

Housing Focus

Addressing the needs of Housing Authorities & Community Development Organizations in Illinois



January 2016

Message from the President: Jackie L. Newman



Welcome to the 1st Housing Focus issue for 2016!!

I would like to wish everyone a very happy new year, and take this opportunity to thank you for your support of ILNAHRO in 2015!!

ILNAHRO Board has begun its' work!! Several ILNAHRO Board members are active on the North Central Regional Council (NCRC) Board which met January 7-8, 2016 for the annual Board meeting in Chicago, Illinois. Part of the NCRC Board meeting was spent in strategic planning mode, identifying ways in which Regional supports National Housing initiatives and how that transfers to benefit the State Housing and Community Development Organizations.

Our goal as your State Board is to ensure that we advocate for the issues that are important to you. We want to ensure that information shared is beneficial and that we are creating opportunities for engagement by all Housing Authorities and Community Development Organizations. Each month, Housing Focus, will provide you information from National and ensure legislative issues warranting advocacy and feedback are forwarded to you promptly; so please ensure your e-mail addresses are up-to-date with ILNAHRO.

Advocacy on Legislative and State issues are going to be critical as budgets are tightened. It is becoming increasingly important that we ensure our voice is heard. So, we encourage each PHA & CD Organization to 'make the case for affordable housing'. Establish relationship with your Congress member and ensure that you invite lawmakers to tour your developments. When your representatives are home, schedule meetings with them while they are in their District Office and use the facts from your community to educate representatives and their staff.

NAHRO's Legislative conference is scheduled for April 10-13, 2016 in Arlington, VA (just outside Washington D.C.). This conference is a great opportunity for PHAs and CD organizations to connect with key Congressional offices. These meetings provide an invaluable opportunity to meet with your Congressional Office with a unified voice and message educating and informing members of Congress on the critical role that affordable housing and community development programs play in their districts. **NAHRO's Washington Conference** is a great opportunity to learn about the latest from Capitol Hill, HUD and the White House as we prepare for 2016 and beyond.

I look forward to serving you!

Jackie L. Newman
ILNAHRO President

ILLINOIS



NAHRO
building communities together

Helping Our Neighbors

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As you may know, residents of Flint, Michigan are not currently able to drink, cook with, or bathe in their tap water.

There is a dire need for immediate assistance. Lake County Housing Authority is committing to serving our community and to helping our neighbors in need, and we sincerely hope you'll join us in our efforts.

Lake County Housing Authority will be collecting cases of bottled water as well as monetary donations to purchase bottled water for residents of the Flint, Michigan Housing Commission. We invite everyone to be a part of this effort!



How you can help:

Drop off cases of water or monetary donations (checks please, no cash) at our main office in Grayslake between 8am and 4pm Monday, Tuesday, Thursday or Friday, and between 8am and noon on Wednesdays.

Mail checks made out to "Lake County Housing Authority" with the notation "Flint Water" in the memo line to: Lake County Housing Authority, Attn: Joyce Mason, 33928 North US Highway 45, Grayslake IL 60030.

Donate via PayPal: donate@lakecountyha.org

If you have a large water donation, pickup may be arranged.

All donations will be acknowledged and the Flint, Michigan Housing Commission will receive a list of donors. We will be collecting donations through **Thursday, February 4, 2016** and will be delivering the water on February 5.

For questions or more information, please contact:
Joyce Mason at jmason@lakecountyha.org or 847-223-1170 extension 221



Thank you for making a difference in the lives of our Flint, Michigan neighbors during this critical time.

Service, Above All Else

"Service, above all else" is a guiding phrase that describes how Lake County Housing Authority values its customers. At Lake County Housing Authority, virtually everything we do revolves around the customer; listening to their needs, giving them optimal service, and going the extra mile to meet their Housing needs.

David A Northern, Sr.

Executive Director | Chief Executive Officer
Lake County Housing Authority www.lakecountyha.org

Thank You ILNAHRO Agency Member, Lake County Housing Authority for spearheading this effort!

