

**WCICCC Full Continuum Conference Call  
February 11, 2010, 10:30 a.m.**

**Attendees:**

GUEST Gianna Baker, Housing Action Illinois; Kathy Drake, ROE #26; Al Coleman, ROE #22; Melissa Holden, YWCA of Quincy; Lori Miller, Mosaic, Macomb; Suzan Nash and Anne Dixon, Western Illinois Regional Council (WIRC) Macomb; Cheryl Esselman, Two Rivers Regional Council (TRRC), Quincy; Tammi Lonergan and Katy Wiswell, MCS Community Services, Jacksonville; JoAnna Eidson, Samaritan Well, Macomb; Cindy Grawe, Madonna House, Quincy; Lori Sutton and Cathi Swanson, Western Illinois University, Macomb

**Minutes**

1. Welcome (Lori Sutton)
2. Housing Provider Update/Personnel Changes (all housing providers)
  - a. YWCA (Melissa Holden): Vacancy from planned exit and looking for new family. Next planned exit in July for transitional housing so pretty well full. Working with clients during income tax season so they don't make bad decisions with their tax refunds.
  - b. Mosaic (Lori Miller): Three openings available for disability clients, two clients are waiting for DHS approval for openings.
  - c. WIRC (Suzan Nash): One of four CoC-funded units are occupied. The CoC-funded units had been working with McDonough and Warren County Housing Authorities. Due to HUD changes, WIRC needed to vacate units. The two Warren County units were vacated in December. Macomb unit vacant. Waiting for Bushnell client to move to new housing unit. WIRC has been working with HUD on the problems the change in rules has caused the agency. The two DHS-funded units both full with a waiting list.
  - d. TRRC (Cheryl Esselman): Have shelter money available.
  - e. MCS (Tami Lonergan): We have three transitional units: one open at end of March, one newly vacant, and a client is moving in the other unit.
  - f. Samaritan Well (JoAnna Eidson): Some openings available in the women's shelter. Wait list is much better; some individuals on waiting list not appropriate for program. All DHS money received.
  - g. Madonna House (Cindy Grawe): Currently filling a bedroom.
3. Housing Action Illinois (Gianna Baker, new state coordinator, telephone: 312-939-6074, e-mail: [gianna@housingactionil.org](mailto:gianna@housingactionil.org)) – see attached handouts.
  - a. 2010 State Advocacy Agenda (handout): Gianna discussed following agenda items 1. Protect Fair Housing for Seniors in Assisted Living, 2. Restore State Funding for the Homeless Prevention Program, and 3. Emergency Food and Shelter Funding/Rebranding of Program.
  - b. Join the Responsible Budget Coalition (handout): Gianna is willing to work with providers willing to talk to representatives.
  - c. More Details on our Budget Reform Agenda (e-mail handout): Newsletter article with listing of representatives that have pledge support for HB 174.
4. Homeless Prevention and Rapid-Rehousing Program Update (TRRC, MCS, and WIRC)

- a. TRRC (Cheryl Esselman): Still taking applications in Brown and Schuyler counties. Not taking applications in Adams and Pike counties. Funds apportioned in their region by county.
  - b. WIRC (Suzan Nash): Funds not allocated by county but might be a good idea. Eight applicants approved – two for rapid-rehousing and six for homeless prevention. There is also six clients waiting for approval.
  - c. MCS (Katy Wiswell): Taking applicants. Everything running smoothly.
5. Illinois Department of Human Services (Suzan Nash): There was a conference call that Brenda Hanbury, Illinois Department of Human Services had last week about two pots of money available in Illinois. Suzan Nash and Cheryl Esselman were both on the conference call.
- a. Title 20 Homeless Prevention funds: \$100,000 for homeless prevention – 75% grant but with 25% local match (corporate and/or unstructured funds, such as United Way). It was expected that these funds were used up quickly.
  - b. TANF Emergency Contingency Fund (see handouts): \$292 million available for basic assistance/short term programs/transitional jobs. 80% grant with 20% local match (corporate, unstructured, and/or in-kind). Available until 9/30/2010. There will be an application process, but it is not available at this time. Cheryl Esselman added that these services must be over and above the agency base allocation. Cheryl is trying to get better clarification of how CoC are involved with receiving these funds. Suzan suggested that Lori contact to Karen Nino (312-793-2665) as a representative of the CoC. May need schedule an emergency meeting with the CoC to participate in program.
6. CoC Grant - Shelter Counts (Lori)
- a. Point-in-Time Shelter counts basically complete except for one. Will post results on website with the steering committee minutes in March.
7. Other Business:
- a. Received email from TRRC (Becky Pruden) that Two Rivers Regional Council opened a low-cost thrift store in Mt. Sterling (Brown County) called REACHOUT Center. The acronym stands for “Regional Effort to Acquire Clothing and Housewares for Others Under Troubled Times.” Located at 115 S Capitol. Cheryl reported that it is working well.
  - b. Supportive Housing Provider Association (SHPA) Conference Calls: Please contact Lore Baker (217-424-9407, shpa@att.net) if you want to be put on mailing list for monthly conference calls which will be the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month at 10 a.m.
8. Meeting Schedule:
- a. March 11 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
  - b. April 8 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
  - c. May 13 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
  - d. Summer TBA, dependent on HUD grant release date – full continuum, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
  - e. Sept. 9 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.
  - f. Oct. 14– full continuum, conference call/meeting, 10:30 a.m.
  - g. Nov. 11 – steering committee, conference call, 10:30 a.m.

