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. The graph at right shows the percentage of DuPage residents who qualify in each of the following categories in 2000 vs. 2013:

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

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

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
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>FY2011</th>
<th>FY 2012</th>
<th>FY 2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of unduplicated households</td>
<td>1,732</td>
<td>1,697</td>
<td>1,748</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of unduplicated individuals</td>
<td>5,148</td>
<td>4,631</td>
<td>4,577</td>
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<tr>
<td>Average amount of financial assistance per household</td>
<td>$1,129</td>
<td>$530</td>
<td>$621</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*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 shelter³: 
- FY10: 1,486
- FY11: 1,460
- FY12: 1,384*
- FY13: 1,424*

Number of nights emergency beds were used:
- FY10: 48,537
- FY11: 54,827
- FY12: 55,620
- FY13: 64,935

Number of:
- Single men: 733
- Single women: 520
- Veterans: 91
- Families with children under 18: 254
- Children under 18: 136
- Single adults 18-21: 55

Housing

Number of subsidized housing units⁴: 
- FY10: 6,657
- FY11: 6,090
- FY12: 6,850
- FY13: 6,956

Number of persons on wait list for subsidized housing*:
- FY10: 4,588
- FY11: 4,588
- FY12: 4,500
- FY13: 1,500**

Rental vacancy rate⁵:
- FY10: 7.7%
- FY11: 7.9%
- FY12: 6.2%
- FY13: 6.3%

Average rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage⁴:
- FY10: $1,015
- FY11: $1,016
- FY12: $1,017
- FY13: $1,117

Average rent for a 1-bedroom apartment in DuPage⁴:
- FY10: $903
- FY11: $904
- FY12: $993
- FY13: $970

Income

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income)⁶:
- FY10: $674
- FY11: $674
- FY12: $698
- FY13: $710

Minimum wage in Illinois⁷:
- FY10: $8.25
- FY11: $8.25
- FY12: $8.25
- FY13: $8.25

Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment⁸:
- FY10: $19.52
- FY11: $19.54
- FY12: $18.42
- FY13: $21.48

Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment⁸:
- FY10: $17.36
- FY11: $17.38
- FY12: $16.40
- FY13: $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.

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

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 Services; Hamdard Center; 360 Youth Services
4. DuPage Housing Authority
5. http://factfinder2.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pagesprodview.xhtml?pid=ACS_11_1YR_DP04&prodType=table
7. State of Illinois
9. Illinois State Board of Education