advocacy organization, and other stakeholders to revise and update the annual liaison training, which was held on November 8, 2023. This training focused on helping liaisons identify available and appropriate services and resources for students experiencing homelessness, understand the financial aid eligibility of homeless students, including eligibility as an independent student under the federal Higher Education Act of 1965, develop trauma inform approaches, and better understand the supports available to students with experience in the foster care system. This training will be made available in FY25. In partnership with the ICSPS, the ICCB maintained and updated the virtual Community College Homeless Liaison Center to support liaisons through professional development, technical assistance, and resources. The ICCB and ICSPS will continue to maintain and update this resource in FY25. In June of 2024, the ICCB provided a three-part webinar series on supporting community college students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. Additional webinars will be provided in FY25.</p> <p>On May 30, 2024, the ICCB and the IBHE co-hosted a one-day, in-person HOUSE Summit bringing HOUSE Liaisons from community colleges and universities across Illinois together to learn how to better support students. This Summit was well attended and strongly received. The ICCB will host another Summit FY25. The ICCB surveyed HOUSE Liaisons in June 2024 to determine specific technical assistance needed to support students. Targeted technical assistance will be provided in FY25. The ICCB, in partnership with ICPSP, created a HOUSE Liaison Handbook to provide a single resource with key information on supporting students experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity. The HOUSE Liaison Handbook will be finalized and distributed in FY25. ICCB continues to collaborate with NIU to track and monitor data related to students experiencing homelessness. If needed, this work may continue in FY25.</p>

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
ICJA	Program	Develop system capacity for palliative care models for persons existing carceral systems via compassionate release.	In Process	<p>Throughout the fiscal year, we have actively engaged with individuals with lived experiences to better understand the challenges surrounding housing security and maintenance. ICJIA has conducted comprehensive research on palliative care and compassionate release models, analyzing pertinent white papers from other states. This effort aims to inform recommendations for a framework that aligns with the needs of correctional facilities in Illinois, continuing into FY25.</p> <p>Transfer to Next Fiscal Year: The exploration of funding and planning for program expansion will extend into FY25, with efforts concentrated on finalizing strategic plans and identifying necessary resources.</p>
IDHS, ISBE, HFS, IDPH	Program	Through the addition of community navigators, establish Wrap Around Wednesdays at central points within a regional area; Serve as a one-stop, single-day effort to enable identified McKinney-Vento eligible families to access a multitude of wrap-around services to meet the unique needs of each family.	In Process	ICCB participated in a webinar with the IBHE and the Illinois State Board of Education's McKinney-Vento Liaison to provide an update for the K-12 system on the supports available to students as they transition from K-12 to post-secondary education.
IDHS	Program	Centers for Independent Living will provide training and technical assistance to emergency and transitional housing providers on accessibility requirements for people with disabilities to increase site accessibility. A fund will be made available to make program and site modifications.	In Process	Centers for Independent Living will provide training and technical assistance to emergency and transitional housing providers on accessibility requirements for people with disabilities to increase site accessibility.
IDHS	Program	Establish a housing navigator role within the seven independent service coordination (ISC) agencies for persons with intellectual/developmental disabilities; Navigators support people matched to supportive housing to ensure a smooth transition to new homes, train ISC staff on housing alternatives, engage with regional affordable housing providers and developers.	In Process	The Housing Navigator program has moved from a pilot to an on-going part of the contract for all ISCs (7 in 11 regions). ICDD is still continuing to support a housing consultant to work with HNs and create a manual. That work will conclude December 2025. As of June 30, 2024: more than 75 people have moved into their own homes; more than 350 people have been referred to navigate and more than 335 have been enrolled in the process; 256 enrolled in Statewide Referral Network (SRN), 6 applied for other housing; 100+ - housing owner outreach

