

## What's Working

### Homelessness is a Traumatic Experience

Individuals and families experiencing homelessness are under continued stress, lacking a stable home, unsure of where they will sleep at night or have enough food or a decent meal. Many have been exposed to traumatic events including domestic violence, physical, emotional and sexual abuse. For trauma survivors, the impact of trauma can be far reaching and affect human functioning and relationships long after the trauma occurred.

"Trauma Informed Care" is a strengths-based model grounded in an understanding of the impact of trauma and responding with programs and services that support healing, increase resilience and reduce re-traumatization.

Several organizations across the county have made a commitment to changing their practices, policies, and culture by adopting organizational trauma-informed care. There is now a shift in conversations of these agencies from focusing on what's wrong with a person to understanding what happened to a person. As this knowledge and motivation for change emerges, real solutions will be implemented to help those experiencing homelessness and to support the county's efforts to enhance safety, security and stability for residents.

### Coordinated Entry System

**Using a standardized system to meet the immediate and long term needs of those at-risk or experiencing homelessness.**

This year, DuPage County has successfully developed a Coordinated Entry system to identify the needs of individuals and families with the longest lengths of homelessness and who have the most severe service needs. By providing an initial comprehensive standard assessment, this process minimizes the time a family or individual experiences a housing crisis and links clients to the most appropriate housing intervention. Coordinated Entry has now produced a list of those individuals and families prioritized for services and housing. The list is being closely monitored for veterans, chronically homeless, data quality and updated for measurable outcomes.



### Street Outreach to Unsheltered!

Now, concerned citizens, businesses and police departments can leave a message at a toll-free phone number with details about the unsheltered individuals. Skilled Street Outreach case managers travel throughout DuPage County and engage those who are disconnected from community resources.

This program provides critical needs, supplies like food, water; hygiene kits; referral information and case management services including assistance in obtaining all eligible mainstream benefits. Many people our Street Outreach Program encounter are without hope, disengaged from the community and no longer accessing services through traditional agency systems.

Help save lives! Report any unsheltered individuals you observe in the community:

DuPagePads Street Outreach Hotline, 866-682-3846 x2275.



Visit the DuPage County Continuum of Care at [www.dupagehomeless.org](http://www.dupagehomeless.org)

## Who is homeless?

- People who are living in a place not meant for human habitation, in an emergency shelter, in transitional housing, or exiting from an institution where they temporarily resided up to 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.



## Children & Homelessness

The number of homeless students identified by the Illinois State Board of Education served in DuPage County was 1,687 has increased from 1,537 last year.<sup>7</sup>

Access to a free and appropriate education and the ability to maintain stability in school are two of the most significant ways to decrease homelessness in the future.

## Call for Action

- Affordable housing and support services for families and individuals to remain housed
- Jobs that pay a living wage
- Job training programs to equip for skills
- Investment in homeless prevention services to keep people in their homes
- Access to mental health & substance abuse treatment
- Legal Assistance
- Transportation

## Homeless Prevention... Strategic and Cost-effective

Prevention services provided:	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Number of unduplicated households	1,697	1,748	1,656	1,534	1,420
Number of unduplicated individuals	4,631	4,577	4,397	3,983	3,629
Average amount of financial assistance per household	\$530	\$621	\$693	\$654	\$625

In FY 2016, a network of agencies committed to homelessness prevention in DuPage County distributed \$887,000 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 25% of requests for assistance being fulfilled.

(Data derived from DuPage CoC Homeless Prevention Providers Committee)

## By the Numbers

HOMELESSNESS	FY12	FY13	FY14	FY15	FY16
Number of persons who utilized an emergency shelter* <sup>1</sup>	*1,384	*1,424	*1,396	1,259	1,210
Number of nights emergency beds were used	55,620	64,935	66,254	68,301	63,280
Number of:					
Single Men	598	546	544	523	488
Single Women	335	303	307	336	324
Veterans	91	92	71	76	51
Families with children under 18 years	142	189	182	164	181
Children under 18 years	250	333	329	303	309
Children under the age of 5 years	104	127	128	134	112
Single Adults 18-21 years	48	50	46	58	41

## HOUSING

Rental vacancy rate <sup>2</sup>	6.2%	6.3%	4.2%	3.8%	4.2%
Maximum Payment Standard Subsidy paid for a 2-bedroom apartment in DuPage County <sup>3**</sup>	\$1,017	\$1,117	\$1,117	\$1,117	\$1,232
Maximum Payment Standard Subsidy paid for a 1-bedroom apartment in DuPage County <sup>3**</sup>	\$993	\$970	\$970	\$970	\$1,055

## INCOME

S.S.I. monthly benefit (Supplemental Security Income) <sup>4</sup>	\$698	\$710	\$721	\$733	\$735
Minimum wage in Illinois <sup>5</sup>	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	\$8.25	8.25
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 2-bedroom apartment <sup>6 ***</sup>	\$18.42	\$21.48	\$21.48	\$21.48	\$22.62
Hourly wage per household needed to live in a 1-bedroom apartment <sup>6 ***</sup>	\$16.40	\$18.65	\$18.65	\$18.65	\$19.25

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

\*\*DuPage Housing Authority Payment Standard

\*\*\*Fair Market Rent Apartment

## SOURCES

- DuPage County HMIS Homeless Management Information System; Catholic Charities; DuPagePads; Family Shelter; Hamdard Center; 360 Youth Services
- Selected Housing Characteristics, 2015 ACS, 1-Year Estimates
- DuPage Housing Authority Payment Standard
- U.S. Government SSA
- <http://www.dol.gov/whd/minwage/america.htm#Illinois>
- National Low Income Housing Coalition, Out of Reach 2016
- Illinois State Board of Education