



## Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity

Rod R. Blagojevich, Governor / Jack Lavin, Director

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### **Governor Announces \$2.3 Million In Shelter Grants To Help The Homeless**

SPRINGFIELD – In an effort to address the problems of homelessness throughout Illinois, Governor Rod R. Blagojevich today announced grants totaling nearly \$2.3 million to help 75 not-for-profit organizations provide emergency shelter assistance to the homeless.

"Difficult economic times put an even greater strain on the state's network of organizations that already work very hard to help the homeless," Governor Blagojevich said. "That is why these grants are so critical in meeting the demands of providing temporary shelter and assisting the homeless in their move towards becoming more self-sufficient."

The grants are administered by the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO) and are funded through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Not-for-profit organizations outside Cook County that provide assistance to the homeless are eligible to seek funding, and units of local government may also seek grants on behalf of such organizations. Grants are awarded competitively to projects that demonstrate clear need, an immediate ability to utilize the grant, and complement existing homeless services. The maximum grant is \$75,000 and must be matched by an equal amount from other sources.

"We applaud the outstanding work being done by these organizations and community groups," said DCEO Director Jack Lavin. "It should be noted that many of these programs do much more than just put a roof over someone's head. They provide a variety of services for their clients such as medical treatment, rehabilitation services and job training to help them regain their independence."

Lavin cited a grant to Freedom House in Princeton which will receive \$43,014 to rehabilitate space in its newly-leased shelter to provide four crisis short-term residential bedrooms, three extended stay residential apartments, eight bathrooms, an Adult and a Children's Learning Center, two kitchens, laundry, dining and living room spaces. The funding will allow the organization to increase its current capacity of 12 crisis beds to 16 crisis beds, and add 12 more beds in an extended stay unit. Freedom House is a domestic and sexual violence service agency serving the five rural counties of Bureau, Henry, Marshall, Putnam and Stark in north central Illinois.

DCEO received 96 applications this year requesting more than \$4.3 million under the highly competitive program. A list of grantees is attached.



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