In LIGHT

2017

"What Home Means to Me" **Poster Contest**

National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials • Housing America Campaign

IL NAHRO has joined with affordable industry partners across the state and country in support of NAHRO's Housing America 2017 campaign, which aims to educate decision makers and to raise public consciousness about the critical need for housing and community development initiatives. As part of NAHRO's Housing America campaign, IL NAHRO will hold a poster contest for children associated with affordable housing and community development programs of NAHRO member agencies. National honorees are selected from the region winning entries. All submissions must come through the state first and then onto the regional competition.

Reminder: All entries must come through the state and the regional level before they are forwarded on to the National level. If they are not, they will be disqualified.

Please download the application and narrative forms from the NAHRO website at:

Poster Contest Narrative Form

Poster Application

All STATE entries are due no later than Friday, February 26, 2016 and should be sent to the IL NAHRO office. Please see the instructions below.

NAHRO Poster Contest:

Each Commission or other interested parties are to submit their posters no later than Friday, February 26, 2016 to the IL NAHRO Office, 169 Templar Ave. Pinckney, MI 48169 to the attention of Cheryl Anne Farmer, State Coordinator. Please mark all entries "POSTER CONTEST".



2016 Winner

Poster Specifications:

- Theme - “What Home Means to Me”
- Size - No larger than 22”x28”
- Media – Contestant may use any art media (marker, crayon, paint, textiles, etc.) but please consider that posters will need to be mailed and reproduced.
- All entries must be mailed flat.
- All contestants must sign a release making their entry the property of NAHRO and permitting duplication/publication thereof. The release should be secured to the back of the entry.
- Contestants name, grade level, contact information and housing authority must be written on the back of each entry in addition to being listed on the release form that is also attached to the entry.
- All contestants are asked to provide a short narrative on the inspiration, vision and importance of their poster design.
- NCRC and NAHRO is only responsible for returning the original poster to the national grand prize winner. NAHRO must receive request for returning poster by October 1, 2016.



Eligibility and Selection Categories:

Contest participation is open to all children residing in affordable housing assisted directly (i.e., public or Section 8-assisted housing) by or supported under community development and affordable housing programs (i.e., CDBG, HOME, LIHTC) administered by a national NAHRO member agency.

Three age categories of competition:

Elementary - K to 5th grade

Middle – 6th to 8th grade

High – 9th to 12th grade.

The STATE winners for each age category will be announced at the ILNAHRO Conference on August 19, 2016. All submissions will be sent on to the regional level for judging.

The REGIONAL winners for each age category will be announced at the NCRC Annual Conference on April 28, 2016. The selected honoree in each age category will be submitted to the national competition by Friday, August 5, 2016.

Any questions, please feel free to e-mail at info@ilnahro.org or call 517.861.6198.



HUD Finalizes AFFH Assessment Tool for Local Governments

On December 31, 2015, HUD issued a [notice](#) announcing the publication of the final Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) Assessment Tool for use by local governments receiving community planning and development formula funding. The Assessment Tool will be the vehicle with which grantees will conduct and submit their Assessment of Fair Housing (AFH), as required by the AFFH final rule. The final Assessment Tool will also be used for AFHs conducted through joint and regional collaborations between local governments, and between local government(s) with one or more PHA partners where the local government is the lead entity. The AFH replaces the prior fair housing planning process, called the Analysis of Impediments to Fair Housing Choice (AI). HUD has also updated the [AFFH Data and Mapping Tool](#), which will be used by grantees to complete the AFH.

In 2014, HUD provided a 60-day solicitation of comments for the initial draft version of the Assessment Tool for use by local governments. NAHRO submitted [comments](#) at that time, as well as during an additional [30-day comment](#) period for the revised Assessment Tool. Among its comments, NAHRO expressed both strong support of the goals of fair housing and deep concerns over the wide-ranging consequences that the Assessment Tool, and the AFFH rule which it implements, would have. NAHRO believes the tool does not take into account critical factors, like administrative burden, resource availability and other HUD program priorities. Instead, the tool requires program participants to set fair housing goals based on a limited, and sometimes irrelevant, set of pre-determined factors, many of which are outside of the control of the program participant. While HUD's notice announcing the final Assessment Tool and the tool itself fails to address a number of its serious flaws, they do reflect several of NAHRO's concerns through meaningful actions:

