

housingactionillinois

HOUSING ACTION ILLINOIS 2012 PUBLIC POLICY ADVOCACY AGENDA

STATE AGENDA

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION
Homeless Services/State Budget	
Restore Funding for Homeless Prevention Program	Secure \$5.0 million in FY13 funding for program, which prevents households experiencing a temporary financial crisis from becoming homeless through emergency rent, utility or mortgage assistance. The program has been cut by 87% since FY08, when funding was \$11 million. FY12 funding is \$1.5 million.
Protect Funding for Emergency and Transitional Housing Program	Maintain funding for program, which supports overnight shelters, transitional housing and supportive services. Goal is \$9.1 million in funding for FY13. This is the same amount of funding as in FY12 after a 52% budget cut was restored at the end of 2011.
State Fiscal Reform	We will continue to be an active member of the Responsible Budget Coalition, working to solve Illinois' budget crisis through mobilizing the participation of community-based organizations in advocacy and public education efforts in support of progressive fiscal reform.
Affordable Housing Production/Subsidies	
Protect Dedicated State Funds for Affordable Housing	Monitor use of Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Rental Housing Support Program Fund and capital budget funding to protect against additional interfund borrowing and ensure that funds are used to meet goals of State of Illinois Annual Comprehensive Housing Plan, including efforts to rebalance Illinois' long-term care system towards community-based housing and create more housing for people with extremely low-incomes.
Rental Housing Support Program Administrative Fees	Pass legislation to ensure that local agencies administering program, which provides rental subsidies to extremely low-income households, continue to receive adequate administrative fees. (On an annual basis, 10% for amounts less than \$500,000 and 7% for larger amounts.)
Housing Counseling/Foreclosures	
Illinois Housing Task Force Foreclosure Working Group	Co-chair of this statewide working group tasked with monitoring foreclosure activity in Illinois, developing strategies to mitigate the impact on local communities, and recommending outreach, counseling and education programs.

January 20, 2012

Support Implementation of the Circuit Court of Cook County Foreclosure Mediation Program	Continue to work with program agencies and other key stakeholders to monitor the program and recommend improvements as necessary. Will also continue to convene monthly working group calls with outreach groups, housing counseling agencies, and legal aid in order to share information and best practices regarding program implementation.
Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Reform	
Tax Increment Finance (TIF) District Reform	Work to secure passage of state reform legislation that passed the House in 2011 but did not pass the Senate due to an unrelated amendment. Legislation strengthens reporting and transparency, puts limitations on the creation of TIFs, and increases powers of the Joint Review Board of overlapping taxing districts (especially school districts).

KEY FEDERAL ISSUES

INITIATIVE	DESCRIPTION
FY 13 Budget	Support increased appropriations for housing counseling, McKinney Vento homeless assistance grants, HOME housing production funds and other key programs in the federal budget. Will also continue to support initial capitalization of National Housing Trust Fund.
Emergency Solutions Grant/HEARTH Act Implementation	Monitor and advocate for improved implementation of changes to federal programs addressing homelessness as defined in the HEARTH Act, including implementation of new Emergency Solutions Grant Program focused on homelessness prevention and rapid rehousing.
Housing Choice Voucher Reform	Advocate for federal legislation simplifying and streamlining rent policies for all of HUD's major rental assistance programs; reducing administrative burdens, establishing funding rules that would enable housing agencies to manage voucher funds more efficiently; and strengthening work supports. Work to include provisions allowing for additional project-basing of vouchers to encourage mobility and create rental housing for extremely low-income households and eliminate harmful provisions increasing mandatory minimum rents.