

**Continuum of Care  
Member Agencies**

*A Woman's Fund*  
*Center for Women in  
Transition*  
*Champaign County  
Regional Planning  
Commission*  
*Champaign-Ford Counties  
Regional Office of  
Education*  
*City of Champaign*  
*City of Urbana*  
*Community Service Center of  
Northern  
Champaign County*  
*Crisis Nursery*  
*Cunningham Township*  
*Developmental Services  
Center*  
*Family Service of  
Champaign County*  
*Greater Community AIDS  
Project*  
*Homestead Corporation*  
*Housing Authority of  
Champaign County*  
*Mental Health Center of  
Champaign County*  
*Persons Assuming Control  
of their Environment*  
*Prairie Center Health  
Systems*  
*Salvation Army*  
*Social Security  
Administration*  
*TIMES Center*  
*University of Illinois-  
Chancellor's Office*  
*Urbana HOME Consortium*  
*Veterans' Affairs*

# Urbana-Champaign Continuum of Care



Agencies Committed to Ending Homelessness

## **Media Release – For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Darlene Kloeppel, Continuum Chair  
Regional Planning Commission, Urbana  
Phone: 328-3313

## **Continuum of Care Releases Homelessness Survey Data**

The Urbana-Champaign Continuum of Care, which is made up of agencies and governmental units that are committed to ending homelessness in Champaign County, conducted a survey of the homeless population during the last week in January 2006. In addition to the survey, the effort included a street count of unsheltered homeless individuals who did not access any traditional agency services during that week.

According to the survey results, during the week of January 22-28, 2006, there were 308 homeless persons residing in Champaign County. Of those 308, 295 were residing in shelters, while 13 indicated that they were unsheltered. For comparison, in 2003, the total of homeless individuals surveyed was 328. Other noteworthy trends included a 48% reduction in unsheltered homeless from the year 2003 to 2006 and a 12% increase in homeless families with children over that same time period. Reflecting the shift in HUD funding for homeless services, the percentage of persons in transitional housing increased while the percentage in emergency shelters decreased, by 48% and 27% respectively.

In total, 271 individuals responded to the survey. Details on individuals and families are provided in the attached data tables. Many individuals indicated that they had spouses, partners, or children residing with them. Thirty-six persons indicated that they were not homeless and therefore did not complete the survey.

The survey also includes information on persons who are defined by HUD as being at risk of homelessness (*i.e.*, although currently housed, their arrangements are temporary, and they have no home of their own). This at-risk population includes persons in hospitals or treatment facilities, persons who are living with friends or doubled up with family, and persons paying to stay in hotels or motels. At the time of the survey, 100 individuals fit these criteria for being at risk of homelessness. The details of at-risk individuals are also provided in the attached data tables.

The survey was conducted at Continuum member agencies and at other locations that serve the homeless population, including shelters, food pantries, soup kitchens, and health clinics. This effort is carried out every two years so that local homeless providers can document need for continued funding from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Collecting accurate data on the number, characteristics, and service needs of homeless individuals and families is critical to the successful planning and development of local homeless facilities and services. The data helps service providers measure the effectiveness of existing services and identify additional approaches that may be needed to address local needs.

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