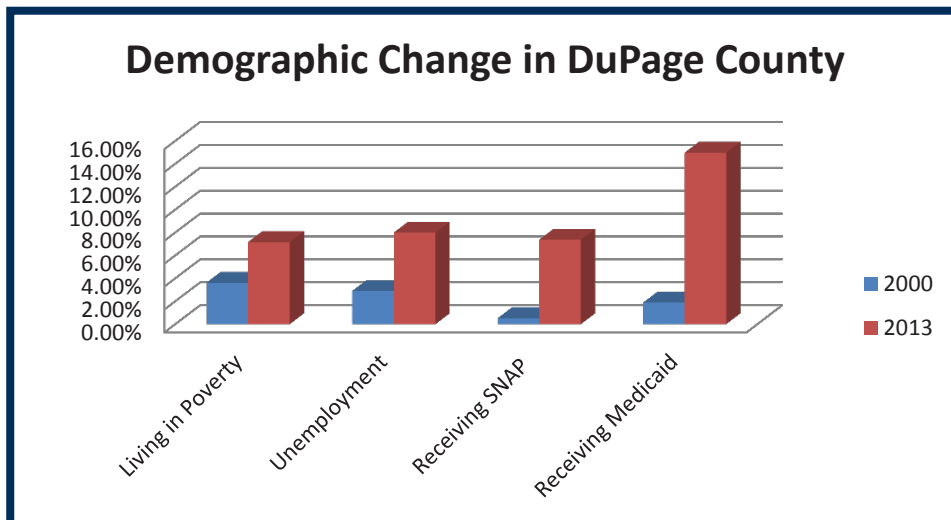


## The Changing Face of Poverty in DuPage County

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

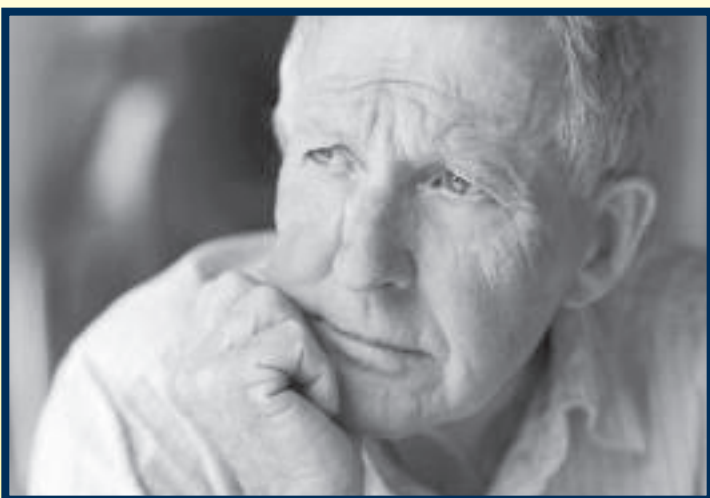


## What's Working

### 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?](http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pagesproductviewxhtml?_af=ACS_11_1YR_DP04&prodType=table)

pid=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