

Federal Homelessness Resource Guide Region V Interagency Council on Homelessness

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin



Federal Partners Engaged in Solutions to Homelessness

Department of Agriculture	Department of Labor
Department of Commerce	Department of Transportation
Department of Defense	Department of Veterans Affairs
Department of Education	Corporation for National and Community Service
Department of Energy	General Services Administration
Department of Health and Human Services	Office of Management and Budget
Department of Homeland Security	Social Security Administration
Department of Housing and Urban Development	United States Postal Service
Department of the Interior	USA Freedom Corps
Department of Justice	White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

Service Through Information and Referral

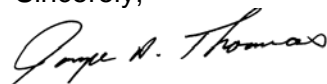
Dear Region V Homelessness Colleagues,

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) was established by the United States Congress with the passage of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act of 1987. The USICH is comprised of some 20 Federal Executive Agencies working together to alleviate and end homelessness in the United States. At the Federal Regional level these agencies collaborate under the umbrella of the Regional Interagency Council on Homelessness (RICH). Homelessness is not a problem that can be solved by one Federal agency. In fact, the government alone cannot solve this serious problem, but Federal agencies do have resources that can help. Federal assistance varies and includes services to the homeless, direct cash payments to the homeless, and funding and grants for homelessness programs.

The Region V Interagency Council on Homelessness was formed to coordinate various homeless assistance programs and to provide individuals, municipalities, and organizations with information about Federal resources available to assist the homeless. To that end, this Federal Homelessness Resource Guide was created by the participating members of the Region V Council. Federal programs are often complex and lengthy to explain, so our approach in creating this document was to provide a brief summary of what assistance each agency has that might assist the homeless, as well as contacts who can provide more details if needed.

We hope this Resource Guide will be useful to States, localities and other public and private sector entities concerned with the issues of homelessness. Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact Daryl Hernandez.

Sincerely,



Joyce A. Thomas
Regional Administrator, Administration
for Children & Families
Chairperson, Region V Interagency
Council on Homelessness

CONTACT PERSON: Daryl Hernandez
The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness
Region V Coordinator-Midwestern States
77 West Jackson Boulevard, 26th Floor, Room 2608
Chicago, Illinois 60604
(312) 353-6236, Ext 2090
[Daryl L. Hernandez@hud.gov](mailto:Daryl.L.Hernandez@hud.gov)

This guide is also available online at: <http://www.usich.gov/>.

Table of Contents

Department of Agriculture	- 4
Department of Education	- 14
Department of Health and Human Services	- 16
Department of Homeland Security	- 25
Department of Housing and Urban Development	- 26
Department of Labor	- 29
Department of Transportation	- 31
Department of Veteran Affairs	- 33
Corporation for National and Community Services	- 36
General Services Administration	- 37
Social Security Administration	- 38
Internal Revenue Service	- 40

Updated March 2008

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

Food and Nutrition Service

Here's What We Provide:

Background

The Food and Nutrition Service (FNS), formerly known as the Food and Consumer Service, administers the nutrition assistance programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The mission of FNS is to provide children and needy families better access to food and a more healthful diet through its food assistance programs and comprehensive nutrition education efforts.

FNS has elevated nutrition and nutrition education to a top priority in all its programs. In addition to providing access to nutritious food, FNS also works to empower program participants with knowledge of the link between diet and health.

The agency was established Aug. 8, 1969, but many of the food programs originated long before FNS existed as a separate agency. The Food Stamp Program, now the cornerstone of USDA's nutrition assistance, was begun in its modern form in 1961, but it had its origins in the Food Stamp Plan to help the needy in the 1930's. The National School Lunch Program also has its roots in Depression-era efforts to help low-income children. The Needy Family Program, which has evolved into the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, was the primary means of food assistance during the Great Depression.

FNS works in partnership with the States in all its programs. States determine most administrative details regarding distribution of food benefits and eligibility of participants, and FNS provides funding to cover most of the States' administrative costs.

Congress appropriated \$37.9 billion for FNS programs in Fiscal Year 2002. By comparison, FNS programs cost \$1.6 billion in 1970, the first full year of the agency's operation.

Food Stamp Program

The Food Stamp Program helps put healthy food on the table for 26 million people each month. The Food Stamp Program helps low-income people and families buy the food they need for good health. You apply for benefits by completing a State application form. Benefits are provided on an electronic card that is used like an ATM card and accepted at most grocery stores.

Households may have \$2,000 in countable resources, such as a bank account. Households may have \$3,000 if at least one person is age 60 or older, or is disabled.

Certain resources are not counted, such as a home and lot and the resources of people who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) or benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

10 Myths and Facts about Food Stamp Benefits and the Homeless

1. MYTH: You must have housing and a mailing address to get food stamps.

FACT: You can get food stamp benefits even if you live on the streets and don't have a mailing address. If you live in a shelter, bring a letter from a shelter employee that says you live there when you apply.

2. MYTH: People who live in shelters can't get food stamps because they already get free meals.

FACT: You can get food stamp benefits even if you live in a shelter with meals. You can't be turned down only because you live in a homeless shelter with meals.

3. MYTH: You must have a place to cook and store food to get food stamps.

FACT: You can't be turned down for food stamp benefits because you don't have a kitchen or a place to cook.

4. MYTH: You need a photo ID to get food stamps.

FACT: You need proof of identity. A photo ID is one way to prove identity. You can't be turned down for food stamp benefits because you don't have a photo ID. You can use another ID like a work or school badge, a health benefits card, an ID from another social service, a pay stub, a birth certificate, or a voter registration card. The food stamp worker can also check your identity by calling shelter workers or employers.

5. MYTH: You can buy food only at grocery stores.

FACT: Homeless people can use food stamp benefits at other places. You can use food stamp benefits to pay for meals at soup kitchens and homeless shelters that are authorized to accept food stamp benefits.

6. MYTH: Homeless people can't use food stamps at restaurants.

FACT: In some States, homeless people can use food stamp benefits at certain restaurants. Tell your food stamp worker if you are homeless and want to use food stamp benefits at restaurants. You will get a special card to buy meals at restaurants.

7. **MYTH: It is difficult for homeless people to apply and there is no help available.**

FACT: Food stamp offices must set up ways to serve homeless people. They can find an authorized representative or mail your benefits to the shelter where you stay. The food stamp office can't make you fill out forms every month.

8. **MYTH: Homeless youth have to provide their parent's income when they apply for food stamps.**

FACT: Homeless young people can apply for food stamp benefits on their own. Their parent's income does not count. If you live in a shelter, bring a letter from a shelter employee that says you live there when you apply.

9. **MYTH: You must follow the work requirements to apply for food stamps.**

FACT: Homeless people with no dependents do not need to have a job or look for a job to apply for food stamp benefits. Once they get food stamp benefits, they do not have to work for three months. After that, they must register for work, take employment training, attend job fairs, or accept a reasonable job offer to keep food stamp benefits. This rule doesn't apply to people with children 6 years old or younger; people with disabilities; and in certain areas in some States. Your food stamp worker will tell you which work requirements apply to you.

10. **MYTH: Food stamps have to be paid back.**

FACT: People who get the right amount of food stamp benefits do not have to pay them back. Make sure the information you give when you apply is correct. If you get food stamp benefits based on wrong information, then you will have to pay them back.

Food Stamps Make America Stronger.

**For more information, call 1-800-221-5689 or go online to www.fns.usda.gov/fsp/
*USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.***

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (cont'd)

Homeless Persons

Faith-based and community-based organizations (FBOs/CBOs) may apply to participate in Federal nutrition programs and provide benefits directly to individuals, or may serve as informational resources by referring these individuals to other organizations and agencies that participate in the programs.

FBOs/CBOs that provide services to children may be eligible to participate in the following Federal nutrition programs:

Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)

Through the CACFP, nutritious meals and snacks are served to eligible children and adults who are enrolled for care at participating child care centers, day care homes, and adult day care centers. CACFP also provides meals to children who reside in homeless shelters, and snacks to youths who participate in afterschool care programs.

