

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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News Release

State to Hold Public Hearings on Application to HUD for \$56 million in Annual Funds

Draft 'Consolidated Plan' will access Community Development Block Grants, HOME Funds, Emergency Shelter Grants, and Housing Opportunities for Persons with Aids (HOPWA) Funds

CHICAGO - In an annual ritual that yields nearly \$56 million in federal funds to support housing related activities across Illinois, the Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), in coordination with the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO), the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH), and other state agencies, announces the completion and availability of the proposed Consolidated Plan for Calendar Year 2009. A 30-day public comments period begins September 24, 2008, and three public hearings have been scheduled across the state for interested parties and the general public.

The Consolidated Plan serves as the state's annual funding application to HUD for formula grant programs, including the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the HOME Investment Partnerships Program, the Emergency Shelter Grants (ESG) Program, and the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) Program. Additionally, the Consolidated Plan sets forth priorities for the state's housing and non-housing community development needs for Calendar Year 2009, highlights all known funding projections for Program Year 2009 (January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009) under all major federal and state housing programs, and includes Citizen Participation, Action Plan, Certifications and comments from Illinois citizens.

Governor Rod R. Blagojevich signed Public Act 94-965 on June 30, 2006 establishing the State of Illinois' Comprehensive Housing Planning Act. The Act calls for: the creation of a Housing Task Force; the development of a state comprehensive housing plan; the identification of underserved populations; the encouragement to more effectively use available funds from IHDA and other state agencies in a single application process; annual progress reporting; and other features. The Governor's Affordable Housing Task Force will submit a Comprehensive Housing Plan to the Governor and General Assembly by the end of the year and will incorporate the many components of the Consolidated Plan into the state's Comprehensive Housing Plan.

Approximately 600 copies of the proposed Consolidated Plan are being distributed across the state and will be available to the public at designated libraries throughout the state, including the state's library network. Copies can also be accessed on the internet at www.ihda.org.

Three public hearings are scheduled during the 30-day public comments period to solicit comments on the state's priorities and its allocation of funds. All sites are fully accessible to persons with physical disabilities. The public hearings schedule is as follows:

<u>Tuesday, October 7, 2008</u>	<u>Wednesday, October 15, 2008</u>	<u>Thursday, October 16, 2008</u>
Public Hearing #1	Public Hearing #2	Public Hearing #3
Chicago - IHDA	Marion-State Reg. Office Bldg	Illinois State Library
401 North Michigan Ave.	2309 West Main Street	300 South 2nd Street
Suite 700 (Board Room)	Conference Room	Authors Room
Chicago, Illinois	Marion, Illinois	Springfield, Illinois
1:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.

The public is invited to provide public comments prior to, at, or after these scheduled hearings. Individuals who wish to give oral testimony or comments at any of these hearings must register prior to the start of each public hearing, and are encouraged to bring a written summary of their comments to the public hearings to ensure that their concerns receive a written response from the state. The time allotted to each respondent may be limited, based on the number of individuals registered to speak. Written comments, with or without oral testimony, will be collected at each hearing and may also be mailed directly to IHDA afterwards. **All written public comments must be received by IHDA by close of business on October 24, 2008** to be considered.

Written comments should be sent to:

Illinois Housing Development Authority
Office of Housing Coordination Services (OHCS)
Attention: Consolidated Plan
401 North Michigan Avenue, Suite 700
Chicago, Illinois 60611

Hearing-impaired and sight-impaired individuals in need of services such as an interpreter or documents in large-print/Braille should make requests directly to IHDA at the telephone numbers below at least three (3) days before the hearing which they plan to attend. IHDA will make reasonable efforts to accommodate such requests. To obtain additional information concerning these public hearings, please call (312) 836-5383 or TDD/TTY (312) 836-5222.

About the Illinois Housing Development Authority

IHDA was designated the lead state entity for developing the Consolidated Plan in 1994.

The Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA) is a self-supporting state agency that finances the creation and the preservation of affordable housing across Illinois. Since its creation by an act of the Illinois legislature in 1967, IHDA has allocated more than \$9.3 billion and financed approximately 200,000 units of affordable housing across the state. IHDA accomplishes its mission through a number of federal and state funding sources, including the Illinois Affordable Housing Trust Fund, the Illinois Affordable Housing Tax Credits Fund, the allocation of federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits, HOME Investment Partnership funds and others. IHDA is also a bonding authority, and independently sells bonds, based on its own good credit, to finance affordable housing across Illinois.

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