- With regard to small agency capacity, NAHRO requested that HUD do more to streamline the AFH requirements for small agencies before

implementation, as these program participants will experience the greatest proportional costs relative to their overall resources. In response, HUD has announced that it will seek advanced comment on how the tool can best be used by small entities, while providing for meaningful assessment of fair housing issues, contributing factors, and goal setting. According to HUD, the resulting guidance will further refine the application of the rule's requirement for smaller PHAs and local government agencies with limited staff and resources.

- Despite HUD adding language to the preamble of the AFFH final rule that encourages grantees to take a balanced approach between place-based solutions and mobility initiatives, it is NAHRO's view that this balance is not so evident within the AFFH's regulatory text. In an effort to display a more balanced approach to fair housing planning, HUD has expanded its references to housing preservation, community revitalization efforts, and mobility options within the final Assessment Tool.
- In previous comments regarding the proposed AFFH rule, NAHRO and others noted their concern over the lack of concrete guidance and the absence of safe harbors that would provide grantees with some semblance of certainty that grantees are meeting the Department's AFFH expectations. The previous draft Assessment Tool did not remedy this uncertainty. In an effort to address this concern, HUD has published a 222-page guidebook alongside the final Assessment Tool: the [Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing Rule Guidebook](#). The guidebook aims to help program participants and members of the public understand the AFFH rule, the obligation to complete an AFH, and the linkage between an AFH and other required planning processes.

For the purposes of the finalized Assessment Tool for

HUD News

local governments, no AFH will be due prior to October 4, 2016. HUD will be issuing separate Assessment Tools (which are yet to be finalized) for states and insular areas and for public housing authorities (PHAs). The separate Assessment Tools will also be designed for use by: 1) joint and regional collaborations where the state or insular area is the lead entity, and 2) joint collaborations with only PHA partners. HUD will provide two separate public comment periods for the

forthcoming Assessment Tools.

NAHRO staff will work to keep members up-to-date and informed of HUD's activities related to the AFH. In the meantime, all of the aforementioned AFFH and AFH resources can be accessed online at: www.hudexchange.info/programs/affh/.

Questions? Contact Jenny Hsu at jhsu@nahro.org.

HUD NOFA FORECAST

The Department of Housing and Urban Development NOFA Forecast lists competitive grant opportunities that may be available for FY2016. The inclusion or exclusion of an opportunity in this list does not constitute a guarantee that a specific opportunity will become available or not be available. Forecast opportunities are subject to change based on enactment of Congressional appropriations and other considerations.

When funding is available, HUD will issue a Notice of

Funding Availability (NOFA), which will be available on Grants.gov and HUD's Funds Available webpage. Each NOFA provides guidance on how to apply for funding.

http://portal.hud.gov/hudportal/HUD?src=/program_offices/administration/grants/fundsavail

Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD)

HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development (CPD) has announced that the oversight and management of the Self-Help Homeownership Opportunity Program (SHOP) has been transferred from the Office of Affordable Housing Programs to the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development, under the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Development. This transfer was effective on December 16, 2015

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development

550 12th, SW

Suite 100

Washington, D.C. 20410



OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING
REAL ESTATE ASSESSMENT CENTER

Inspector Notice No. 2016-01¹

TO: All HUD Inspectors Certified to conduct Uniform Physical Condition Standards (UPCS) Inspections

FROM: James E. Cunningham, Jr., Public and Indian Housing Real Estate Assessment Center, Inspector Administration (IA)

SUBJECT: UPCS Inspector Protocol
Bed Bug Infestation

DATE ISSUED: January 21, 2016

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 1, 2016

This notice amends the inspection protocol requirements to be followed by all UPCS inspectors who conduct physical inspections of HUD assisted and insured properties. These amended inspection requirements are applicable to all properties, subject to UPCS physical inspections, reported to have or suspected of having bed bugs.