Eligible nonprofit FBOs/CBOs may include emergency shelters, day care centers, outside-school-hours care centers, settlement houses, Head Start programs, and institutions providing day care services to children with disabilities. Private for-profit centers may also participate if they receive compensation under Title XX for at least 25 percent of the enrolled children or 25 percent of their licensed capacity, whichever is less.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

WIC serves low-income pregnant, postpartum and breastfeeding women, and infants and children up to age 5, who are at nutrition risk. WIC provides participants with:

- 1) checks or vouchers to purchase specific nutritious foods at authorized food stores,
- 2) nutrition counseling, and,
- 3) health care referrals.

To be eligible to become a WIC local agency and provide WIC services to participants, an organization must be a government agency, private nonprofit organization or Federally-recognized Indian Tribal Organization that provides health care services either directly or through contract, or refer participants to other organizations for health care. However, in selecting local agencies, State agencies must give first priority to those agencies that provide health care services either directly or through contract.

Also, WIC local agencies must employ nutritionists, dieticians or other health personnel authorized by the WIC State agency to determine nutrition risk of participants and provide nutrition education.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each State in which they wish to participate.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP)

The SFSP ensures that children in low-income areas continue to have access to nutritious meals during long school vacations, when they do not have access to school lunch or breakfast. A FBO/CBO that conducts a regularly scheduled program for children from areas in which poor economic conditions exist may be eligible to participate in the SFSP, if it is a nonprofit:

- school food authority,
- residential summer camp, or
- college or university that participates in the National Youth Sports Program during the months of May to September.

Other nonprofit FBOs/CBOs are eligible to participate under certain conditions.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

National School Lunch Program (NSLP)

The NSLP provides nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to more than 26 million children each school day. The NSLP also reimburses institutions and organizations for snacks served to children, through 18 years of age, in afterschool educational and enrichment programs. Generally, FBOs/CBOs that are nonprofit, private schools of high school grade or under, or that are nonprofit, private residential child care institutions, may be eligible to participate in the Program.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

School Breakfast Program (SBP)

The SBP operates in the same manner as the National School Lunch Program. Generally, FBOs/CBOs that are nonprofit, private schools of high school grade or under, or that are nonprofit, private residential child care institutions, may be eligible to participate in the Program.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

Special Milk Program (SMP)

The SMP provides milk to children in schools, child care institutions and eligible camps that do not participate in other Federal child nutrition meal service programs. The program reimburses schools and institutions for milk that they serve. Schools in the NSLP or SBP may also participate in the SMP to provide milk to children in half-day pre-kindergarten and kindergarten programs where children do not have access to the school meal programs. Generally, FBOs/CBOs that are nonprofit, private schools of high school grade or under, or that are nonprofit, private residential child care institutions, may be eligible to participate in the Program.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP)

TEFAP helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost through food pantries and soup kitchens. Under TEFAP, the USDA makes food commodities available to the States, which receive the food and supervise overall distribution of the food commodities to eligible recipient agencies. In general, the eligible recipient agencies are public or private nonprofit organizations that provide food and nutrition assistance to the needy through the distribution of food for home use or the preparation of meals.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State Distributing Agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP)

CSFP works to improve the health of low-income pregnant and breastfeeding women, other new mothers up to one year postpartum, infants, children up to age six, and elderly people at least 60 years of age by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA commodity foods. Under CSFP, the USDA purchases food and makes it available to the States and to Indian Tribal Organizations (ITOs), along with funds for administrative costs. The States and ITOs then store the food and distribute it to public and non-profit private local agencies.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State Distributing Agency for each state in which they wish to participate.

WIC Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (FMNP)

FMNP provides WIC participants with 1) coupons or checks to purchase unprepared, locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables from authorized farmers and/or farmers' markets; and, 2) nutrition education. To be eligible to become a FMNP local agency, an organization must be a government agency or a nonprofit entity. Since FMNP recipients are WIC participants, usually WIC local agencies are also FMNP local agencies.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each State in which they wish to participate.

Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

SFMNP provides low-income elderly (at least age 60) recipients with 1) coupons or checks to purchase unprepared, locally grown fresh fruits and vegetables at authorized farmers' markets, roadside stands and community supported agriculture programs; and, 2) nutrition education. SFMNP grantees select local agencies to provide SFMNP services to recipients. Generally, a SFMNP local agency is a government agency or a private nonprofit organization.

FBOs/CBOs apply to the responsible State agency for each State in which they wish to participate.

Here's Who To Contact:

A low-income household with multiple needs often may qualify for more than one of the Federal nutrition assistance programs. For more information on the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and its programs, please visit our websites:

www.fns.usda.gov/fns for general program information.

<http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/fbci/> for opportunities for Faith-based and Community Organizations.

[http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navtype=MA&navid=AGENCIES OFFICES](http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/!ut/p/s.7_0_A/7_0_1OB?navtype=MA&navid=AGENCIES_OFFICES) for contact information around the country.

If you are in Region V, you can also contact the Midwest Regional Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Coordinator, Kimberly Phillips at **312-353-1044**; or e-mail at kimberly.phillips@fns.usda.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA) Rural Development

Here's What We Provide:

USDA Rural Development Housing Programs provide very low to moderate income families in rural communities (non-metro population typically 20,000 or less) with decent, safe, and affordable housing through the Multi-family Housing and Single Family Housing programs. There is no program specifically designed to address homelessness. However, to help tackle this issue the following program is available as an option:

- **Rental Assistance (RA)**

RA is a supplement to the basic rent that a USDA Rural Development financed property charges its tenants. These tenants must be low or very low income and the availability of assistance will vary with each property. RA is assigned to the property and does not transfer with the tenant.

- **Rural Development Vouchers**

The RD Voucher Program applies to any property financed through Rural Development's Section 515 Rural Rental Housing Program when the mortgage is paid off prior to the maturity date in the promissory note, including foreclosed properties. Low income tenants in these properties are eligible for an RD Voucher to provide a short-term rental subsidy to supplement the tenant's rent payment.

Here's Who To Contact:

USDA Rural Development has numerous offices in the 5-State region. The nearest office can be determined by going to Rural Development's website at www.rurdev.usda.gov and clicking the link called "State Offices" which will bring to you a web page with links to all 50 States. By clicking on a particular State, you will access that State's website, and then you click on the "Offices" link. Please note that the local offices service different counties, so you will need to input your particular county to find the correct office. Office information for the 5-State region is summarized below:

STATE	WEBSITE	HQ OFFICE	OFFICES	DIRECTOR	PHONE
Illinois	www.rurdev.usda.gov/il	Champaign	12	Barry Ramsey	217-403-6222
Indiana	www.rurdev.usda.gov/in	Indianapolis	19	Stephen Dye	317-290-3100 x 423
Michigan	www.rurdev.usda.gov/mi	East Lansing	9	Ghulam Sumbal	517-324-5154
Minnesota	www.rurdev.usda.gov/mn	St. Paul	15	Karen Thompson	651-602-7820
Ohio	www.rurdev.usda.gov/oh	Columbus	4	Gerald Arnott	614-255-2401
Wisconsin	www.rurdev.usda.gov/wi	Stevens Point	6	Peter Kohnen	715-345-7615 x111

You can also access information on the Rural Development office nearest you by going to <http://offices.sc.egov.usda.gov/locator/app?state=us&agency=rd>.

