



EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

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**ILLINOIS PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION  
RESOLUTION NO. 6  
2023**

**Support Solutions to Address the Housing Crisis  
Among People Living with HIV in Illinois**

**WHEREAS**, the federal government-initiated plans to reduce HIV incidence by 90% over the next 10 years through the Ending the HIV Epidemic Initiative. To succeed, the nation will need to not only overcome the scientific and programmatic barriers to testing, treatment, and prevention, but also to address the immediate housing needs of individuals living with HIV and those wanting to prevent HIV acquisition; and,

**WHEREAS**, research shows that housing instability is a significant barrier to HIV care, including lower rates of: HIV testing, HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) use, HIV treatment and viral suppression; and,

**WHEREAS** a lack of affordable housing options can limit a person's ability to maintain stable housing and access other services, including staying engaged in ongoing health care; and,

**WHEREAS**, stable housing is closely linked to successful positive health outcomes, increase medication adherence, reduced HIV transmission rates and enhanced overall quality of life for individuals living with HIV and those wanting to prevent HIV acquisition; and,

**WHEREAS** the lack of affordable and emergency housing options disproportionately affects marginalized groups within the HIV community, including but not limited to;

- older individuals, who may already face age-related health issues, who are burdened by the added stress of unstable housing impeding their ability to maintain health and stability.
- young people, who may experience higher rates of homelessness and greater risk of HIV infection.

- immigrants with no stable documentation who face discrimination and fear of deportation.
- racial, ethnic, gender and sexual minority populations who encounter systemic barriers that restrict access to housing options.
- individuals with special medical conditions who require specialized housing to accommodate their unique needs; and,

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Illinois Public Health Association (IPHA), as a public health leader in Illinois, will:

- Support public health policies, programs, and services that support equitable, affordable, and expedited availability of housing, with focus on the following areas:
  - Equity and Inclusivity – support housing options, such as the Housing First model, that prioritize inclusivity, cultural responsiveness and non-discriminatory practices ensuring equal access to housing resources for all individuals, regardless of background or circumstances.
  - Affordability – establish new affordable housing programs tailored to the unique needs of marginalized populations, including rental assistance, subsidy programs and innovative financial models to reduce the burden of housing costs.
  - Expedited Availability – streamline and expedite the process of accessing housing. Minimize bureaucratic procedures, simplify application processes and actively work to reduce waiting times to ensure that individuals in need of urgent housing support are not left in precarious situations and can quickly secure safe accommodations.
  - Collaboration and Resource Integration – foster collaboration among diverse stakeholder groups to pool resources, expertise, and knowledge.
  - Proactive Outreach and Education – Conduct outreach campaigns to raise awareness about housing programs, specifically targeting marginalized populations.
  - Continuous Evaluation and Improvement – Implement a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to regularly assess the effectiveness of housing programs. Evaluation processes should involve gathering feedback from program beneficiaries and stakeholders to identify areas for improvement, address emerging challenges, and adapt housing services to better meet the evolving needs of unstably housed populations.

#### **References:**

Housing First PSH for Individuals with SMI Program Guide, Illinois Department of Human Services

<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=136965>

Issue Brief: The Role of Housing in Ending the HIV Epidemic, Centers for Disease Control.

<https://www.cdc.gov/hiv/policies/data/role-of-housing-in-ending-the-hiv-epidemic.html>