Background

In 2010, due to the reemergence of bedbugs, REAC issued Inspector Notice 2010-01 establishing inspection protocol requirements when an inspector is informed of bed bugs at a property that is being inspected. Those requirements addressed reporting of bed bugs and the conduct of inspections at these properties. This Notice amends, in part, those inspection protocol requirements and now requires inspectors to enter all units in which bed bugs are reported.

Researchers through HUD's Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes have concluded after conducting thousands of inspections that the likelihood of bed bug transfer to an inspector from an infested unit is remote. Bedbugs are nocturnal and usually hide on upholstered furniture or beds. They are not very active and do not quickly respond to a human host during the day. Furthermore, an individual's movement in a unit during inspection makes it even more difficult for bed bugs to find a host. As such, the threat to inspectors is infinitesimally low for bed bugs to be carried out on the inspector following a routine inspection.

¹ This Notice replaces Inspector Notice 2010-01 issued September 1, 2010.

Based on this body of professional experts' judgment and recommendations, , and HUD's continual improvements to its inspection processes, REAC is issuing this notice amending the inspection protocol to require the inspection of all units in the sample, including those reported to have bed bugs.

Procedures:

- A. Effective February 1, 2016, inspectors are required to report the presence or existence of bedbugs at any property being inspected and enter any unit reported to have bed bugs that is part of the sample generated.

- B. Before beginning the inspection, when the inspector meets with the property representative, the inspector shall:
 - 1. Inquire of the property representative or management agent if there have been any reports of bed bugs in any units.

 - 2. Enter results of the inquiry in the "Comments" field under the "Property Information" tab as "no bed bugs reported" or "yes bed bugs reported":
 - a. **If no bed bugs reported**, proceed with inspection; or

 - b. **If "yes" for bed bugs reported**, before proceeding with the inspection:
 - i. Call the Technical Assistance Center (1-888-245-4860) to report the presence and location of the bed bugs and obtain a TAC number,

 - ii. In the Comments field write the TAC number and identify the building(s) and units(s) with bed bugs.

 - iii. If there is not sufficient space in the Comments field to write in all of the units, enter "Bed bugs yes, Building 1, 50 of 100 units" or if the property does not give the inspector the number of units input "Bed bugs yes, Building 1 numerous units – property did not provide number."

- C. Inspectors shall enter all units, *reported* to have bed bugs that show up in the sample and conduct the normal REAC inspection.

- D. If the presence of bedbugs is discovered after the start of the inspection, the inspector must do all of the following:
 - 1. Call the TAC immediately;
 - 2. Report the presence of bed bugs and the location (building/unit);
 - 3. Obtain a TAC number and record the TAC number in the "Comments" field at under the "Property Information" tab;

4. Inspect the unit if it shows up in the sample.
- E. If property representative refuses entry to units reported to have bed bugs, the inspector must do all of the following:
1. Call the TAC immediately; 1-888-245-4860
 2. Obtain a TAC number and record the TAC number in the “Comments” field at under the “Property Information” tab;
 3. Mark the inspection as unsuccessful.

Administration:

The presence and the treatment of bed bugs on a property will not be scored in the UPCS inspection.

Should you have any questions about this notice, please contact the REAC TAC at 1-888-245-4860 or at reac_tac@hud.gov



UPDATES

CDBG Updates

CDBG Broadband Infrastructure FAQs: HUD's new FAQs clarify how CDBG program funds may be invested for broadband infrastructure and service delivery. As NAHRO previously reported, last July President Obama unveiled a new broadband connectivity initiative called ConnectHome, with

the purpose of narrowing the "digital divide" in HUD-assisted housing. At the same time, HUD committed to formalizing steps to narrow the digital divide through the regulatory rulemaking process. NAHRO expects HUD to publish these proposed rules early this year.