This link will ask for your county and then will provide a link to the office that services your community.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (USDE)

Here's What We Provide:

We provide formula grants to each State and several territories that assist children and youth experiencing homelessness to enroll in, attend, and succeed in school. We send the funds to the State education agency, which is allowed to keep up to 25% of the total grant amount at the State level for providing Statewide activities, such as the following:

- Professional development for schools, shelters, and other service providers
- Printing and disseminating brochures and posters
- Maintaining a toll-free "hotline"
- Establishing collaborations to resolve homeless education issues
- Producing videos to inform schools and service providers about homeless education

The remaining 75% of the State grant allotment must go to local school districts, including charter schools, through a competitive grant process. At the local level, schools can use the money for a wide range of activities to assist students experiencing homelessness. The funds are most often used for the following types of activities:

- Tutoring (before school, after school, summer, and week-ends) social work services (case management)
- Clothing, shoes, and school supplies
- Professional development for school staff and community-based organizations homeless awareness activities
- Supplemental transportation

The Education for Homeless Children and Youth (EHCY) program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act and is more commonly called "the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Program" or simply "McKinney-Vento." The Act includes a number of provisions that help homeless students, including the following:

- Each school district is required to have a homeless liaison to assist homeless students with enrollment and other school-related issues.
- Students who become homeless are allowed to remain in the school they were attending, even if it is in a district other than where they currently reside, and the students must receive transportation to this school.
- Students who are homeless must be enrolled in school immediately, even if they have no records.
- If a homeless student is denied enrollment, they must be provided the reason for the denial in writing, and they must be informed as to how they can appeal that decision.
- Homeless students are automatically eligible to receive free school meals without completing extra paperwork.

Here's Who To Contact:

Each State in Region V is required to have a State Coordinator for Homeless Education who manages the McKinney-Vento program for their State. We encourage you to contact your State Coordinator for any help you might need regarding education for children and youth in homeless situations.

Illinois:	Peggy Dunn	Phone: (217) 782-2948	E-mail: madunn@isbe.net
Indiana:	Christina Endres	Phone: (317) 232-0548, (800) 833-2199	E-mail: endres@doe.in.gov
Michigan:	Linda A. Forward	Phone: (517) 373-8480	E-mail: ForwardL@michigan.gov
Minnesota:	John McLaughlin	Phone: (651) 582-8657	E-mail: John.Mclaughlin@state.mn.us
Ohio:	Thomas Dannis	Phone: (614) 466-4161	E-mail: tom.dannis@ode.state.oh.us
Wisconsin:	Mary Maronek	Phone: (608) 261-6322	E-mail: mary.maronek@dpi.state.wi.us

Our Federal contact for McKinney-Vento is Gary Rutkin
US Department of Education
Phone: (202) 260-4412
E-mail: gary.rutkin@ed.gov

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

The United States Department of Health & Human Services (HHS) features a structure of 10 operating divisions. Each operating division contains program offices and bureaus. The HHS divisions responsible for homeless grants are the Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

ACF Children's Bureau

Here's What We Provide:

The Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Children's Bureau (CB) administers the following homeless/child welfare programs:

- **Chafee Foster Care Independence Program**

The Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP) offers assistance to help current and former foster care youth achieve self-sufficiency and make a successful transition to adulthood. Grants are offered to States which submit a plan to help youth with education, employment, financial management, housing, emotional support, and connections to caring adults for older youth in foster care and youth 18-21, who have aged out of the foster care system and may be at risk of homelessness.

- **CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers Program**

The CFCIP Education and Training Vouchers (ETV) Program provides resources to meet the education and training needs of youth aging out of foster care.

- **Abandoned Infants Assistance Program**

The Abandoned Infants Assistance Program provides funding for the development of comprehensive service programs to infants and their families. We make grants to public and nonprofit private organizations that demonstrate strategies to (1) prevent abandonment; (2) identify needs and provide services to abandoned infants, especially those with AIDS; (3) assist these infants to reside with biological families, if possible, or in foster care; (4) recruit, train and retain foster parents; (5) provide residential care programs for abandoned children and children with AIDS; (6) establish programs of respite care for families and foster families; and (7) recruit and train health and social services personnel to work with families, foster families and residential care staff.

ACF Children's Bureau—Here's Who to Contact:

The Region V Office of Administration for Children and Families (ACF) is located in Chicago, Illinois. The telephone number is (312) 353-4237.

The Child Welfare Program Manager is Carolyn Wilson-Hurey. Ms. Wilson-Hurey's phone number is (312) 353-9672 and her e-mail address is cwilson-hurey@acf.hhs.gov.

The ACF Region V Child Welfare State Program Specialists are listed as follows:

- Illinois: Constance Miller (312) 886-4922 - constance.miller@acf.hhs.gov
- Indiana: Ruby Flagg-Ross (312) 886-4202 - ruby.flagg-ross@acf.hhs.gov
- Michigan: Barbara Putyra (312) 353-1786 – barbara.putyra@acf.hhs.gov
- Minnesota: Christine Guthrie (312) 886-4916 – chris.guthrie@acf.hhs.gov
- Ohio: Mary Doran (312) 886-4597 - mary.doran@acf.hhs.gov
- Wisconsin: Krista Thomas (312) 353-1122 – krista.thomas@acf.hhs.gov

The ACF website is www.acf.hhs.gov.

The Children's Bureau website is www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/.

ACF Family and Youth Services Bureau

Here's What We Provide:

The mission of the Family and Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) is to provide national leadership on youth and family issues. The Bureau promotes positive outcomes for children, youth, and families by supporting a wide range of comprehensive services and collaborations at the local, Tribal, State, and national levels.

The ACF Family & Youth Services Bureau (FYSB) administers the following programs for young people, particularly runaway and homeless youth:

•Basic Center Program (BCP)

Through the Basic Center Program, FYSB works to establish or strengthen community-based programs that address the immediate needs of runaway and homeless youth and their families. The central purpose of these programs is to provide youth with emergency shelter, food, clothing, counseling, and referrals for health care. Most Basic Centers can provide 15 days of shelter for up to 20 youth. There are exceptions for those jurisdictions that have different standards for licensing. The Basic Centers seek to reunite young people with their families, whenever possible, or to locate appropriate alternative placements.

Locate a Basic Center Program:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/locate.htm>

- Transitional Living Program (TLP)

Through the TLP, FYSB supports projects that provide longer term residential services to homeless youth ages 16-21. Generally, services are provided for up to 18 months, and an additional 180 days is allowed for youth less than 18 years old.

These services are designed to help youth who are homeless make a successful transition to self-sufficient living.

TLP grantees are required to provide youth with stable, safe living accommodations and services that help them develop the skills necessary to move to independence. Living accommodations may be host family homes, group homes, maternity group homes, or “supervised apartments.” (Supervised apartments are either agency-owned apartment buildings or “scattered site” apartments, which are single-occupancy apartments rented directly by young people with support from the agency.) TLPs also provide pregnant or parenting youth with parenting skills, including child development, family budgeting, health and nutrition, and other skills to promote their long-term economic independence in order to ensure the well-being of their children.

Locate a Transitional Living Program:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/locate.htm>

- Street Outreach Program (SOP)

The Street Outreach Program is part of FYSB’s Runaway and Homeless Youth Program. Through the program, FYSB awards grants to private, nonprofit agencies to conduct outreach designed to build relationships between grantee staff and street youth. The goal of these efforts is to help young people leave the streets. The local grantees provide a range of services directly or through collaboration with other agencies, specifically those working to protect and treat young people who have been, or who are at risk of being, subjected to sexual abuse or exploitation.

Locate a Street Outreach Program:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/locate.htm>

- The National Communications System: The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS)

Between 1.6 and 2.8 million youth run away in a year. Our mission at the National Runaway Switchboard is to help keep America’s runaway and at-risk youth safe and off the streets. Our services are provided in part through funding from the [Family and Youth Services Bureau](#) in the Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Call **1-800-RUNAWAY** if you are a teenager who is thinking of running from home, if you have a friend who has run and is looking for help, or if you are a runaway ready to go home through our [Home Free program](#).

Call if you are a teacher looking for information to pass along to your students about alternatives to running from home. Call if you care about a youth and want information on how you can help someone who may be at risk of running from home.