Call adjourned by Lori Sutton at 11:05am.

## **HOUSING ACTION ILLINOIS 2010 STATE ADVOCACY AGENDA**

### **RESOLVING THE STATE BUDGET CRISIS**

#### **Support Progressive Fiscal Reform**

Support progressive fiscal reform to address Illinois' structural budget deficit and restore cuts to housing-related human service programs. As of the beginning of 2010, Illinois is delinquent in paying more than \$5 billion it owes to private sector providers of human and health-care services and others. Going into fiscal year 2011, Illinois is facing a \$13 billion budget deficit and another year of cuts to human service programs.

Overall total state and local tax burden as a percentage of income in Illinois ranks 41st in the country. This tax burden figure includes every tax and fee charged by any unit of state or local government in Illinois, versus those charged by every unit of state or local government in every other state. Housing Action Illinois will work with Responsible Budget Coalition to organize support for progressive fiscal reform in targeted legislative districts.

#### **Restore State Funding for the Homeless Prevention Program**

The program provides financial assistance to prevent individuals and families from becoming homeless and help those who are experiencing homelessness to be quickly rehoused and stabilized. For fiscal year 2010 funding was reduced to \$2.4 million from \$11 million in the previous fiscal year, a 78% cut. While the federal Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) stimulus funds has very similar allowable uses, we need to restore state funding to insure that resources are available when HPRP funds are exhausted.

#### **Emergency Food and Shelter Funding/Rebranding of Program**

Restore prior year budget cuts for the Emergency Food and Shelter Program. The program provides overnight shelters, transitional housing and supportive services. Funding for fiscal year 2010 is \$9.1 million. Funding in fiscal year 2003 was \$9.7 million. We will also request the renaming of the "Emergency Food & Shelter" line item to "Emergency and Transitional Housing." This proposed name more fully captures the role of overnight shelters and transitional housing programs in the long-term process of rehousing individuals and families.

### **ADDRESSING THE FORECLOSURE CRISIS**

#### **Amend State Foreclosure to Promote Loss Mitigation Compliance**

The federal Home Affordable Modification Program (HAMP) is meant to give homeowners with loans owned or guaranteed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac or other participating servicers an opportunity to refinance into more affordable monthly payments. However, many servicers participating in HAMP are not following all of the program's directives, especially the requirement that loans be evaluated for HAMP eligibility before foreclosure proceedings are commenced.

To increase compliance with this program, and other mandatory loss mitigation programs, we propose amending current state law to require foreclosure complaints to state whether the mortgage is eligible for HAMP and whether a HAMP modification has been attempted. The amendment would also allow borrowers to use lack of loss mitigation program compliance as a defense against foreclosure.

### **Cook County Mediation Program Design**

The Cook County Board has appropriated \$3.5 million for the creation of a countywide foreclosure mediation program for borrowers and servicers to be implemented in 2010. We will work as part of the Chancery's Court Mediation and Housing Counseling Subcommittee and other key stakeholders to design and implement the program.