HOME and Housing Trust Fund Updates

HUD Notice on HOME Underwriting and Subsidy Layering: On December 22, HUD issued a new notice providing HOME participating jurisdictions (PJs) with development and implementation guidelines for program underwriting and subsidy layering requirements. A PJ must develop and use these guidelines to evaluate and ensure that the level of program investment does not surpass the amount that is necessary to provide quality affordable housing that is financially viable. HUD also recently published Notice CPD-15-09, which explains what constitutes an "eligible commitment" of funds for the purpose of satisfying the HOME program's 24-month commitment deadline. This notice represents the first comprehensive "checklist" on the topic of funding commitments since the publication of the 2013 HOME final rule. NAHRO's summary of the requirements is available [here](#).

HOME and Housing Trust Fund (HTF) Broadband FAQs: HUD's new guidance explains how HOME and HTF grantees may use program funds to invest into broadband infrastructure and service delivery. Since HTF regulations closely align with HOME regulations, the two programs have similar parameters for funding broadband infrastructure.

Final FY 2016 Fair Market Rents Published: Last December, HUD published the final FY 2016 Fair Market Rents (FMRs), which are used to determine payment standards for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) program, initial renewal rents for some Section 8 contracts, initial rents for the housing assistance payment (HAP) contracts in the Moderate Rehabilitation Single Room Occupancy program, and as rent ceilings for rental assistance units in the HOME program. The FMRs published in the notice were effective on the date of publication. In NAHRO's comments on the proposed FY 2016 FMRs, we noted that current rental market prices are not solely a function of past rental market prices, but are dependent on other variables. The new FMRs replaces the historical-based annualized change in gross rent trend factor with a forward-looking model that forecasts national rent and utility CPI indices based on economic assumptions. NAHRO will continue to analyze the FMRs and is cautiously optimistic about this new methodology that seems to result in more accurate FMRs.

HUD Publishes New 2015 Limits for HOME Maximum Per-Unit Subsidies: The 1991 HOME Program final rule established the program's maxi-

HUD's Section 221(d)(3) mortgage insurance program was discontinued. HUD is utilizing Section 234 Condominium Housing, elevator type, basic mortgage limits to determine HOME limits.

As an alternative, HUD is utilizing Section 234 Condominium Housing, elevator type, basic mortgage limits to determine HOME limits.

Homelessness Update

Recovery Housing Policy Brief: HUD has published a new policy brief that clarifies upon what is expected and what is effective operation for HUD-funded Recovery Housing programs. The purpose of the brief is to strengthen program performance and improve achievement outcomes. The brief should serve as a guide for Recovery Housing programs that are not operating within the practices and policies described in the brief (or do not meet HUD standards).

Guidance on CoC Collaboration with Workforce Boards under WIOA: In the December 2015 SNAPS In Focus newsletter, HUD's Office of Special Needs Assistance Programs discussed a new opportunity for Continuums of Care (CoCs) to team up with state and local organizations that administer workforce development programs covered by the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) of July 2014.

HOPWA Update

HUD Memorandum on Section 8 and HOPWA: A memorandum has been published by HUD clarifying the applicability of Section 8 requirements to Housing Opportunities for Persons with AIDS (HOPWA)-funded rental assistance programs. HOPWA grantees are only subject to the section 8 program requirements that HUD has incorporated

into HOPWA program regulations. Grantees administering HOPWA rental assistance may voluntarily follow other section 8 program requirements that are not incorporated into HOPWA regulations, as long as requirements do not conflict with HOPWA requirements.

Other CD Updates

HUD Announces Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant, Adds New Component: Last November, HUD announced \$10 million in funding available through the FY 2015/FY 2016 Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant, a program that aids struggling neighborhoods with severely distressed public housing or HUD-assisted housing by investing in the community's housing, residents, and neighborhood. Prior to this funding announcement, Planning Grant funds could only be invested towards the creation of a Transformation Plan. HUD has now introduced a new component called Planning and Action Grants that will allow communities to use grants of up to \$2 million over three years to demonstrate a commitment to "doing while planning." Communities will identify eligible Action Activities to be carried out during the latter portion

of the grant period. Approximately four Planning and Action Grants and four Planning Grants will be awarded. Eligible PHAs, local governments, nonprofit organizations, and tribal entities will first apply for Planning and Action Grants. Top scoring applicants will be awarded Planning and Action Grants, and the next set of highest scoring applicants will be awarded Planning Grants, based on funding availability. Deadline to apply is February 9, 2016.