Our 24-hour crisis line has an experienced front-line team member ready to help you now. It's anonymous, confidential and free. **1-800-RUNAWAY.**

- National Runaway Switchboard HOME FREE Program

The NRS also administers the HOME FREE program, a collaborative effort of Greyhound Lines, Inc., and the International Association of Chiefs of Police, to provide free transportation to runaways who wish to return to their families. A young person between 12 and 20 can call the NRS and discuss with a counselor why he or she ran away and why he or she feel ready to return home. Next, NRS places a conference call between the youth and his or her legal guardian to talk about returning home and determine a plan of action. NRS then contacts Greyhound to make travel arrangements. Finally, NRS follows-up to ensure that the youth has arrived home safely and offers names of community resources to help the youth successfully re-enter the community.

- Mentoring Children of Prisoners (MCP)

Through the Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program, FYSB awards grants to community organizations that provide children and youth of incarcerated parents with mentors. Each mentoring program is designed to ensure that mentors provide young people with safe and trusting relationships; healthy messages about life and social behavior; appropriate guidance from a positive adult role model; and opportunities for increased participation in education, civic service, and community activities.

Locate a Mentoring Children of Prisoners Program:

<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/content/youthdivision/programs/locate.htm>

- Family Violence Prevention and Services Program (FVPSP)

Through the Family Violence Prevention and Services Program, FYSB awards grants to State agencies, Territories and Indian Tribes for the provision of shelter to victims of family violence and their dependents, and for related services, such as emergency transportation and child care. These funds supplement many already established community-based family violence prevention and services activities. They also allow States and Tribes to expand current service programs and establish additional services in rural and underserved areas, on Native American reservations, and in Alaskan Native Villages.

ACF Family and Youth Services Bureau—Here's Who to Contact:

The ACF Region V Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Manager is Bill Clair, and his e-mail address is bill.clair@acf.hhs.gov.

The National Domestic Violence Hotline is: **1-800-799-SAFE**

The Family & Youth Services Bureau website is <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fysb/>.

The National Runaway Switchboard (NRS) is located in Chicago, IL.

The Hotline toll free number is **1-800-621-4000**.

The Hotline TDD toll-free number is **1-800-621-0394**.

The website is <http://www.1800runaway.org/>.

FYSB maintains a free information service about its programs for grantees and the public.

Contact:

National Clearinghouse on Families & Youth
P.O. Box 13505
Silver Spring, MO, 20911-3505
Phone (301) 608-8098; Fax: (301) 608-8721
E-mail: info@ncfy.com;
Web site: <http://www.ncfy.com/>.

ACF Head Start and Early Head Start

Here's What We Provide:

The Head Start program provides grants to local public and private non-profit and for-profit agencies to provide comprehensive child development services to economically disadvantaged children and families, with a special focus on helping preschoolers develop the early reading and math skills they need to be successful in school. Early Head Start serves children from birth to three years, in recognition that the earliest years of life are crucial to healthy development. Both Head Start and Early Head Start engage parents in their children's learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs.

Most children in homeless families will qualify financially for Head Start. Head Start centers are run by local grantees, and some offer assistance targeted directly at homeless families and children. Information on specific programs available in your area can be found by contacting your local Head Start center (which can be found using the website listed below).

ACF Head Start and Early Head Start—Here's Who to Contact

Find your local Head Start center by using the Head Start locator at:
<http://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/hslc/HeadStartOffices>.

Head Start Knowledge and Information Management Services: **1-866-763-6481**

State-specific contacts:

- Illinois: Joanne Lacey-Ward (312) 886-4947- joanne.laceyward@acf.hhs.gov
- Indiana: Deb Pruitt (312) 353-9670 - debra.pruitt@acf.hhs.gov
- Michigan: Frank Marfia (312) 886-4925 - franklin.marfia@acf.hhs.gov
- Minnesota: Leonard Norberg (312) 353-9676 - leonard.norberg@acf.hhs.gov
- Ohio: Michael Butler (312) 886-886-5359 - michael.butler@acf.hhs.gov
- Wisconsin: Terry Lechner (312)886-9282 - terry.lechner@acf.hhs.gov

ACF Office of Family Assistance

Here's What We Provide:

The Administration for Children and Families, Office of Family Assistance, administers the following program:

- Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

The TANF program assists families with children when the parents or other responsible relatives cannot provide for the family's basic needs. Under the welfare reform legislation of 1996, TANF replaced the old welfare programs known as Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC), the Job Opportunities and Basic Skills Training (JOBS) program and the Emergency Assistance (EA) program. States have broad flexibility to carry out their programs. The States, not the Federal government, decide on the design of the program, the type and amount of assistance payments, the range of other services to be provided, and the rules for determining who is eligible for benefits.

The Office of Family Assistance provides a web site with links to states that provide resources for the homeless as part of the State TANF Plan. <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>.

ACF Office of Family Assistance—Here's Who To Contact:

The web site with links to state programs is:
<http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/ofa/homelss.htm>

Centers for Disease Control

Here's What We Provide:

The Centers for Disease Control (CDC), does not maintain regional offices. The National Prevention Information Network maintains a website with information about health problems that affect homeless persons as well as health education materials targeted to the homeless population.

Centers for Disease Control—Here's Who To Contact:

The National Prevention Information Network page with information relevant to homelessness and public health is:

<http://www.cdcnpi.org/scripts/population/homeless.asp>

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services

Here's What We Provide:

The Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services (CMS), Medicaid Program, provides the following homelessness resource:

- **FirstStep**

FirstStep is an interactive software tool for community and organization case managers, outreach workers, and others working with people who are homeless. The information on the FirstStep CD-ROM will help you assist your homeless clients to access benefits from Federal mainstream benefit programs, such as Supplemental Security Income (SSI); Social Security Disability Income (SSDI); Social Security; Veteran's Affairs Compensation; Veterans Affairs Health Care; Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF); Food Stamps; Medicaid; Medicare; One-Stop Career Center System; and State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP).

Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services—Here's Who to Contact:

The CMS Region V Office is located in Chicago, IL, and the main telephone number is **312-886-5913**. The Chicago Medicaid/SCHIP contact is Ms. Verlon Johnson at **312-886-5343**. The CMS website is <http://www.cms.hhs.gov/>.

Health Resources and Services Administration

Here's What We Provide:

Health Resources and Services Administration –Resources:

The Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), Bureau of Primary Health Care (BPHC), administers the Health Care for the Homeless Program (HCH). The HCH program grants funding to local grantees that provide a coordinated, multi-disciplinary approach to delivering care to clients experiencing homelessness through aggressive street outreach, 24-hour access to emergency health services, primary care, mental health and substance abuse services, case management, and client advocacy. Emphasis is placed on coordinating efforts with other community health providers and social services agencies.

For general information about the Health Care for the Homeless program see, www.bphc.hrsa.gov/about/specialpopulations.htm.

For clinical and administrative tools and extensive bibliographies regarding the delivery of health services to people experiencing homelessness, the following website provides material developed under a grant from the Health Resources and Services Administration: www.nhchc.org.

Health Resources and Services Administration – Here's Who to Contact:

The HRSA Chicago Regional Division, Office of Performance Review supports Region V states of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin by conducting performance reviews of Health Care for the Homeless grantees funded by BPHC. These grantees provide health care and social services to persons experiencing homelessness.

For further information please contact Brenda Tucker-Jeffries at 312-353-1341.

The HRSA Bureau of Primary Health Care, Office of Minority and Special Populations contact person is Jean L. Hochron, Director, **301-594-4437**.

National Institute of Mental Health

Here's What We Provide:

National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and National Institute of Drug Addiction (NIDA) issued a 2007 RFP:

- HIV/AIDS, Severe Mental Illness and Homelessness

The overall focus of this Program Announcement (PA), sponsored by the National Institute on Mental Health, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism (NIAAA), and the National Institute on Drug Addiction is to refocus research on persons with severe mental illness, either before or after HIV infection, and to expand HIV-related research to homeless persons.

