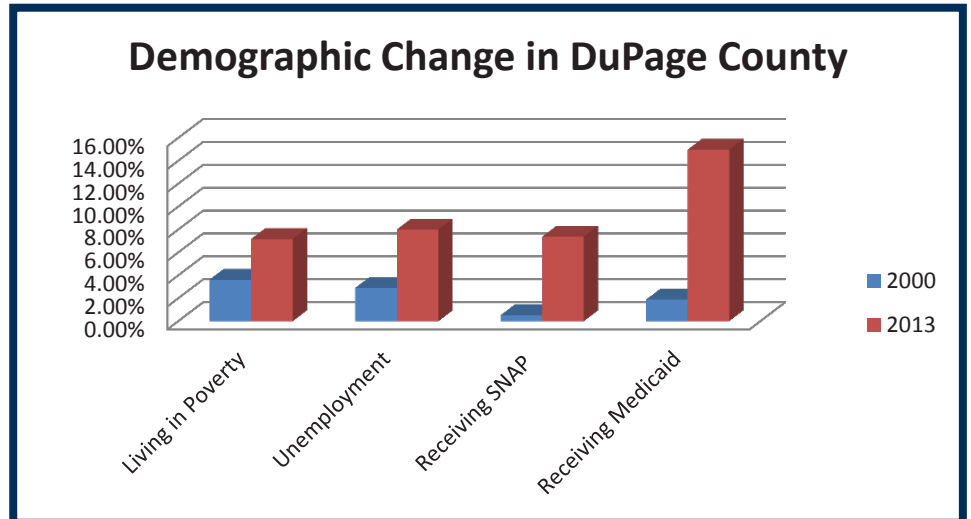


## The Changing Face of Poverty in DuPage County

DuPage County has experienced a significant increase in poverty since 2000. The percentage of children in poverty increased by 66% from 2006 to 2011.<sup>1</sup> The graph at right shows the percentage of DuPage residents who qualify in each of the following categories in 2000 vs. 2013.<sup>2</sup>

- Residents living in poverty
- Unemployment rate
- Receiving SNAP food assistance
- Persons Receiving Medicaid

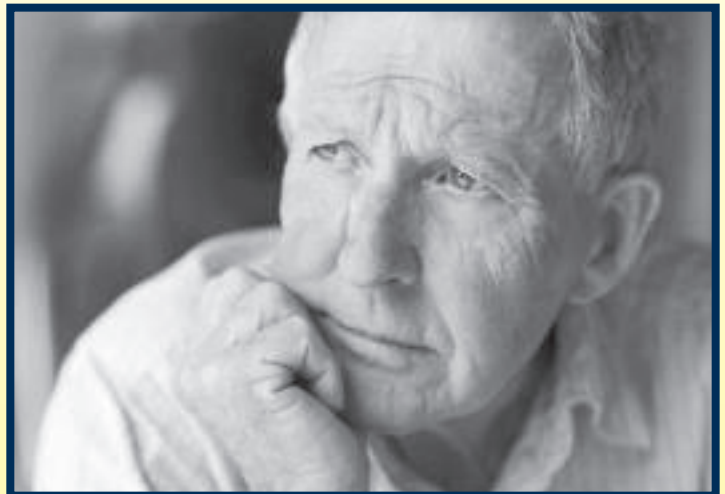


## What's Working

### The DuPage County Continuum of Care

... developing and supporting effective strategies to prevent and end homelessness

- Combining the efforts of 58 social service providers to collectively address the problem of homelessness in our community
- An accurate data system focusing on the services most needed to end and prevent homelessness
- Developing a 5-year plan to address homelessness based on community needs
- Getting a qualitative and quantitative profile of persons experiencing homelessness
- Establishing measurable goals and strategies to respond to housing needs of the homeless



### Causes of Homelessness:

- Mental illness, which if left untreated may result in the inability to hold a job and keep housing
- Substance abuse, which is associated with domestic violence, unemployment and mental illness
- Lack of adequate health care, which can result in deteriorating physical or mental conditions that pose real barriers to employment
- Domestic violence and experiences of trauma
- Inadequate income or loss of a job for persons living paycheck-to-paycheck

## Who is homeless?

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or are exiting an institution from one of the previous situations after less than 90 days.
- People who are losing their primary nighttime residence, or living in a doubled up situation, and lack resources or support networks to remain in housing.
- People fleeing or attempting to flee domestic violence, have no other residence; and lack the resources or support for housing.