### **Promote Servicer Accountability**

This initiative is designed to track individual loan modification cases opened by nonprofit housing counseling agencies in order to evaluate how successful loan servicers are in carrying out their loss mitigation procedures and how likely they are to work with a HUD-certified housing counseling agency. Through a combination of interviews, reports, and public meetings, we will administer a program that will analyze the success rate of practiced loss mitigation strategies, create communication and accountability systems between housing counseling agencies and loan servicers, and develop appropriate public policy responses.

## **PROMOTE FAIR HOUSING AND HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **Protect Fair Housing for Seniors in Assisted Living**

The Illinois Assisted Living and Shared Housing Act (IAL/SHA) is inconsistent with the Federal Fair Housing Act (FHA) and the Illinois Human Rights Act (IHRA), allowing Illinois seniors to face discrimination and denial of needed services and housing because of race or disability. The proposed amendments amend the provisions of the IAL/SHA that govern the licensing, construction and operating standards of an Assisted Living establishment to reinforce that senior housing providers must comply with the FHA and the IHRA.

### **Affirmative Defense from Eviction for Survivors of Sexual Violence**

Amend to the Forcible Entry and Detainer Act to provide an affirmative defense from eviction from rental housing predicated on the tenant's, lessee's, or household member's status as a survivors of domestic violence, dating violence, stalking, or sexual violence.

### **Not-for-profit Rental of Condominiums and Townhouses**

We will reintroduce legislation to protect the ability of not-for-profit organizations with federal tax-exempt charitable status to rent condominiums and/or townhouses that they own in order to provide affordable housing.

# Join the Responsible Budget Coalition!

*By John Peller - Posted on 09 October 2009*

You thought this year's Illinois state budget was bad? Next year's will be even worse, with a projected \$12 billion deficit.

But there's a solution. The **Responsible Budget Coalition** has united wide-ranging human service groups to back a comprehensive budget solution that will increase revenues while expanding tax credits for homeowners and low-income working families.

Organizations and individuals, sign on [here](#).

Responsible Budget Coalition

## **RAISE REVENUE TO FUND VITAL SERVICES FACT SHEET**

- The current (FY10) state budget of \$26 billion represents a 10 percent cut from FY09 levels. The result is deep and damaging cuts to education, health care, human services, and public safety, and thousands of layoffs of state, local government and not-for-profit sector employees who provide those services.
- The current budget relies on more than \$6 billion in one-time, non-recurring revenue from borrowing, the federal stimulus, fund sweeps and debt restructuring. In addition, more than \$3 billion in unpaid, past-due bills will be carried forward to FY11.
- The state will start FY11—next fiscal year—with a deficit of more than \$12 billion. This figure includes the current \$6 billion in one-time revenue, \$4 billion in operating debts, \$1.2 billion in required pension payments, and \$800 million in debt service. It does not include the revenue needed to reverse funding cuts in the current

budget year. The General Assembly must raise adequate new revenue to close this hole.

- We support a comprehensive tax-reform package following the framework of HB 174, and raising at least as much new revenue as that bill proposed. HB 174 would:

Raise \$5.6 billion to \$6 billion in new, recurring tax revenues, expand tax credits for homeowners and low-income families, and provide additional funding for education, health care, human services and public safety.

Increase the individual income tax rate from 3% to 5%, and raise the corporate income tax rate from 4.8% to 5%.  
+\$6.4 billion

Increase the personal exemption from \$2,000 to \$3,000. –  
\$1.05 billion

Double the property tax credit from 5% to 10% (capped at \$1,500). Make this credit refundable, ensuring that homeowners receive its full value even if it exceeds their income-tax liability. –\$493 million

Triple the state Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) for low-income working families from 5% to 15% of the federal EITC claimed. –\$167 million

Apply the state sales tax to luxury services previously untaxed in Illinois but already taxed by neighboring states. +\$450–600 million

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## More Details on our Budget Reform Agenda

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**From** : Gianna Baker <gianna@housingactionil.org>

Thu, Feb 11, 2010 11:12 AM

**Subject** : More Details on our Budget Reform Agenda

**To** : Lori A Sutton <la-sutton@wiu.edu>

Hi Lori,

Thanks so much for giving me the opportunity to participate in the meeting this morning. I wanted to send you our newsletter article on the Responsible Budget Coalition with the list of legislators we're reaching out to. Anyone with questions, interested in meeting with Rep. Myers, sending a letter to Rep. Myers, or endorsing the Responsible Budget Coalition can contact me at this email address or call me at 312-939-6074.