National Institute of Mental Health—Here's Who to Contact:

The web site is <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA04-3871/default.asp>.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Here's What We Provide:

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Center for Mental Health Services, administers the following homeless programs:

- SAMHSA Block Grant Funds
- Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness (PATH)

The PATH Program provides funding to States and territories to fund local organizations providing community-based outreach, screening and diagnostic services, community mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, case management services, supervisory services in residential settings, and a limited set of housing services including services to help clients access housing resources. Local PATH supported organizations provide these wide-ranging services to individuals with serious mental illnesses, as well as individuals with co-occurring substance use disorders, who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Almost all States use PATH funds to provide outreach services to contact and engage homeless people who have not used services.

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration—Here's Who to Contact:

SAMHSA does not have regional offices. Please contact the Rockville, MD office at (240)276-2000. The SAMHSA website is <http://pathprogram.samhsa.gov>. The National Resource and Training Center on Homelessness and Mental Illness website is: <http://www.nrchmi.samhsa.gov/>.

The SAMHSA Block Grant Funds website is: <http://mentalhealth.samhsa.gov/publications/allpubs/SMA04-3871/default.asp>.

Other 2007 SAMHSA Grants web site is: <http://www.samhsa.gov/Grants/2007/fy2007.aspx>

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY (DHS)

Here's What We Provide:

- Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program

The Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program (EFSP) is a Federal program administered by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act 01 1987 (PL 100-77) "to supplement and expand ongoing efforts to provide shelter, food and supportive services" for homeless and hungry individuals nationwide.

The National Board, chaired by FEMA, includes representatives from the American Red Cross; Catholic Charities, USA; United Jewish Communities; National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; The Salvation Army; and United Way of America.

Jurisdictions are selected for funding by the National Board based on a set of qualifying criteria. Local non-profit and government emergency food and shelter agencies that apply are prioritized for funding by the local boards in selected jurisdictions. The recipient organizations utilize funds for mass shelter, mass feeding, food distribution through food pantries and food banks, one-month utility payments to prevent service cut-off, and one-month rent/mortgage assistance to prevent evictions or assist people leaving shelters to establish stable living conditions. In each of the last few years, over 11,500 local non-profit and government agencies have received EFSP funds in more than 2,500 jurisdictions nationwide.

The National Board encourages local boards to place special emphasis on identification of and assistance to the elderly, families with children, Native Americans, veterans, and those who are mentally and/or physically disabled.

FEMA Region V is comprised of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. The FEMA Region V office is located at 536 S. Clark Street, 6th Floor, Chicago, Illinois, 60605

Here's Who To Contact:

Livia Dean, **312/408-5335**

E-mail address: Livia.Dean@fema.gov.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)

Here's What We Provide:

- Emergency Shelter Grants Program

The Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) program provides homeless persons with basic shelter and essential supportive services. It can assist with the operational costs of the shelter facility and with the administration of the grant. ESG also provides short-term homeless prevention assistance to persons at imminent risk of losing their own housing due to eviction, foreclosure, or utility shutoffs. Grantees, which are State governments, large cities, urban counties, and U.S. territories, receive ESG grants and make these funds available to either local government agencies or private nonprofit organizations. The recipient agencies and organizations, which actually run the homeless assistance projects, apply for ESG funds through the governmental grantee and not directly to HUD. Feel free to view all Community Planning and Development (CPD) city, county and state grants, including the ESG grant, or contact your local field office for further assistance.

ESG funds are available for the rehabilitation or remodeling of buildings used as a new shelter, operations and maintenance of the facility, essential supportive services (e.g., case management, physical and mental health treatment, substance abuse counseling, child care, etc.), homeless prevention, and grant administration.

Grantees, except for State governments, must match ESG grant funds dollar for dollar with their own locally generated amounts. These local amounts can come from the grantee or recipient agency or organization; other Federal, State and local grants; and from "in-kind" contributions such as the value of a donated building, supplies and equipment, new staff services, and volunteer time.

- The Continuum of Care

The Continuum of Care approach helps communities plan for and provide a full range of emergency, transition, and permanent housing and service resources to address the various needs of homeless persons. HUD believes the best approach for alleviating homelessness is through a community-based process that provides a comprehensive response to the different needs of homeless persons. The fundamental components of a Continuum of Care system are:

- Outreach and assessment to identify a homeless person's needs.
- Immediate (emergency) shelter as a safe, decent alternative to the streets.
- Transitional housing with appropriate supportive services to help people reach independent living.
- Permanent housing or permanent supportive housing.

This Federal grant assistance program is administered by HUD's Special Needs Assistance Programs Office. Grants under the Continuum of Care are awarded through a national competition held annually. To learn how you can enter the national competition, please call your local HUD office or local Homeless Coalition. Continuum of Care programs include: Supportive Housing, Single Room Occupancy Housing, and Shelter Plus Care.

- Supportive Housing Program

The Supportive Housing Program (SHP) promotes the development of housing and supportive services to assist homeless persons in the transition from streets and shelters to independent living. The grants go to nonprofit organizations, local and State governments, and other governmental entities.

SHP features six approaches to help homeless people achieve independence. Applicants may choose the approach that best suits the needs of the people they intend to serve.

- Transitional Housing assists homeless persons with housing for up to 24 months with supportive services that help them move into independent living.
- Permanent housing for person with disabilities that enables special needs populations to live as independently as possible in a permanent setting.
- Supportive Services Only projects operate independently to link with housing from other sources.
- Safe Havens are a form of supportive housing that serves hard to reach homeless persons with severe mental illness and other debilitating behavioral conditions.
- Homeless Management Information Systems (HMIS) is data-collection software designed to capture information over time on the characteristics of persons experiencing homelessness.
- Innovative Supportive Housing enables the applicant to design a program outside the scope of existing programs. The project must present a unique approach that can be replicated elsewhere.

- Single Room Occupancy (SRO) Program

The SRO program provides rental assistance for homeless persons in connection with the moderate rehabilitation of SRO dwellings. SRO housing contains units for occupancy by one person. These units may contain food preparation or sanitary facilities, or both.

Under the program, HUD enters into Annual Contributions Contracts with public housing agencies (PHAs) in connection with the rehabilitation that when completed will contain multiple single room dwelling units.

These PHAs make Section 8 rental assistance payments to participating owners (i.e., landlords) on behalf of homeless individuals who rent the rehabilitated dwellings. The rental assistance payments cover the difference between a portion of the tenant's income (normally 30%) and the unit's rent, which must be within the fair market rent established by HUD.

Rental assistance for SRO units is provided for a period of 10 years. Owners are compensated for the cost of some of the rehabilitation (as well as the other costs of owning and maintaining the property) through the rental assistance payments

Assistance provided under the SRO program is designed to bring more standard SRO units into the local housing supply and to use those units to assist homeless persons. The SRO units might be in a rundown hotel, a Y, an old school, or even in a large abandoned home

- Shelter Plus Care (S+C) Program

The Shelter Plus Care Program provides rental assistance to homeless individuals/ families with disabilities. Disabilities primarily include mental illness, chronic problems with alcohol and/or drugs, and HIV/AIDS or related diseases.

Eligible applicants are States, local government units, and Public housing agencies. These units of government may contract with a non-profit organization.

Eligible activities are restricted to rental assistance and administrative costs associated with administering the rental assistance. Supportive services must be available to meet participant's needs. The applicant or other sources may provide these services.

Here's Who To Contact:

If you would like to know more, please contact...

- Illinois HUD Office: Phone: #312-353-5680
- Indiana HUD Office: Phone: #317-226-6303, press # 5
- Michigan HUD Office: Phone: #313-226-7900
- Minnesota HUD Office: Phone: #612-370-3000
- Ohio HUD Office: Phone: #614-469-5737
- Wisconsin HUD Office: Phone: #414-297-3214

... and ask for Community Planning and Development (CPD).