RAD Newsletter: The December 2015 issue of HUD's RAD newsletter focuses on making most of RAD's Choice Mobility provision as a natural extension of an "access-to-opportunity" strategy.

Research & Reports

Harvard Report on America's Rental Housing: Harvard's Joint Center for Housing Studies (JCHS) has released its biennial report with recent data that show how "rental housing is home to a growing share of the nation's increasingly diverse households." Yet the current tight rental market and ongoing affordability challenges will require sound policies and programs in order to meet the needs of low-income and diverse renters. The number of housing cost-burdened renters (more than 30 percent of income spent on housing) set another record in 2014. Just under 84 percent of renter households with incomes below \$15,000 (equal to full-time work at the federal minimum wage) were cost-burdened, with 72 percent facing severe-cost burdens (more than half of income spent on housing).

Veterans Homelessness Prevention Demonstration Evaluation (VHPD) Final Report: Authorized in 2009, the VHPD program is a joint venture be-

tween HUD and the U.S. Departments of Veterans Affairs and Labor and was the first homeless prevention program that addressed homeless and at-risk veterans through combined services in housing, health care and employment. HUD's final report, led by Silber & Associates and the Urban Institute, found that after six months of leaving the program, 76 percent of program participants were living in their own home, and employment and monthly incomes nearly doubled.

Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) Showcase: To celebrate 30 years of LIHTC, Novogradac has published a 166-page special report that highlights this important tax credit program and showcases the various affordable rental communities financed using the tax credit. In the oncoming year, making the 4 percent LIHTC permanent will be a high priority issue for NAHRO, now that the 9 percent has been permanently authorized.

Grants & Opportunities

- FY 2016 Rural Sexual Assault, Domestic Violence, Dating Violence and Stalking Program(DOJ) – Feb. 1, 2016
- Pay for Success Permanent Supportive Housing Demonstration (HUD): Deadline Feb. 12, 2016
- Promise Zones Third Round of Selection Process – Deadline Feb. 23, 2016
- Violence Against Women Act and Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS Project Demonstration (HUD, reissued) – Deadline Mar. 8, 2016



Rockford Housing Authority (RHA) receives \$200,961 in 2016 Family Self-Sufficiency grants and approval of its new Family Self-Sufficiency Action Plan to expand opportunities for RHA residents to become self-sufficient.

The new Action Plan builds on past success of the RHA FSS program and incorporates evidence based practices, case management and intervention strategies to expand FSS enrollment to all RHA properties; including those under RHA's 1100 unit redevelopment plan. This includes the New Towne property. Past RHA successes include helping 105 families move from public housing or the HCV program to owning homes all over the City of Rockford. It is these past successful processes, married to evidence based strategies that will provide the greatest success for our residents and our community.

The successful integration of coordinated services is exemplified in the recent achievement of and recognition for effectively ending Veteran's homelessness in our

community. Beth Sandor, Director, Zero: 2016, stated, "It is with special pride that I note you are the first community in America to receive this certification. Your achievement will set a powerful example for other communities to follow as they pursue a measurable end to veteran homelessness. Congratulations!"

RHA is honored to have offered 86 veteran specific vouchers to aid the City of Rockford, Veterans Administration and Continuum of Care in achieving this goal. As exhibited in the effort to end veteran's homelessness the successful integration of housing, case management and supportive services is achievable. And while proven in other communities it is more than promising to see this success happening in Rockford.

The RHA's new FSS Action Plan will use the same principals and processes used in the Veteran's initiative to break the cycle of poverty for its residents. "I am happy to accept this grant award and implement the new Action plan as part of RHA's continued effort to improve outcomes for our residents and our community" stated Ron Clewer, CEO, RHA. "As we implement these new strategies we will happily share our dashboard data with the community. 2016 will be the year we move from research and systems change to implementation and open data sharing. This transparency should better help the community understand the work RHA does with our partners!"

