



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

**Allocate \$1.27 million to the Cook County Sheriff's Office for ILPA 92-0806:
THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT & TRANSITION CENTER FOR MOTHERS**

Illinois will see tremendous savings from reduced recidivism, reduced cost of child-care and foster care and by breaking the inter-generational cycle of incarceration

The Illinois General Assembly created this pilot community-based diversion program for non-violent female offenders who are mothers in the 92nd General Assembly (2002) but it has not been funded.

**- 90,000 CHILDREN IN ILLINOIS HAVE PARENTS IN JAIL OR PRISON OR ON PROBATION OR PAROLE
-70% OF CHILDREN WITH PARENTS INVOLVED IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ARE THEMSELVES LIKELY TO END UP IN THE SYSTEM (SOURCE: CHICAGO REPORTER)**

ILPA 92-0806 gives Cook County Judges discretion to sentence mothers to a pilot Residential Treatment and Transition Center run by the Cook County Sheriff's Office in lieu of time in prison if it is deemed that it will reduce recidivism, reunite them with their children, and assist them in breaking the cycle of incarceration.

- 82% of women at Cook County Jail are mothers
- 82% are charged with non-violent offenses
- About 73% of Illinois women prisoners are women of color
- 80% of women prisoners need drug treatment, but it is available to only 16% of them (IDOC Estimate)
- \$30,554: Annual cost to incarcerate a woman in Illinois.
- \$28,334: Annual DCFS cost per ward
- Women are the fastest growing segment of the Prison Population

THE PROGRAM (12 months):

Instead of going to a State Prison, women would enter a residential treatment facility and then transition into their own apartments and receive a rental subsidy. They will receive on-going family re-unification services, recovery support, mental health counseling and job training. **A major goal of the program is to re-unite the participants with their children**, if possible, and provide family counseling.



PROGRAM SUCCESS

- 79% of participants from Families Building Community Supportive Housing program supported themselves in unsubsidized housing after graduation.
- Only 5 of 200 women with criminal histories receiving Transitional Jobs Training from Career Advancement Network re-offended. 78% were placed in unsubsidized Jobs.

FAILURES OF INCARCERATION

- 56% of women released from state prison are re-arrested.
- 45% of women in Cook County Jail have been detained 2 to 5 times.
- Women *without housing* are twice as likely as those with housing to be detained more than six times.

PLEASE INCLUDE \$1.27 MILLION IN THE FY'09 BUDGET TO FUND THE RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT AND TRANSITION CENTER FOR WOMEN



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INCREASED NEED

- 55% of women in IDOC are arrested in Cook County
- A 2002 study of 235 women in Cook County Jail indicates:
 - 80% of women in Cook County Jail are African American or Latina
 - Women in jail are survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence at two and three times the national average
 - 54% of women are homeless before entering jail. Only 8% have a home to go to upon release. The majority of women were unsure about their housing options upon release from jail
 - 54% have problems with substance and/or alcohol use

BENEFITS TO THE STATE

- **BREAK INTER-GENERATIONAL CYLCE OF INCARCERATION**
- **REDUCE REPEAT DETENTIONS**
- **REDUCE RECIDIVISM**
- **REDUCE PRISON ROLLS**

SUPPORTERS:

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Cook County Sheriff's Office—Division of Women's Justice Services
Heartland Alliance
Chicago Legal Advocacy for Incarcerated Mothers
Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
Chicago Foundation for Women
Haymarket Center
Illinois Alcohol and Drug Dependency Association
Illinois Consortium on Drug Policy at Roosevelt University
League of Women Voters
Midwest Harm Reduction Institute
Project IRENE
Protestants for the Common Good
TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safe Communities)
YWCA of Metropolitan Chicago

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