



# FEDERAL COVID-19 RELIEF: HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS

April 28, 2020



**Now, more than ever, housing is healthcare.**

Congress must address urgent housing needs so that we can all stay home when we need to. The next COVID-19 relief bill must provide for low-income renters & people experiencing homelessness.

## **\$100 BILLION FOR EMERGENCY RENTAL ASSISTANCE**

Prior to COVID-19, **more than 579,000 very low income or extremely low income renter households in Illinois were cost-burdened**, which means they were spending more than half their income on housing costs. Based on data from the Great Recession, **we expect this number will increase to at least 650,000 due to the economic impact of COVID-19**. This funding will help **keep these renters in their homes** and ensure that everyone has an affordable place to stay at home when they need to.

## **\$11.5 BILLION FOR EMERGENCY SOLUTIONS GRANTS**

In Illinois, **homeless service providers have been working around the clock to move people from shelters into hotels, get people off the streets into safe places, and create social distancing for those remaining in group quarters**. ESG funding will help pay for these current and ongoing costs and help meet additional needs, including for those **people not receiving any support at this time**. Congress provided \$4 billion in ESG funds in the CARES Act, but much more is needed.

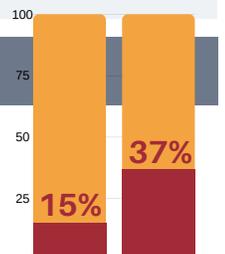
## **NATIONAL MORATORIUM ON EVICTIONS & FORECLOSURES**

On April 23, Governor Pritzker took an important step to protect Illinoisans from evictions by issuing an executive order that restricts the filing of eviction cases solely for nonpayment. This expands Illinois' moratorium on law enforcement carrying out evictions and foreclosures. **However, homeowners in Illinois without federally backed mortgages are still unprotected against foreclosure, and there is still no comprehensive national moratorium on evictions and foreclosures**; instead, a patchwork of responses provides relief to only some and creates confusion for all.

### **NOT A GREAT EQUALIZER**

We must deploy all resources in a manner that addresses historical racial inequities in our society.

**37% of COVID-19 deaths in IL are of Black residents as of late April.**  
**15% of Illinoisans are Black.**



**CONTACT: Bob Palmer, Policy Director, bob@housingactionil.org or 312-939-6075**