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDJJ	Program	Create a training module for facility and aftercare staff to identify housing resources and begin discharge and transition planning process earlier in the commitment process; Create training module for youth on independent living and life skills.	In Process	Illinois Youth Center (IYC) - St. Charles has been repurposed as an emerging adult center that is focused on job readiness and vocational programming. Additionally, we have piloted training for staff that focused on providing life skills programming for youth. Currently, all Placement and Day reporting staff have been trained to facilitate the Aftercare Transition Program (ATP) which is a life skills program. Additionally, a selection of Aftercare staff from all sites across the agency has been trained.
IDHS	Program	Pilot test intensive case management for people experiencing homelessness initiated in hospital emergency departments to connect to housing and necessary social services.	In Process	Renaissance Social Services manages this pilot onsite support at Loretto Hospital on Chicago's West Side. OPEH, RSSI and Mt Sinai met to discuss expansion of the pilot to additional sites.
ISP	Program	Convene Illinois law enforcement to develop best practices for response to the homeless calls for service and encampment mitigation to ensure that responses are lawful and handled with respect for the dignity of the individuals involved.	In Process	A best practices guidebook on encampments and police responses was completed.
HFS	Policy	Create a pathway to cover medical respite services within Medicaid.	In Process	In the fall of 2023, stakeholder engagement and planning for federal approval to implement housing supports began. This process involved sharing information and discussing opportunities with housing supports providers, advocates, and sister state agencies. In December 2023, a working group was formed with representatives from all state health and human services agencies to develop a workplan for implementing various 1115 services, including housing supports. In January 2024, a survey was conducted of housing support providers to inform planning. Later in the spring, a focus group assessed current capacity and identified implementation opportunities. Throughout the reporting period, HFS negotiated with CMS to refine the parameters of the state's policy and program goals to secure demonstration authority for housing supports. As of June 30, 2024, formal approval from CMS for Section 1115 waiver authority to cover medical respite care (referred to by CMS as recuperative care, a subset of housing supports) had not been granted. Approval was received on July 2, 2024.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
ICJIA	Policy	Explore ability to expand programming at contracted re-entry transitional housing agencies to include behavioral health liaisons to facilitate increased service access.	In Process	Initiated discussions with key stakeholders, including correctional facility administrators, community organizations, and policy makers. Conducted preliminary assessments to identify potential areas for program expansion and necessary resources. The exploration for funding and planning for program expansion will continue into the next fiscal year. Efforts will be focused on finalizing strategic plans and identifying resources.
IDJJ	Policy	Amend Juvenile Justice Court Act 750ILCS405 to enable IDJJ to pay for housing cost six months post release and/or beyond youth's legal discharge from the department; Upon amendment completion, pilot program to support 10 youth with rental assistance for six months post-release; Develop agency directives to support the initiative.	In Process	Youth Outreach Services has been contracted to provide rental and living assistance to families in need in an effort to prevent homelessness. The contract allows IDJJ to provide services to up to 10 families at \$2500 per family. Additional contracts to provide further services in this manner are currently being sought by the Department.



# STRATEGY #3:

## SECURE FINANCIAL STABILITY

To end housing instability, a combination of increased income and affordable housing is needed. The following activities promote pathways for economic stability.

### Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDVA	Process	Promote services to educate and assist veterans in obtaining earned benefits through Veteran Service Officers (VSOs); VSOs aid completion of necessary forms and compile evidential documents needed to process benefit claims.	In Process	IDVA Currently has 49 VSOs, which, after attrition is three more than last reported 10/23. In FY24, our VSOs have attended 175 Special Events, completed, 3,249 Fully Developed Claims (Rating Ready without further development), 1,255 PACT Act claims, 11,189 claims over all with 33,437 separate forms.
IDES	Program	Administration of the federal Jobs for Veterans State Grant to work with veterans with significant barriers to employment, including housing instability; Partner with agencies, funding through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, that provides services to assist veterans to access meaningful employment and develop effective service delivery systems for homeless veterans.	In Process	Administration of the federal Jobs for Veterans State Grant to work veterans with significant barriers to employment. Housing instability or homelessness is considered a "significant barrier to employment." JVSG staff partner with agencies that receive funding through the Homeless Veterans Reintegration Program, that provides services to assist veterans access meaningful employment and develop effective service delivery systems for homeless veterans.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
ICCB	Program	Administration of the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V); Provide technical assistance to community colleges on how to support students experiencing homelessness and connection to mainstream benefits (e.g., SNAP Employment & Training Program).	In Process	The Illinois Community College Board, ICCB, continues work with the Illinois Center for Specialized Professional Support, ICSPS, to provide technical assistance to community colleges providing support to students experiencing homelessness as part of administering the Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century act. For fiscal year 2024, the ICCB's HOUSE Liaison project leads, Deana Schenk and Mackenzie Montgomery, were the point persons on work pertaining to individuals experiencing homelessness, with Perkins funds being used to subsidize HOUSE funding, to ensure a continuity of support for system HOUSE liaisons, as well as students. Throughout fiscal year 2024, community college Perkins Administrators will be conducting the third iteration of the Comprehensive Local Needs Assessment (CLNA). The CLNA is a required component per Perkins law and is an equity-focused assessment of programs and program of study, including a strong data-disaggregation component. This allows colleges to do a deep dive of their data to determine specifically which student populations are underperforming in which programs. As individuals experiencing homelessness are a special populations subgroup under Perkins, colleges will be able to determine how best to assist these students to ensure their success. In previous years, Perkins funds have been used to facilitate a Poverty Simulation. The ICCB plans to do another Simulation in FY25. This event was successful and well-attended in previous years and is an important activity that helps direct service providers on campus better understand some of the many challenges students face.
IDHS	Program	Support training for homeless service providers in completion of the SSI/SSDI Outreach, Access and Recovery (SOAR) program to support individuals completing disability applications and successfully receiving benefits.	In Process	FY 25 contract is in the process of being set up and approved to be published.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Program	The Child Care Assistance Program provides subsidized childcare for parents who are working, in school or in a training program. Families experiencing homelessness are allowed a 12-month eligibility period without an activity. From program participation in previous years, the CCAP anticipates serving 628 children experiencing homelessness in FY23.	In Process	The Division's Child Care Assistance Program continues to support families experiencing homelessness via exceptions to general eligibility requirements. This is a permanent feature of the program.

