

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights

Chicago Family Case Management Demonstration Project

Policy Recommendations



Choice Neighborhoods Initiative

The Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) seeks to both redevelop existing public housing developments and effectively integrate those developments into the surrounding communities.

Funding for CNI should be included in the FY2011 and FY2012 budgets. In addition, if enabling legislation for CNI is advanced, the legislation should include language that encourages comprehensive support services similar to the demonstration project. One tool for encouraging these services would be to have funding incentives for providing comprehensive services to particularly vulnerable populations in a CNI project.

Housing and Services for Homeless Persons Demonstration

This demonstration, which couples Housing Choice Vouchers for individuals and families with services provided through Medicaid, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF), and other relevant programs, depending on the population, in many ways replicates the work done in the Chicago Family Case Management demonstration project. With many of the participants in the Chicago project utilizing housing choice vouchers, we demonstrated the value of providing services to these participants.

Funding for this demonstration should be a priority in the FY2011 and FY2012 budgets. Moreover, the Chicago demonstration should be utilized as a model for implementation once funded.

Transitional Jobs

The employment gains in the Chicago project can be attributed to the transitional jobs model, which couple time-limited, wage-paying work with supports. The Department of Labor is currently preparing for the first year of a Transitional Jobs Demonstration project.

As Congress considers FY2011 appropriations bills, we urge passage of federal funding for the Transitional Jobs Demonstration project as part of the Department of Labor budget.

Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) & Workforce Investment Act (WIA) Reauthorization

With the reauthorization of both these acts on the horizon, Congress should use this opportunity to make adjustments to each of these acts so that they work in tandem, providing incentives to states to ensure they use TANF to provide real work opportunities, such as transitional jobs, to program participants, and that WIA is able to serve the most vulnerable households.