Thank you to HUD for continuing to invest in these poverty reducing programs and in Rockford. Special thanks to our Program Coordinating Committee and the many public and private partners that have helped bring us this far in our agency transformation.

Rockford Lauded for Ending Homelessness Among Veterans

By [Brian Leaf](#) Staff writer

http://www.rrstar.com/article/20151215/NEWS/st_refDomain=www.facebook.com&st_refQuery=
Posted Dec. 15, 2015 at 1:14 PM Updated Dec 15, 2015 at 10:39 PM

ROCKFORD — Rockford is the first city in the nation to effectively end homelessness among local veterans.

So Says Zero: 2016. The city is one of 75 cities participating in [Zero: 2016](#), which is tackling both homelessness among veterans and chronic homelessness.

Since June, the city has found housing for 73 veterans and has in place a system to house homeless veterans within a month. That helped the city reach "functional zero," a term first used in New Orleans. It means that every newly discovered homeless veteran on the street or in a shelter is provided permanent housing within a month, unless they decide to enter a longer-term treatment program.

Zero: 2016 says that to remain at functional zero, there can be no more than eight homeless vets awaiting housing and any new homeless person will be put in housing quickly. The city said the mechanisms are in place to reach those numbers, which it monitors through Rockstat, a data-driven

performance appraisal of city programs and services.

"Today's announcement doesn't mean there will never be another homeless vet here in Rockford," said Antonio R. Riley, Midwest region administrator for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, who lauded the city's efforts during a celebration today at Memorial Hall. "What today's announcement does mean is that for that vet, we should be able to house that person in 30 days or so."

The city also has been recognized by the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness for completing First Lady Michelle Obama's Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. Rockford Mayor Larry Morrissey credited the city's success in finding homes for veterans to networking among case managers involved with housing and mental health, police and fire officials, landlords and HUD.

Agencies such as the Veterans Administration, Winnebago County Veterans Assistance Center, the Illinois Department

of Employment Security Veteran's Program, Rosecrance Ware Center, Rockford Housing Authority and Carpenter's Place were among those working with the city's Human Services Department to find and build relationships with homeless veterans, then get them resources they need.

"We started by personalizing it," Morrissey said. "Every veteran has a name. Every person has a story. When we make their story part of our story and our life and our work, we're able to get people housed, we're able to manage that list, we're able to make the connections to solve that problem." The effort is coordinated by Community Solutions, a national nonprofit that oversees the Zero: 2016 movement.

Community Solutions helped the city build the model it used to address veteran homelessness. Morrissey said those methods will be used to tackle chronic homelessness in Rockford.

"Rockford has defined itself as a vanguard community in a national movement to end homelessness, demonstrating that it's possible to solve this complex problem," said Beth Sandor, director of Zero: 2016. "We look forward to continuing to support them in sustaining these gains and working toward an end to chronic homelessness by the close of next year."



December 1, 2015

The Honorable Lawrence J. Morrissey
Mayor, City of Rockford, IL
425 East State Street, 8th Floor
Rockford, IL 61104-1014

Dear Mayor Morrissey:

Thank you for your commitment to ending Veteran homelessness. Your leadership—and that of your colleagues in the city of Rockford—has been instrumental as we work together to ensure that every Veteran in our country has a home.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Veterans Affairs are pleased to confirm that the city of Rockford has effectively ended homelessness among Veterans. We are confident that the infrastructure and systems you have built will ensure that any Veteran experiencing a housing crisis in Rockford will get the support they need to quickly obtain a permanent home.

On behalf of USICH and our Federal partners, thank you for answering the First Lady's call to action in the Mayors Challenge to End Veteran Homelessness. We recognize and appreciate your extraordinary team, and look forward to continuing our collaboration as we work to end homelessness for all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Matthew Doherty", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Matthew Doherty
Executive Director

Cc: Ann Marie Oliva, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Needs, HUD
Lisa M. Pape, Executive Director, VHA Homeless Programs, VA

Zero: 2016

from Community Solutions

December 15, 2015

Dear Mayor Morrissey, Shelton Kay, Ron Clewer, Jennifer Jaeger and Angie Walker,

Congratulations!

