WE NEED YOU!

Anticipated Outcomes

1. Will County will have a center point for all homeless issues, research and education.
2. Duplication of services will be reduced among providers.
3. Intensive research will enable our community to quantify and understand its homeless needs.
4. The public, private and non-profit sectors will be linked in partnership.
5. Funding requests will be the result of community-wide consensus.
6. The Continuum will employ a results-oriented, measurable approach to all services and programs.
7. The Continuum will continually gauge its success in helping Will County’s homeless achieve self-sufficiency.

A successful continuum of care requires the community’s involvement to positively impact programs and service delivery at every critical phase of the homeless cycle. For more information, contact the lead agency:

Working in partnership to build a comprehensive service delivery system that leads individuals and families from homelessness to self-sufficiency.
Vision

The Will County Continuum of Care is dedicated to streamlining and strengthening the current service delivery system through even greater collaborative planning, partnership and program execution. It is the Vision of the Continuum of Care members to create a seamless, comprehensive system of services that:

1. Prevents and ends homelessness
2. Supports the emergency as well as ongoing supportive needs of the homeless
3. Provides the tools necessary to sustain independent living
4. Leads to permanent self-sufficiency

Strategy

The Will County area has long supported its homeless and at-risk population through a strong and committed service provider network. Our community continues to witness an increase in demand for services, and with the ongoing struggles of our economic climate, the needs among local individuals and families will likely increase further.

In 2008, the Continuum established the Homeless Services Program in order to fill gaps in services provided to the homeless. Case managers from organizations that provide supportive services to the homeless population and participate in the Continuum of Care are able to refer individuals or families for services that they have not been successfully linked with or are otherwise unavailable.

Who Should Participate?

Government entities, elected officials, non-profit organizations, financial institutions, businesses, housing developers, churches, health care providers, neighborhood associations, educators, the media, homeless as well as formerly homeless persons and others.

What Will We Achieve in Partnership?

Identification of gaps, expansion of existing or development of new services, collaboration for funding opportunities, reduction in duplication and the streamlining of service delivery, while measuring the effectiveness of all services and activities on an ongoing basis within the following structure:

Five “homeless support” committees to closely focus on the primary issues impacting Will County’s homeless; address these issues in relationship to homeless prevention, crisis intervention, stabilization, housing/self-sufficiency and follow-up.

Leadership Committee

Chair
Ronald Pullman - Will County Community Development Department

Vice-Chair
Alfredo Melesio - City of Joliet Neighborhood Services

Secretary
Cynthia Ketcham - Veterans Assistance Commission of Will County

Homeless Services Coordinator
Todd Fuller - Will County Center for Community Concerns

Agape Missions, NFP - Jill Skole
Aunt Martha’s Youth Service Center - Jennifer White Goehrig
Catholic Charities-Daybreak Center – Yvonne McDonald-Hames
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Joliet – Jane Tyschenko
Cornerstone Services, Inc. – Bette Reed
Cornerstone Services, Inc. – Nicole Miraigio
Crisis Line of Will County – Michele Batara
Emerging Life Solutions – Chrystal Hansen
Guardian Angel Community Services – Ines Kutlesa
Illinois Dept. of Employment Security – Eva Kukulka
Lamb’s Fold Center for Women and Children - Rhonda Sykes
MorningStar Mission Ministries, Inc. – Marilyn Farmer
Stepping Stones Recovery Center – Pete McLenighan
Trinity Services, Inc. – Michelle Brubaker
United Way of Will County – Michael Hennessy
Village of Bolingbrook – Matthew Eastman
Will County Center for Community Concerns – Kris White
Will County Habitat for Humanity – Annette Leck
Will County Health Department – John J. Cicero