

July 2012 - June 2013

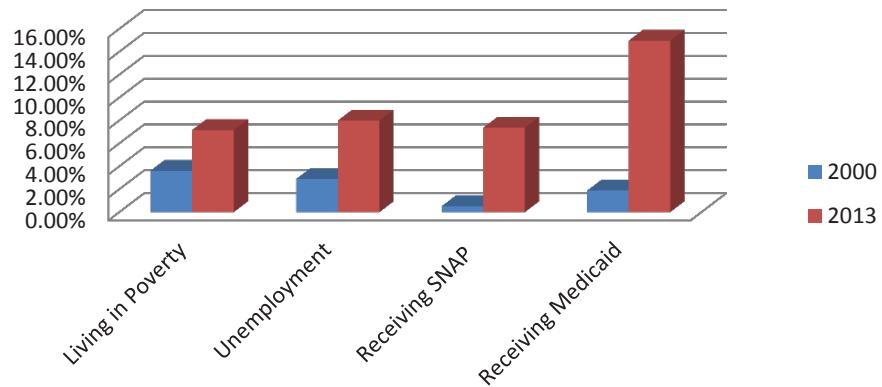
# Snap Shot on Ending and Preventing Homelessness

## 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

Demographic Change in DuPage County

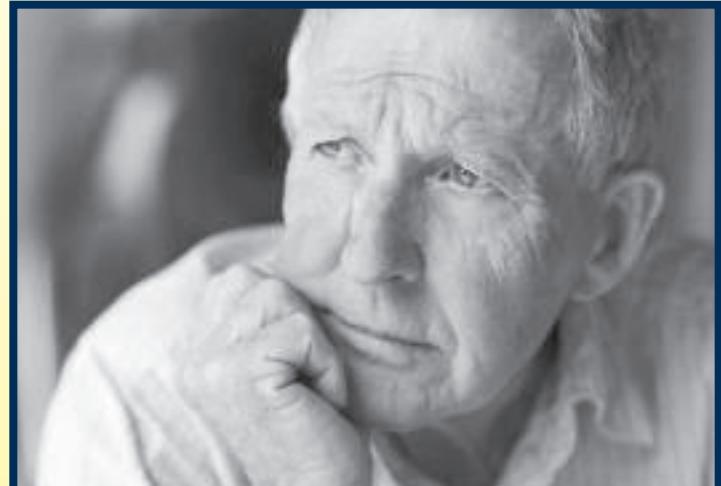


## What's Working

### 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

Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter<sup>3</sup>

Number of nights emergency beds were used

Number of:

Single men

Single women

Veterans

Families with children under 18

Children under 18

Children under 5

Single adults 18-21

**FY10** **FY11** **FY12** **FY13**

1,486 1,460 1,384\* 1424\*

48,537 54,827 55,620 64,935

733 639 598 546

520 330 335 303

91 92

254 258 142 189

359 280 250 333

136 97 104 127

55 57 48 50

### 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.

### Housing

Number of subsidized housing units<sup>4</sup>

Number of persons on wait list for subsidized housing<sup>4</sup>

Rental vacancy rate<sup>5</sup>

Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage<sup>4</sup>

Average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in DuPage<sup>4</sup>

6,657 6,090 6,850 6,956

4,588 4,588 4,500 1500\*\*

7.7% 7.9% 6.2% 6.3%

\$1,015 \$1,016 \$1,017 \$1,117

\$903 \$904 \$993 \$970

### Income

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income)<sup>6</sup>

Minimum wage in Illinois<sup>7</sup>

Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment<sup>8</sup>

Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment<sup>8</sup>

\$674 \$674 \$698 \$710

\$8.25 \$8.25 \$8.25 \$8.25

\$19.52 \$19.54 \$18.42 \$21.48

\$17.36 \$17.38 \$16.40 \$18.65

### 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

\*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; Hamard Center; 360 Youth Services

4 DuPage Housing Authority

5 [http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS\\_11\\_1YR\\_DP04&prodType=table](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP04&prodType=table)

6 <http://www.ssa.gov/pressoffice/factsheets/colafacts2013.htm>

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