This letter confirms that the Rockford, Winnebago & Boone Counties Continuum of Care has achieved Functional Zero on veteran homelessness, according to the standards adopted by the 75 communities participating in Zero: 2016.

In reaching this milestone, you have proven and documented that fewer veterans are now experiencing homelessness on your streets and in your shelters than your community is routinely housing each month. You have identified these veterans by name and proven your monthly housing performance using a rolling, 6-month average. You are measurably ensuring that, from now on, homelessness among veterans will be rare, brief and non recurring.

This achievement marks a major milestone in our [Zero: 2016 initiative](#), a movement of 75 communities across the country working to do whatever it takes to end veteran and chronic homelessness by the end of next year.

When you applied for Zero: 2016 you agreed to push forward on implementing best practices in supporting all of your homeless veterans into housing: building a local team, optimizing your resources, establishing and working from By Name Lists of all people experiencing homelessness, reporting your housing placements monthly to track your progress, and now, celebrating the work you've done to change your system.

You are leaders in this work and we celebrate you and stand with you to maintain the momentum for ending chronic homelessness in your community next.

Onward!



Beth Sandor
Director, Zero: 2016
Community Solutions

P.S. It is with special pride that I note you are the first community in America to receive this certification. Your achievement will set a powerful example for other communities to follow as they pursue a measurable end to veteran homelessness. Congratulations!

Have you visited the **Advocacy Action Center** lately?



There are a few **TAKE ACTION** items featured that you may want to check out.

<http://www.nahro.org/nahro-advocacy>

2016 National Conference Dates

Washington Conference— April 10-12; Arlington, VA (just outside Washington, DC)

Summer Conference - July 15-17; Portland, OR

National Conference - October 14-16; New Orleans, LA



Save the Date

IL NAHRO Annual Conference

August 17-19, 2016

Radisson Hotel
Rockford, IL



ADVERTISING RATE SHEET

The Illinois Chapter of NAHRO is a professional membership association of housing and community development agencies and individuals. All editions will be sent by e-mail to the entire IL NAHRO membership and posted on the IL NAHRO website.

The newsletter is put out 10 times a year. January, February, March, April, May, June, July/August, September, October and November/December. Our current subscription list encompasses over 130 members/individuals.

Submission deadlines are 20th of each month.

The advertising rates for the newsletter are as follows:

<u>Finished Ad Size (width x length)</u>	<u>Cost per Issue</u>	<u>Cost for all 10 Issues</u>
Full Page – 7.5" x 10"	\$75	\$675
Half Page - 7.5" x 5"	\$50	\$450
Quarter Page – 3.5" x 5"	\$30	\$270
Medium/Small – 3.5" 3.5"	\$25	\$225
Business Card – 3.5" x 2.5"	\$15	\$135

<u>Website Company Link</u>	<u>Cost for Link – 1 year</u>
Banner Logo Link	\$100

If you are interested in advertising with us, please send a high resolution file (at least 300 dpi) to info@ilnahro.org by submission deadline indicated above. Acceptable files include: .tiff, .eps, .pdf or .jpeg or .png). If you have any questions please contact Cheryl Anne Farmer, State Coordinator at 517-861.6198 or by email at info@ilnahro.org.

Return form to IL NAHRO, 169 Templar Ave., Pinckney, MI 48169 or fax to 734-498-8415.

Company Name _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone# _____

Amount Enclosed _____ **Paid with Check #** _____

Ad Size: Full Page Half Page Quarter Page Medium/Small Business Card

Print our ad in the following newsletter issues:

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> January | <input type="checkbox"/> April | <input type="checkbox"/> July/August | <input type="checkbox"/> November/December |
| <input type="checkbox"/> February | <input type="checkbox"/> May | <input type="checkbox"/> September | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> March | <input type="checkbox"/> June | <input type="checkbox"/> October | |

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NCRC At Large Representative - 2 Year

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NCRC At Large Representative 4 year

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IL NAHRO State Coordinator

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