

Upcoming Opportunities & Available Resources

June 2011

Issue # 58

I. Resources

USICH Announces Save the Date: Opening Doors Anniversary Stakeholder Call

Description: Labor Secretary Hilda Solis, Chair of the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness (USICH) invites you to attend a stakeholder conference call on June 22, 2011 to mark the one year anniversary of the release of *Opening Doors: Federal Strategic Plan to End Homelessness*.

Opening Doors is the first ever comprehensive federal plan to prevent and end homelessness. Since its release USICH and its federal partners have been working to implement the Plan. Unprecedented collaboration has occurred throughout all levels of government and with private, non-profit, and faith based organizations as we work to end homelessness in America. The Council agencies have both individually and collectively advanced the strategies contained in the Plan.

Special Assistant to the President for Urban Affairs, Derek Douglas, and USICH Executive Director, Barbara Poppe, will join Secretary Solis to discuss the roles the federal government and Administration have played over the first year of *Opening Doors*. Key leaders will share their thoughts on the impact of plan implementation to date and what is needed as we move forward into year two of implementation.

The conference call will be interactive and USICH will answer submitted questions at the end of the call.

When: Wednesday, June 22, 2011 from 3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m. EST

Go to the online registration form to sign up:

<https://www3.gotomeeting.com/register/868407102>

Out of Reach 2011

Description: *Out of Reach* is a side-by-side comparison of wages and rents in every county, Metropolitan Area (MSAs/HMFAs), combined nonmetropolitan area and state in the United States. For each jurisdiction, the report calculates the amount of money a household must earn in order to afford a rental unit in a range of sizes (0, 1, 2, 3, and 4 bedrooms) at the area's Fair Market Rent (FMR), based on the generally accepted affordability standard of paying no more than 30% of income for housing costs. From these calculations the hourly wage a worker must earn to afford the FMR for a two-bedroom home is derived. Currently, there is a shortage of 3.4 million rental units of affordable housing.

For more **information** or to download a PDF of the full report visit:

<http://www.nlihc.org/oor/oor2011/>

ASPE Releases New Report on Medicaid and Permanent Supportive Housing for the Chronically Homeless

Description: This new HHS report is a comprehensive literature review that looks at the operation of permanent supportive housing for the chronically homeless and the related use of Medicaid for the funding of supportive services. Permanent supportive housing is a solution to chronic homelessness. The challenge is finding enough resources to continually fund the supportive services vital to its success. The report:

- Describes the importance of linking housing with health care in the permanent supportive housing model,
- Identifies the most effective practices used to increase Medicaid access for the chronically homeless to fund supportive services, and
- Previews the ways Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act in 2014 will effect access and funding for this population.

To read the report, visit: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/daltcp/reports/2011/ChrHomlr.htm#intro>

HUD Releases FY 2011 Plans for Homeless Assistance Programs

Description: Upon passage of the Continuing Resolution for FY 2011, HUD recently released its plan for the remainder of funds for its homeless assistance programs. Highlights include

- \$65 million in additional funding for Emergency Solutions Grant Implementation
- \$50 million for 7,000 new HUD-VASH Vouchers
- HEARTH Act implementation will not proceed in the Continuum of Care programs because of a lack of funding. The Supportive Housing Program, Shelter Plus Care, and Section 8 SRO Program will continue under the current rules and regulations. However, HUD encourages communities to continue planning and preparing for HEARTH implementation planning in FY 2012.
- The current definition of homelessness remains in effect until further regulations and guidance are issued.

Permanent Supportive Housing Evidence-Based Practices (EBP) Kit

Description: The EBP Kit outlines the essential components of supportive housing services and programs for people with mental illness. It discusses how to develop new programs within mental health systems that are grounded in evidence-based practices. The kit includes eight booklets.

To download the FREE kit or request it to be shipped (charges may apply), visit:

http://store.samhsa.gov/product/SMA10-4510?WT.ac=EB20110608_SMA10-4510

The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) Releases Report on Housing as a Human Right

Description: The National Law Center on Homelessness and Poverty (NLCHP) recently released "Simply Unacceptable: Homelessness and the Human Right to Housing in the United States 2011", a brief evaluating the United States on international standards of security of tenure; availability of services, materials, and infrastructure; affordability; accessibility; habitability; location; and cultural adequacy. The U.S. scores no higher than a C- on any of the criteria, with the worst grades in areas of security of tenure, affordability, and location of housing. Identification barriers limiting accessibility to federal resources, criminalization of homelessness, and lack of access to healthcare in rural areas are listed as factors that take away from access to housing.

To read the full report, visit: <http://www.nlchp.org/content/pubs/SimplyUnacceptableReport.pdf>

HUD Releases 2010 AHAR

Description: The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released the 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Report to Congress (AHAR). According to the findings, levels of homelessness in the United States have stayed flat from 2009 to 2010. Overall homelessness increased by one percent, rising to 649,917 according to the annual point-in-time counts. The number of homeless individuals, unsheltered homeless persons, and homeless persons in families showed marginal increases of 0.75 percent, 2.76 percent, and 1.61 percent, respectively.

The number of chronically homeless individuals declined by one percent; the steady and continual decline of chronic homelessness reflects the success of local and federal efforts to implement best practices to serve chronically homeless people. The report also offers findings from annual prevalence data and the impact of the federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (HPRP).

To read the full report, visit:

<http://www.hudhre.info/documents/2010HomelessAssessmentReport.pdf>