## Expansion Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Process	Revise the online application page to the AABD to ensure greater accessibility to the benefits.	Completed	Completed
IDHS	Process	Develop and deliver training materials to all Family and Community Resource Center front line staff to ensure claimants are evaluated for all eligible benefits.	In Process	This service delivery has been included in the ongoing training for all staff and follows the system design in the Integrated Eligibility System (IES).
IDHS	Process	Create and deliver trainings on the Aid to the Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) Cash and Medicare Savings Program to increase access to these benefits.	Completed	Completed
IDHS	Process	Information related to special processing, allowances and deductions for people experiencing homelessness is available to front line staff in the IDHS Policy Manual and Workers Action Guide.	Completed	Completed

## New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDES	Process	Within Title III of the federal Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Employment Services Program (ES), Incorporate outreach and service strategies appropriate for people experiencing homelessness or housing instability	In Process	IDES-ES Program completed and launched a new staff training which will be followed by individual training modules and that will include a module on service strategies for people experiencing homelessness. This past year, IDES assisted DCEO with the development of a NOFO for a pilot workforce program for people experiencing homelessness. The pilot will be funded and managed by DCEO. No additional updates at this time for FY24 ending.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDES	Process	Improve employment related information about persons experiencing homeless by augmenting survey data in the Coleridge Initiative Administrative Data Research Facility (ARDF) Unemployment to Reemployment portal; Match administrative records between unemployment insurance records and the Homeless Management Information System to understand employment stability and industry, unemployment (length of time, take up of employment benefits) demographic characteristics, housing and employment program services access.	In Process	After a series of meetings and period of time to review the HMIS data, the data was uploaded (“ingested”) into the ADRF. The next step will be to match the HMIS administrative data records with the IDES administrative data records already in the ADRF and then conduct analysis. IDES, All Chicago and Chapin Hall also met with the members of the Chicago Continuum of Care’s Employment and Income Task Force to discuss research questions. In addition, All Chicago has convened a regular data meeting with representatives from IDES, Chapin Hall, All Chicago, the Inclusive Economy Lab, and the Office to End and Prevent Homelessness to discuss state-level data projects using HMIS data so that lessons can be shared, and challenges can be jointly discussed.
IDES	Process	Conduct activities to improve equitable access to unemployment benefits; Pending receipt of federal grant, increase IDES outreach to community partners providing services to individuals not accessing eligibility unemployment benefits; Conduct a survey to identify challenges in the unemployment to re-employment journey, inclusive of questions on housing status.	In Process	IDES completed a user-centered design process related to technology and plain language changes for all Unemployment Insurance (UI) correspondence and is currently reviewing recommendations that came out of that process.
IDHS	Process	Together with the Illinois Commission on Hunger, provide input to a study on access to SNAP benefits, focusing on access issues of older adults, mixed status families and families with young children.	In Process	OPEH contracted with UIC Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy to advance a food access study for people living in shelter and in unsheltered situations. IRRPP has conducted focus groups and surveys with people experiencing homelessness, food pantries and shelter providers
IDHS	Program	Through the Welcoming Center COVID Relief Project, provide cash assistance, similar to the Child Tax Credit, for families not eligible for the benefit due to documentation status.	In Process	The Office of Welcoming Centers for Immigrant and Refugee Services is renewing the FY25 Immigrant Family Support Project (IFSP) for six months. For FY25, Illinois Welcoming Centers (IWC) can set aside 5% of their contractual budget dedicated to emergency assistance for individuals and families experiencing a crisis and being served by the provider.

