



**APPENDIX E  
SUMMARY OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

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The public comment period ran from December 31, 2004 through January 31, 2005. Presentations were made to the Community Development Commission Executive Committee on January 11, to the County Development Committee on January 18, and to the DuPage County Board on January 25. Two public hearings were held on January 13, and presentations of the plan were made at each hearing. Notice of the comment period and the public hearing was published in the *Chicago Tribune*, and direct mail notices were sent to organizations and individuals that may be interested in the Consolidated Plan. Copies of the Consolidated Plan were sent to each municipality and public library in DuPage County for access by the public at municipal buildings and public libraries. The Plan was also available via the Internet at the County's web site.

The following summary includes the comments received and provides a response to each comment.

**Homeless Facilities** The question was asked as to why homeless facilities were rated as a low priority in Table 2B of the non-housing community development needs section.

**Response** The Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness adopted by the DuPage County Continuum of Care in April 2004 emphasizes a "housing first" approach. This approach emphasizes placing homeless persons in permanent housing as soon as possible and getting them out of shelters and other facilities. Therefore, the Continuum considers the capacity of current facilities adequate.

**Priorities on Elderly Renters** One comment received asked why, in Table 2A, the priority on elderly renters at 31% to 50% of median family income (MFI) was listed as "medium" while renters at 30% or less of MFI was listed as "high." The commenter noted that the percentages of unmet need in the table were very similar (43.5% and 46.0% respectively).

**Response** Addressing the needs of persons at the lowest income category (at or below 30% of MFI) is a top priority in the Consolidated Plan, and focusing on the needs of this group is also emphasized by HUD. Therefore, Table 2A considered all needs of this lowest income group as high priority needs. Other income groups were given a high priority only if the percentage of need exceeded 66%. A categorization of a need as "medium" is still considered an important need to be addressed.

**Section 215 Affordable Housing** Also regarding Table 2, one commenter noted that the term "Section 215 Affordable Housing" was not defined.

**Response** A definition for this housing was added to the narrative of the Plan.

**Displacement Impacts of O'Hare Airport Expansion** It was noted that the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the expansion project states that "the criteria for low income does not apply to the acquisition area." Therefore, it is not clear regarding the applicability of Federal relocation regulations.

**Response** The Consolidated Plan discusses the challenges of minimizing the affordable housing impacts of any expansion to O'Hare, and that it is important to work with Chicago to assure minimal impacts on the residents near the airport. No change in the Consolidated Plan is required, but it will be important to monitor these potential impacts and take action as necessary.

**Sexual Orientation as a Protected Class** One commenter noted that the State of Illinois recently added sexual orientation as a protected class and recommended that the Consolidated Plan add this language to its fair housing section.

**Response** This change was made in accordance with this new State law.

**Housing Affordability for Renters** In this section of the Plan, it uses regional figures for describing affordability of rental housing. A commenter noted that DuPage County rents are significantly higher than the rest of the region.

**Response** This section of the Consolidated Plan is describing the results of IHDA's statewide study of affordable housing, which uses regional data to describe the housing market in the Chicago region. We used the same data to remain consistent, but we do recognize that Dupage County rents are higher.

**Clarification on Public Housing** One commenter wanted to make it clear that the Aurora Housing Authority public housing referred to in the Plan is in the Kane County portion of Aurora.

**Response** This clarification was made.

**DHA Voucher Inventory** The DuPage Housing Authority commented that changes in the way vouchers are funded has reduced the number of households assisted in DuPage County (stated as 2,571 households in the Plan) to 2,350 households.

**Response** This correction was made.

**Tenant Based Rental Assistance** One commenter noted that there is no mention of HOME-funded tenant based rental assistance (TBRA) in the plan.

**Response** The Plan does not include any specific plan to fund TBRA. However, an addition was made to the plan to allow funding of such assistance in future years if it is determined necessary for the furtherance of Consolidated Plan goals.

**Legal Services** One commenter suggested that legal services should be integrated into the access to mainstream services strategy.

**Response** The mainstream services strategy comes from the Continuum of Care and their Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness. This strategy lists a number of advocacy components required to connect persons in need with these Federal mainstream services. The Federation for Human Services' "Making the Connection" training presents these advocacy components, but they are not individually listed in the Consolidated Plan.

**Homeless Prevention** One commenter noted the importance of preventing wrongful evictions as a strategy for preventing homelessness.

**Response** The discussion of homeless prevention in the Consolidated Plan was taken from the Ten-year Plan to End Homelessness developed by the Continuum of Care, and the Continuum has the primary responsibility for implementing actions relating to homelessness. The issue of wrongful evictions is not specifically covered in the Ten-Year Plan, so it is not included in the Consolidated Plan. However, this issue will be discussed with the Continuum for their consideration.

**Description of Prairie State Legal Services** Prairie State provided an updated description of their services for inclusion in the Plan.

**Response** This revision was made.

**Townships** It was noted that most of the descriptions of township services failed to list their general assistance programs.

**Response** These revisions were made.

Typographical errors and minor corrections noted by commenters were also corrected as appropriate.