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR (USDOL)

The Department of Labor administers programs providing employment and training services that are crucial components in the comprehensive efforts to address the cycle of homelessness. The Department offers both mainstream Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and targeted employment-focused programs that help lead to self-sufficiency. The USDOL strategy focuses on helping homeless Americans who want to work to become job-ready.

Nationally, there are five interdepartmental partners at U.S. DOL that coordinate workforce development services for the homeless. They include Veterans Employment and Training Service (VETS), Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Center for Faith Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI), Office of the Assistance Secretary for Policy (ASP), and the Employment and Training Administration (ETA).

Here's What We Provide:

- Ready4Work

Ready4Work, administered by ETA, is a program designed to provide mentoring and other transition services for ex-convicts. Nationwide, funds have generally been provided to faith-based and community programs to carryout the specialized activities.

- Youth Offender Demonstration Project

ETA's Youth Offender Demonstration Project was awarded in 2004 to the National Urban League to assist inner-city African American youth.

- Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives

The Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI) and ETA have an interdepartmental joint effort to provide local workforce investment boards with Federal funds to provide employment assistance to disadvantaged individuals. Funds were also awarded to at least 48 faith-based and community organizations which help the hardest-to-serve homeless in the poorest neighborhoods.

- Homeless Veterans' Reintegration Program (HVRP)

The purpose of the HVRP is to provide services to assist in reintegrating homeless veterans into meaningful employment within the labor force and to stimulate the development of effective service delivery systems that will address the complex problems facing homeless veterans.

Grantees provide an array of services utilizing a case management approach that directly assists homeless veterans as well as provide critical linkages for a variety of supportive services available in their local communities.

The program is "employment focused" and veterans receive the employment and training services they need in order to re-enter the labor force. Supportive services such as clothing, provision of or referral to temporary, transitional, and permanent housing, referral to medical and substance abuse treatment, and transportation assistance are also provided to meet the needs of this target group.

Here's Who To Contact:

For more information regarding the Homelessness Initiative and ETA programs, please contact the following Federal contact or log into <http://www.dol.gov/>.

For more information regarding State and local programs, contact the following agencies:

- Illinois Department of Employment Security - <http://www.ides.state.il.us/>
- Medical Professionals For Home Health, Inc. -773-487-2400
- Volunteers of America Illinois - <http://www.voaininois.com/> - 312-564-2310
- The Innervoice Inc. – 312-226-2730

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (USDOT) **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is one of eleven modal administrations within the U. S. Department of Transportation. FTA provides financial assistance for public transportation to transit agencies in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

All transit systems provide low cost mobility for people who do not, or cannot, operate a motor vehicle because of personal preference, low income, disability, youth or old age.

Here's What We Provide:

- Urbanized Area Formula Program

The Urbanized Area Formula Program makes federal resources available to urbanized areas and to Governors for transit capital and operating for transportation-related planning. An urbanized area is an incorporated area with a population of 50,000 or more that is designated as such by the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. In Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin, the State Departments of Transportation are the administrators of the rural and the elderly and disabled programs.

- Tribal Transportation Program

Indian Tribes can apply directly for these rural public transit funds. The funds can be used for capital and operating expenses incurred for providing rural public transit service.

- New Freedom

Funds can be used for new public transportation services and public transportation alternatives beyond those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 that assist individuals with disabilities with transportation, including transportation to and from jobs and employment support services.

- Jobs Access and Reverse Commute (JARC)

The JARC program can complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The JARC program has two major goals: to provide transportation services in urban, suburban and rural areas to assist welfare recipients and other low-income individuals in accessing employment opportunities and to increase collaboration among the regional transportation providers, human service agencies and related service providers, employers, metropolitan planning organizations, States and affected communities and

individuals. This program is unique as other Federal funds that are eligible to be used for transportation costs can be used as part of the match.

- Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan

Projects selected for funding for the Elderly and Disabled, the New Freedom, and the JARC transportation programs must be derived from a locally developed coordinated public transit-human services transportation plan and that the plan is developed through a process that includes representatives of public, private and nonprofit transportation and human services providers and participation by the public.

- United We Ride (UWR)

The UWR program can also complement efforts to alleviate homelessness. The goal of the UWR program is to increase the comprehensive and coordinated human services transportation that meets the needs of transportation-disadvantaged individuals (e.g., older adults, individuals with disabilities, people with lower incomes), to increase cross-agency collaboration to facilitate, coordinate, enhance services and address redundancies of programs and services. Currently, funding is to be made available to State applicants to develop a comprehensive State action plan for coordinating human service transportation.

Here's Who To Contact:

The FTA Regional Office in Chicago is the administrator of the public transit grant programs for Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan. The telephone number is **312- 353-2789**.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (VA)

Here's What We Provide:

We help homeless veterans live as self-sufficient and independent citizens. In fact, we're the only Federal agency that provides substantial hands-on assistance directly to the homeless. Although limited to veterans and their dependents, VA's major homeless specific programs constitute the largest integrated network of homeless treatment and assistance services in the country.

- VA's Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program

These grants are available to nonprofit organizations. They range from \$4,000 to nearly \$1 million, provide up to 65% of the cost of acquiring or renovating facilities that will be used for transitional housing, service centers, and/or vans. Partial operating funds may be provided through per diem payments.

- VA Assistance to Stand Downs

We partner with local coalitions to run Stand Downs for Homeless Veterans. In wartime Stand Downs, front line troops are removed to a place of relative safety for rest and needed assistance before returning to combat. Peacetime Stand Downs allow the homeless to obtain food, shelter, clothing, health care, benefits certification, and referrals to other programs. VA Stand Downs are often held in conjunction with community partners offering services for non-veteran homeless.

- Veterans Industries

In the Compensated Work Therapy/Transitional Residence (CWT/TR) Program, disadvantaged, at-risk, and homeless veterans live in community-based supervised group homes. We contract with private industry and the public sector for work done by these veterans, who learn new skills and regain self-esteem. Veterans in the program work and pay toward upkeep of the residence.

- CHALENG

The Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education, and Networking Groups (CHALENG) is a nationwide initiative in which VA medical center and regional office directors work with other agencies and nonprofit to assess the needs of homeless veterans. The purpose is to develop action plans to meet identified needs and to develop directories of community resources to be used by homeless veterans.

- HCHV Program

Our Health Care for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) Program provides outreach, physical and psychiatric health exams, treatment and referrals to homeless veterans with mental health problems (including substance abuse). The program serves over 20,000 homeless veterans each year.

- DCHV

The Domiciliary Care for Homeless Veterans (DCHV) Program provides residential treatment and rehabilitation to approximately 5,000 homeless veterans each year. The average length of stay in the program is four months. The domiciliary conduct outreach and referral; vocational counseling and rehabilitation; and post-discharge community support.

- HUD-VASH

We partner with HUD to provide permanent housing through Section 8 housing vouchers and ongoing treatment to the harder-to-serve homeless veterans who are suffering with mental illness or substance abuse. Our staff at 35 sites provides outreach, clinical care and ongoing case management services.

- Supported Housing

This program helps veterans find and retain permanent housing. We provide clinical support to the veteran.

- Drop-In Centers

These programs provide a daytime sanctuary where homeless veterans can clean up, wash their clothes, and participate in a variety of therapeutic and rehabilitative activities. Referrals to longer-term assistance are also available.

- Comprehensive Homeless Centers

VA's Comprehensive Homeless Centers (CHC) provide the full range of VA homeless efforts in Anchorage, Brooklyn, Cleveland, Dallas, Little Rock, Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and West Los Angeles.

- VBA-VHA Special Outreach and Benefits Assistance

Veterans Benefits Counselors provide outreach, benefits counseling and referrals to eligible veterans applying for VA benefits. New VBA procedures are reducing the processing times for homeless veterans' benefits claims.