## Homeless Prevention...

### strategic and cost-effective

| Prevention services provided:                        | FY2011  | FY 2012 | FY 2013 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of unduplicated households                    | 1,732   | 1,697   | 1,748   |
| Number of unduplicated individuals                   | 5,148   | 4,631   | 4,577   |
| Average amount of financial assistance per household | \$1,129 | \$530   | \$621   |

\*86% of the households served remained housed three months or more after financial assistance was provided. Those served represent less than 31% of households requesting assistance in FY2013.

In FY 2013, a network of agencies committed to homelessness prevention in DuPage County distributed over \$1 million to prevent imminent homelessness and re-house those who have become homeless. Funding was pieced together by a number of sources including County, State, Federal and local charities. The need for prevention services continues to outpace resources with only 31% of requests for assistance being fulfilled.

*(Data derived from DuPage CoC Homeless Prevention Providers Committee)*

## By the Numbers

### Homelessness

|  | FY10   | FY11   | FY12   | FY13   |
|--|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter <sup>3</sup> | 1,486  | 1,460  | 1,384* | 1424*  |
| Number of nights emergency beds were used                        | 48,537 | 54,827 | 55,620 | 64,935 |
| Number of:   |        |        |        |        |
| Single men   | 733    | 639    | 598    | 546    |
| Single women   | 520    | 330    | 335    | 303    |
| Veterans   |        |        | 91     | 92     |
| Families with children under 18                                  | 254    | 258    | 142    | 189    |
| Children under 18  | 359    | 280    | 250    | 333    |
| Children under 5   | 136    | 97     | 104    | 127    |
| Single adults 18-21  | 55     | 57     | 48     | 50     |

### Housing

|  |         |         |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Number of subsidized housing units <sup>4</sup>                    | 6,657   | 6,090   | 6,850   | 6,956   |
| Number of persons on wait list for subsidized housing <sup>4</sup> | 4,588   | 4,588   | 4,500   | 1500**  |
| Rental vacancy rate <sup>5</sup>                                   | 7.7%    | 7.9%    | 6.2%    | 6.3%    |
| Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage <sup>4</sup>      | \$1,015 | \$1,016 | \$1,017 | \$1,117 |
| Average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in DuPage <sup>4</sup>      | \$903   | \$904   | \$993   | \$970   |

### Income

|  |         |         |         |         |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) <sup>6</sup>             | \$674   | \$674   | \$698   | \$710   |
| Minimum wage in Illinois <sup>7</sup>  | \$8.25  | \$8.25  | \$8.25  | \$8.25  |
| Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment <sup>8</sup> | \$19.52 | \$19.54 | \$18.42 | \$21.48 |
| Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment <sup>8</sup> | \$17.36 | \$17.38 | \$16.40 | \$18.65 |

\*Includes persons who accessed emergency shelter services, but did not stay.

\*\*Decrease in number due to persons being unable to be contacted; however this still represents years of waiting.

### Sources

- 1 www.voices4kids.org
- 2 DuPage Federation on Human Services - www.dupagefederation.org
- 3 DuPage County Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities Hope House; DuPage P.A.D.S.; Family Shelter Service; Hamdard Center; 360 Youth Services
- 4 DuPage Housing Authority
- 5 [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pagesproductviewxhtml?\\_af=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pagesproductviewxhtml?_af=ACS_11_1YR_DP04&prodType=table)
- 6 <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2013.ht>
- 7 State of Illinois
- 8 National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2013 - <http://nlihc.org/sites/default/files/oor/2013-OOR.pdf>
- 9 Illinois State Board of Education

### Children & Homelessness

- From 2006 to 2013, the number of homeless students identified and served in DuPage County has increased from 269 to 1,287.<sup>9</sup>
- Access to a free and appropriate education and the ability to stay stable in school are two of the most significant ways to decrease homelessness in the future.

### What's Needed

- Affordable housing and support services in order to remain housed
- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Credit/budget education
- Investment in homeless prevention services to keep people in their homes
- Health care and access to treatment