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Program	The Division of Early Childhood will fund the development of an add-on marketing campaign which will intentionally engage families experiencing homelessness; The campaign will augment the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development enrollment campaign to focus awareness of early childhood education services to Child Care Assistance Program eligible families	In Process	DEC funded an Early Childhood Enrollment Campaign to engage families in the lowest quartile of CCAP eligibility. Additionally, efforts were made to focus on recruitment and awareness of the Early Childhood Workforce. Both campaigns were financed with federal stimulus funds, which will conclude in June 2024. For FY 2025, there will be a smaller-scale marketing effort with The Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies (INCCRRA).
IDHS	Program	Together with the Division of Family & Community Services and Illinois Commission to End Hunger, support the pilot of the SNAP Restaurant Meals Program by recruiting restaurants and persons experiencing homelessness to participate in the program; An anticipated 32,000 Illinoisans will be eligible to participate in the Program.	Completed	Completed

# STRATEGY #4:

## CLOSING THE MORTALITY GAP

According to the Illinois Homelessness Mortality and Morbidity Report 2017-2022, people experiencing homelessness die on average 18 years earlier than the general population. This disparity is unjust and unacceptable. The activities below support improving health outcomes for persons experiencing homelessness.

### Existing Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDPH	Process	Create a statewide population health report on persons experiencing homelessness in Illinois, inclusive of an examination of the causes of death and life expectancy disparities for people experiencing homelessness.	In Process	The initial Illinois Homelessness Mortality and Morbidity Report will be published by IDPH in partnership with the UIC School of Public Health in July 2024. In FY24, IDPH and UIC worked closely on the development of the report, including establishing data sharing, doing background research, writing the report and preparing it for publication.
IDPH	Process	Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) supports a quality improvement network for birthing equity; Hospitals screen for social determinants of health including housing insecurity.	Completed	Completed
IDPH	Process	Office of Disease Control conducts outreach and education on tuberculosis to human services and housing agencies serving people experiencing homelessness.	Completed	Completed
IDPH	Program	Provide funding to test, detect and mitigate COVID-19 in shelter settings	Completed	Completed
IDPH	Program	Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program provides free mammograms, breast exams, pelvic exams and Pap test for eligible women; Community navigation funding used to address housing a barrier to screening	Completed	Completed
ISBE, DHS-SUPR	Program	Provide training and resources to school districts on heroin and opioid prevention, intervention and use.	In Process	Drug education resources required to be available by July 1 of this year. Now posted at: <a href="https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Drug-Education-Resources.aspx">https://www.isbe.net/Pages/Drug-Education-Resources.aspx</a> .

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDPH	Process	Create a statewide population health report on persons experiencing homelessness in Illinois, inclusive of an examination of the causes of death and life expectancy disparities for people experiencing homelessness.	In Process	The initial Illinois Homelessness Mortality and Morbidity Report will be published by IDPH in partnership with the UIC School of Public Health in July 2024. In FY24, IDPH and UIC worked closely on the development of the report, including establishing data sharing, doing background research, writing the report and preparing it for publication.
IDPH	Process	Illinois Perinatal Quality Collaborative (ILPQC) supports a quality improvement network for birthing equity; Hospitals screen for social determinants of health including housing insecurity	Completed	Completed.
IDPH	Process	Office of Disease Control conducts outreach and education on tuberculosis to human services and housing agencies serving people experiencing homelessness	Completed	Completed.

## Expansion Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS	Program	Implement the Substance Use, Prevention & Recovery Permanent Supportive Housing program, doubling the number of households served from 75 in FY23 to 150 in FY24.	In Process	IDHS/SUPR completed their second year on June 30, 2024. The SUPR PSH program is intended to prioritize women, women with children and young adults. At the end of year 2 there were 450 households, housing 589 individuals. Twenty percent of those households were families. Of those families 47% had DCFS involvement.

## New Activities

Agency	Type	Activity	Status	Where we are June 30, 2024
IDHS, ISP	Program	Division of Substance Use, Prevention and Recovery coordinates training and technical assistance to Illinois State Police and other law enforcement partners on Opioid Use Disorder, Medically Assisted Recovery and recovery resources to support first responders in understanding the needs of persons with OUD and to make appropriate referrals to resources.	In Process	SUPR continues to work with ISP to provide technical assistance on Opioid Use Disorder, Medication Assisted Recovery and other recovery services through its Deflection Initiative. SUPR and DMH are also partnering to ensure crisis teams have appropriate training for responding to a crisis involving substances.

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