- VBA's Acquired Property Sales for Homeless Providers

This program makes all the properties we obtain through foreclosures on VA insured mortgages available for sale to homeless provider organizations at a discount of 20 to 50 percent, depending on time of the market.

- VA Excess Property for Homeless Veterans Initiative

Excess personal property, such as hats, parkas, footwear, socks, sleeping bags, and other items are available to homeless veterans and homeless veteran programs. A Compensated Work Therapy Program employing formerly homeless veterans has been established at the Medical Center in Lyons, NJ to receive, warehouse, and ship these goods to VA homeless programs across the country.

Here's Who to Contact:

Eugene Herskovic, LCSW
VISN 12 Network Homeless Coordinator
Jesse Brown VA Medical Center
820 South Damen
Chicago, Illinois 60612
Phone: (312) 569-808
Fax: (312) 569-6144
E-mail: Eugene.Herskovic@med.va.gov

Or visit the VA website at www.va.gov

CORPORATION FOR NATIONAL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE (CNCS)

Here's What We Provide:

The Corporation for National and Community Service is a family of volunteerism and anti-poverty programs. Learn more at <http://www.nationalservice.gov>. The most accessible of these programs pertinent to ending homelessness is AmeriCorps*VISTA (Volunteers In Service To America). It is a resource that might serve to leverage local access to grants available through other federal agencies.

For 42 years, AmeriCorps*VISTA has been helping bring communities and individuals out of poverty. Today, nearly 6,000 AmeriCorps*VISTA members serve in hundreds of nonprofit organizations and public agencies throughout the country. Members commit for a year as full time volunteers, receive a living allowance of approximately \$10,000, and benefits such as health insurance and an education award of \$4725. Members do not provide direct service so much as work as catalysts, encouraging community participation, piloting innovative programs, or increasing the capacity of local agencies and non-profits to eliminate homelessness through local initiatives that help individuals become self-sustaining.

For example, a team of three AmeriCorps*VISTA members may work with a municipality or a local non-profit in a host community with a focus on public awareness, coalition-building, or other capacity-related activity to serve families displaced by Katrina/Rita. VISTA members may assist in establishing a hub to connect resources and to recruit and place community volunteers with local initiatives. VISTA members may work with government agencies, non-profits, and faith-based or grassroots community groups to leverage resources available in large federal grants to help, as an example, ex-offenders overcome challenges in obtaining housing and employment.

Application for this resource begins with submission of a focused Concept Paper. These are accepted for review and approval throughout the year. Projects are approved normally for a three-year cycle. Recruits are identified locally or from a pool of national service applicants on the web. The average project might place as few as three or as many as ten AmeriCorps*VISTA members. Orientation and placement windows are scheduled in each quarter. Except where a cost-share agreement is advantageous, member costs are subsidized by The Corporation. To learn more about AmeriCorps*VISTA and to find the Concept Paper format, visit our web site: <http://www.americorps.org/vista>.

Here's Who To Contact:

- Illinois: John Hosteny at il@cns.gov
- Indiana: Louis Lopez at in@cns.gov
- Michigan: Evan Albert at mi@cns.gov
- Minnesota: Bob Jackson at mn@cns.gov
- Wisconsin: Linda Sunde at wi@cns.gov
- Ohio: Tina Dunphy at oh@cns.gov

GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)

Here's What We Provide:

- **Property Disposition Program**

Title V of the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, authorizes the identification and use of underutilized property for use as facilities to assist the homeless. The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development collects data on Federal properties and identifies those suitable to assist the homeless. The General Services Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services make suitable surplus properties available to private nonprofit organizations, units of local government, and States for use as facilities to assist the homeless. These properties are leased, deeded, or made available on an interim basis at no cost to approved homeless assistance providers. Federal land-holding agencies may lease/permit suitable underutilized property to approved homeless assistance applicants. Surplus properties to assist the homeless can be found at <http://rc.gsa.gov>

Here's Who To Contact:

For Region V states - Taronda Reed, **312-886-8996**.

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION (SSA)

Here's What We Provide:

Before addressing homelessness help, it is important to understand what we do. SSA generally provides cash benefits to individuals (not agencies, municipalities, or organizations) under the two primary cash programs it administers:

- Retirement, Survivors, and Disability Insurance (RSDI)

The RSDI program provides payments funded by the "trust fund" and paid for with FICA tax. The eligibility rules for retirement (including benefits for dependents) can be found at: <http://www.ssa.gov/r&m2.htm>.

The rules for disability benefits (including benefits for dependents) are at: <http://www.ssa.gov/d&s1.htm>. Basically, RSDI is the program that is associated with the Social Security Administration.

- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The SSI program provides needs-based payments to aged (i.e., age 65 and older), blind, or disabled individuals funded from "general revenues" or income tax. Since this is a needs-based program, only those with limited income and resources qualify. The more in-depth eligibility rules for SSI can be found at: <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/ssi/index.htm>.

Note that an individual who qualifies for SSI almost always qualifies for medical assistance through Medicaid.

It is important to recognize that being homeless does not qualify an individual for either RSDI or SSI payments. However, many disabled/aged homeless individuals qualify for SSI benefits since they often have little income or resources. For such individuals, there are several special things we do to assist. For example, we will take an SSI claim from an individual in an institution (where SSI eligibility is precluded), so that when he is released, SSI payments can quickly begin. Other things that we do to assist the homeless are listed at <http://www.ssa.gov/homelessness/>.

Often, homeless individuals need assistance in filing an application for payments, keeping appointments and complying with other requests for information to complete the application process. If you are able to assist such an individual, you should contact the local Social Security office or call SSA's toll free number below.

Here's Who To Contact:

SSA has 224 field offices in the 6-State Chicago Region, and the nearest office can be located by going to SSA's web site at <http://www.ssa.gov/> and clicking the link called **"Find a Social Security office"** which will bring you to this web page: <https://s044a90.ssa.gov/apps6z/FOLO/fo001.jsp>.

When you identify an SSA office, the phone number can be found on the link information or in the local phone book. We encourage you to contact the local office for any help you need or you may also call SSA's toll-free number **1-800-772-1213**.

INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE (IRS)

The Internal Revenue Service employs 100,000 workers in four major operating divisions that are aligned by type of taxpayers: Wage and Investment; Small Business/Self-employed; Large and Mid-sized Businesses, and Tax Exempt and Government entities.

Here's What We Provide:

- **Information and Assistance**

The IRS is responsible for administering the nation's tax laws, policies, and processes. As part of that responsibility as well as to encourage voluntary compliance, IRS has charged the Stakeholder Partnerships, Education and Communication (SPEC) office with planning/providing free information and assistance to low- to moderate-income, elderly, those with limited English proficiency, and disabled workers and families. The SPEC offices provide this service via volunteer-driven programs such as the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA), Tax Counseling for the Elderly (TCE), and various initiatives (Disability, Rural, and Financial Literacy.)

- **EITC and Other Tax Benefits**

The EITC is the nation's largest and most effective anti-poverty policy, as it lifts an average of 5 million Americans above the poverty line each year. The SPEC offices generate public awareness of the EITC, Child Tax Credit (CTC), and other tax benefits in an effort to ensure workers eligible to claim these credits receive refunds.

Homeless individuals who work (e.g., one week, one month, or six months during a tax year) may be eligible to claim the EITC, CTC and/or other tax benefits. Individuals who earn less than \$37,783 a year and have at least two children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of more than \$4,700. Individuals who earn less than \$12,590 a year, are at least 25 or under age 65 at the end of 2007, and have no children may be eligible to claim an EITC refund of over \$400.

- **Free Tax Preparation and Financial Education**

SPEC works with community groups, organizations, schools, and churches to establish/operate VITA and TCE sites that offer income tax preparation free of charge. VITA helps low- to moderate-income workers and families keep all of their refund dollars. In addition, working through banking institutions, nonprofit and community organizations, government agencies and large employers, SPEC promotes Financial Education as a means to help lower-income individuals and

families save all or some of their EITC dollars to improve their financial well-being, building toward asset accumulation.