### ***Support a Responsible Budget for Illinois***

As a member of the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC), Housing Action Illinois has united with hundreds of organizations seeking to solve Illinois' budget crisis.

Without significant reform, Illinois will continue to suffer from massive job losses and harmful cuts to human and public services. For example, for 90 days last fall, after budget cuts and ongoing delays in state payments, Stop Woman Abuse Now (SWAN) in Olney was forced to close one of its two homeless shelters. It is the only agency that provides housing and counseling for battered women and their children in 9 Illinois counties. Although the shelter was able to find the resources to reopen on a scaled back level, future state budget cuts could result in SWAN having to close their doors again.

Last year, the RBC successfully worked with legislators to pass House Bill 174 through the Senate. HB 174 would have raised critical revenue through increases to the personal and corporate income tax, but also have made the tax system fairer by increasing the state's Earned Income Tax Credit and providing property tax relief. The bill also would have expanded the Illinois sales tax base.

However, this bill was never voted on by the House. Now, the RBC is advocating for a similar measure to pass through the entire General Assembly.

We need 60 votes to pass such a bill through the House. So far, approximately 40 representatives have pledged their support to do so. To guarantee passage, however, we need you to help us reach out to the following additional potential supporters in the House:

- Edward Acevedo (D-2)
- Luis Arroyo (D-3)
- Suzanne Bassi (R-54)
- Daniel Beiser (D-11)
- Patricia Bellock (R-47)
- Maria Berrios (D-39)
- William Black (R-104)
- Mike Bost (R-115)
- John Bradley (D-117)
- Rich Brauer (R-100)
- James Brosnahan (D-36)
- John Cavaletto (R-107)
- Elizabeth Coulson (R-17)
- John D'Amico (D-15)
- Monique Davis (D-27)
- Lisa Dugan (D-79)
- Roger Eddy (R-109)
- Robert Flider (101)
- Mary Flowers (D-31)
- Careen Gordon (D-75)
- Gary Hannig (D-98)
- Jay Hoffman (D-112)
- Thomas Holbrook (D-113)

- Charles Jefferson (D-67)
- Kevin Joyce (D-35)
- Lou Lang (D-16)
- Joseph Lyons (D-19)
- Frank Mautino (D-76)
- Michael McAuliffe (R-20)
- Deborah Mell (D-40)
- Jerry Mitchell (R-90)
- Donald Moffitt (R-74)
- Rosemary Mulligan (R-65)
- Richard Myers (R-94)
- Elaine Nekritz (D-57)
- Brandon Phelps (D-118)
- Raymond Poe (R-99)
- Robert Pritchard (R-70)
- David Reis (R-108)
- Dan Reitz (D-116)
- Chapin Rose (R-110)
- Angelo Saviano (R-77)
- Patrick Verschoore (R-69)
- Jim Watson (R-97)
- Michael Zalewski (D-21)

#### **What You Can Do**

##### 1. Learn About the Coalition AND Become an Endorser

Below is a link to fact sheets on the RBC website that you can download in order to find out about the critical need for a responsible resolution to Illinois' budget crisis. There is also an organizational endorsement form for the campaign. We strongly encourage you to join the RBC.

<http://www.abetterillinois.com/tools.html>

##### 2. Participate in the "We Can't Wait" Campaign.

This campaign provides an easy opportunity to visually demonstrate how your organization and the people you serve have been affected by the budget crisis. All it takes is a digital camera, a printer and a few minutes of your time! Visit

<http://www.abetterillinois.com/cantwait.html>.

As a part of the "We Can't Wait" Campaign, the RBC is hosting a rally in Springfield on Wednesday, February 17th.