Here's Who To Contact:

Community-based groups, organizations, agencies, schools, churches and libraries that wish to help SPEC promote EITC, VITA, and Financial Education for homeless individuals and families may contact their local SPEC Offices by phoning the toll-free number at 1-800-829-1040.

U.S. Department of Treasury: www.ustreas.gov

Internal Revenue Service (IRS): **1-800-829-1040**

Tax Assistance: **1-800-829-3676**

Tax Forms/Publications: www.irs.gov

Region V Interagency Council on Homelessness (ICH)

<p>Sue Augustus Director Corporation for Supportive Housing 203 North Wabash, Suite 410 Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 332-6690, Ext. 15 sue.augustus@csh.org</p>	<p>David K. Cole Operations Specialist U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Field Policy and Management, Chicago Regional Office 77 West Jackson Boulevard, 26th Fl., Rm. 2608 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-6236, Ext. 2070 David_K_Cole@hud.gov</p>
<p>Elizabeth S. Benito Projects Administrator Chicago Department of Housing Supportive Housing Division 35 North LaSalle Street, 11th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60602 (312) 742-0633 elizabeth.benito@cityofchicago.org</p>	<p>Joan E. Cummings, M.D., F.A.C.P. Network Director, VISN 12 Veterans Integrated Service Network 12 (10N12) Fifth Avenue and Roosevelt Road, Bldg. I8 Hines, Illinois 60141-5000 (708) 202-8400 joan.cummings@med.va.gov</p>
<p>Dan Brown Regional Emergency Analyst Office of the Regional Administrator DHS-FEMA Region V (312)408-5372 Daniel.brown@dhs.gov</p>	<p>Julie Ewart Public Affairs Specialist US Department of Education 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1427 Chicago, Illinois 60661 (312) 730-1703 julie.ewart@ed.gov</p>
<p>Nancy Chen Regional Administrator Women's Bureau Department of Labor 230 S. Dearborn, Rm. 1064 Chicago, IL 60604-1777 (312)353-6985 chen.nancy@dol.gov</p>	<p>Joseph Galvan Regional Director US Department of Housing and Urban Development 77 West Jackson Boulevard, 26th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-5680 joseph_p_galvan@hud.gov</p>
<p>William (Bill) Clair Regional Program Manager Runaway and Homeless Youth Program Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 400 East Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-0166 bill.clair@acf.hhs.gov</p>	<p>Heriberto Garcia Program Manager, ETA U.S. Department of Labor 230 South Dearborn Street, 6th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60604-1505 (312) 596 5493 garcia.heriberto@dol.gov</p>

<p>Daryl Hernandez Regional Interagency Coordinator Office of the Regional Director Department of Housing and Urban Development 77 West Jackson Boulevard, 26th Floor, Room 2608 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-6236, Ext2090 Daryl L. Hernandez@hud.gov</p>	<p>James F. Martin Regional Commissioner Social Security Administration Harold Washington Social Security Center 600 West Madison Street, 10th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60661 (312) 575-4000 james.f.martin@ssa.gov</p>
<p>Eugene Herskovic VFSW 12 Network Homeless Coordinator Jesse Brown VA Medical Center 820 South Damen Avenue Chicago, Illinois 60612 (312) 569-8085 Eugene.Herskovic@med.va.gov</p>	<p>Kalpana Mehta Health System Specialist Department of Veterans Affairs Fifth Avenue and Roosevelt Road Hines, Illinois 60141-5000 (708) 202-8409 Kalpana.Mehta@med.va.gov</p>
<p>John L. Hosteny Corporation for National and Community Service 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Suite 442 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-1960 jhosteny@cns.gov</p>	<p>Valerie E. Morgan-Alston Regional Manager Office for Civil Rights Department of Health and Human Services 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 240 Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 886-2359 Valerie.alston@hhs.gov</p>
<p>Ollice Holden Regional Administrator Food and Nutrition Service Department of Agriculture 77 W. Jackson Blvd. 20th Floor Chicago, IL 60604 (312)353-6664 ollice.holden@usda.gov</p>	<p>Janet M. Odeshoo Deputy Regional Director Federal Emergency Management Agency 536 South Clark Street, 6th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60605 (312) 408-5503 janet.odeshoo@fema.gov</p>
<p>Suzanne Krohn Executive Officer Department of Health and Human Services 223 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-5132 suzanne.krohn@hhs.gov</p>	<p>Rita Parkinson Consultant US Department of Housing and Urban Development, CPD 77 West Jackson Boulevard, 26th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353-6236, Ext. 2018 rita_parkinson@hud.gov</p>
<p>Maureen Lydon Regional Director Department of Health and Human Services 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 1300 Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-5160 maureen.lydon@hhs.gov</p>	<p>Barry Ramsey Manager US Depart of Agriculture-Rural Development 2118 West Park Court, Suite A Champaign, Illinois 61821 (217) 403-6222 barry.ramsey@il.usda.gov</p>

<p>Patricia C. Rivera Coordinator Homeless Education Program Department of Pupil Support Service Office of Specialized Services Chicago Public Schools 125 South Clark Street Chicago, Illinois 60603 (773) 553-2242 privera@cps.k12.il.us</p>	<p>Joyce A. Thomas Regional Chairperson for Regional V Interagency Council on Homelessness Regional Administrator Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 400 East Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-4237 joyce.thomas@acf.hhs.gov</p>
<p>Lawrence Rudmann US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Services Chicago Midwest Region (312) 353-1045 lawrence.rudmann@fns.usda.gov</p>	<p>Brenda Tucker-Jefferies Public Health Analyst Department of Health and Human Services Health Resources and Services Administration 233 North Michigan Avenue, 2nd Floor Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-1341 btucker-jeffries@HRSA.gov</p>
<p>Dick Smith Deputy Regional Administrator General Service Administration (GSA) 230 South Dearborn Street Chicago, Illinois 60604 312-886-8873 dick.smith@gsa.gov</p>	<p>Jim Varpness Regional Administrator Administration on Aging Department of Health and Human Services 233 N. Michigan Avenue, Suite 240 Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 886-8535 (312) 353-3141 Jim.varpness@aoa.hhs.gov</p>
<p>Taylor Sykes SSI Program Specialist Social Security Administration ARC-MOS 600 West Madison Street, 10th Floor Chicago, Illinois 60666 (312) 575-4222 Taylor.Sykes@ssa.gov</p>	<p>Jennifer Weiser Youth Programs Specialist Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families Runaway and Homeless Youth Program 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 400 East Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 886-5333 jweiser@acf.hhs.gov</p>
<p>Jesse Taylor Regional Director Department of Justice Chicago Midwest Region 55 West Monroe Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 353-4391 jesse.taylor@usdoj.gov</p>	<p>L. Kent Wilcox Deputy Regional Administrator Department of Health and Human Services Administration for Children and Families 233 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 400 East Chicago, Illinois 60601 (312) 353-4237 louis.wilcox@acf.hhs.gov</p>

<p>Ray E. Willis CPD Director Department of Housing and Urban Development, HUD 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2401 Chicago, Illinois 60604 (312) 353 1696, Ext.2713 Ray_E._Willis@hud.gov</p>	<p>Patrick A. Winfrey Director Veterans Employment and Training Services US Department of Labor 33 South State Street Room 8174 South Chicago, Illinois 60603 (312) 793-3433 winfrey.patrick@dol.gov</p>
<p>Doug Wilson Director US Department of Agriculture-Rural Development 2118 West Park Court, Suite A Champaign, Illinois 61821 (217) 403-6222 doug.wilson@il.usda.gov</p>	<p>Todd Zoellick Deputy Secretary's Regional Representative, Region V US Department of Education 500 West Madison Street, Suite 1427 Chicago, Illinois 60661 (312) 730-1700 todd.zoellick@ed.gov</p>