##### 3. Sign and/or Circulate the RBC Faith Letter

We are working to gather the signatures of at least 1,000 denominational executives, faith leaders, and lay persons on a letter in support of a responsible budget. Over 530 people have already signed the faith letter, which is available at this link:[http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/515/t/10433/petition.jsp?petition\\_KEY=2203](http://salsa.democracynaction.org/o/515/t/10433/petition.jsp?petition_KEY=2203)

##### 4. Connect With Us!

If you do any of the above, or are already supporting a responsible budget, please let us know. We want to connect organizations that care about affordable housing, homelessness AND a responsible budget. We also want to get you involved in the efforts of the Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness, Housing Action Illinois and the Supportive Housing Providers Association and others working to plan "We Can't Wait for Housing: A Statewide Action Day" for March 24. We'll be sending out more details about that soon.

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## USING THE TANF EMERGENCY CONTINGENCY FUND IN ARRA TO HELP POOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN

### The Federal TANF block grant

- The federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) block grant is a flexible funding stream for states to provide a wide range of services aimed at increasing family self-sufficiency through job preparation, work, and marriage.

### The Federal TANF block grant

- Illinois receives \$585 million in TANF funds each year from the federal government, and must use these funds to provide services aimed at increasing family self-sufficiency through job preparation, work, and marriage.
- The state is required to contribute an additional \$430 million as its "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE)

### ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 created a new and temporary TANF Emergency Fund available to states for federal fiscal years 2009 and 2010
- Illinois can access 80% reimbursement – up to \$292.5 million – by demonstrating increased spending for TANF services/activities

### ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- DHS can identify third-party funding that can count as MOE and can serve as the 20% portion of the increase that is not reimbursed by TANF ARRA funds
- Third-party funding can include foundation funding, private fundraising, etc.

### ARRA TANF Emergency Fund: The Opportunity

- Private funding can have an incremental impact on services to low-income families:

\$100,000 contribution  
+ \$400,000 federal reimbursement  
\$500,000 total additional funding

## ARRA TANF Emergency Fund

- The TANF Emergency Fund will finance 80% of the *increased* spending in three categories:
  1. Basic Assistance/monthly cash grants
  2. Short-term, non-recurrent spending
  3. Subsidized Employment

## 1. Basic Assistance

- This is primarily cash assistance provided to very low-income families by the Illinois Department of Human Services

## 2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

To qualify under this category, the service provided must meet the following requirements:

- Designed to deal with a specific crisis situation or episode of need
- Not intended to meet recurrent or ongoing needs
- Not to extend beyond 4 months for an individual or family
- NOTE: these benefits can be paid to others on behalf of the family, such as a payment to a landlord

## 2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

- Funds can be used for benefits DHS delivers directly, or to support benefits or services provided by other government agencies or community-based organizations such as homeless shelters or food banks

## 2. Short-term non-recurrent benefit

- Since third-party expenditures can count as MOE spending, DHS can partner with non-profits or private philanthropy to provide the 20% "match" then pass the leveraged ARRA funds to the partnering agency

## 3. Subsidized employment

- Subsidized employment is designed to help participants enter the labor market through the acquisition of work experience and enhanced connection to employers
- Included are activities like transitional jobs programs that involve payments to employers or third parties to supplement the cost of employee wages

### 3. Subsidized employment

- Transitional jobs (TJ) assists TANF recipients with barriers to employment
- TJ provides a bridge to unsubsidized employment by combining time-limited, wage-paying employment with a comprehensive set of services—including education and training—designed to develop skills and prepare them for success in the workplace

### 3. Subsidized employment

- Illinois can receive reimbursement for 80% of subsidized employment costs over the base period for the full range of expenses related to a subsidized employment program
- Reimbursement is not limited to the actual wage subsidy, but can include the costs of workplace benefits, supervision and training, and administrative costs

### Who can be served with these funds?

- For all three categories, eligible parties include families with minor children with annual income below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL)
  - The family **does not** need to be receiving TANF cash assistance to be eligible
- Under limited circumstances, non-custodial parents may be eligible for subsidized employment services

### Role of the third-party partners

- Ensure spending is on eligible families (families with children that are below 200% FPL)
- Identify 20% funding to leverage 80% reimbursement in ARRA funds
- Formally agree to allow Illinois to count spending toward MOE (contract or MOU)
- Document all spending in all required quarters

### Role of the Third Party

- To be eligible for matching funds from the ECF, Illinois must demonstrate an *increase* in spending as compared to the corresponding quarter in the identified base year
- Even if a third party provided services with no connection to the state, they must document any spending for the required quarters/fiscal years, and demonstrate an increase in order to be eligible for the 80% reimbursement