**Chicago Coalition for the Homeless**

**2019 Illinois Legislative Agenda**

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless is advocating for the following legislation in 2019:

**HB 3331: Strengthen the Homelessness Prevention Program**

Would amend the Homelessness Prevention Act to allow service providers the discretion to provide up to 6 months of rental and/or mortgage assistance to individuals and families for arrearages and/or future rents. Would allow providers to use up to 15% of annual funding for case management and administrative costs.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Ramirez

**HB 2983: Launching youth into stability**

Would create a Youth Homelessness Prevention Subcommittee within the Governor’s Cabinet on Children and Youth to drive the state’s strategic vision for preventing homelessness among youth leaving state systems of care\*. The subcommittee would be tasked with reviewing discharge planning, service plans, and discharge procedures; creating a plan to improve discharge policies and procedures to ensure housing stability for youth leaving systems of care; and collecting data on the housing stability of youth for one year after they are released from state custody or guardianship.

*\*Includes the Department of Children and Family Services, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Human Services’ Division of Mental Health, and the Department of Corrections.*

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Slaughter
* *CCH Partner:* Juvenile Justice Initiative

**HB 3343: The SNAP Prepared Meals Program for the elderly, disabled, and homeless**

Would establish a Restaurant Meals Program to permit individuals who are elderly, with a disability, or experiencing homelessness to redeem Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to purchase hot, prepared foods at grocery stores or restaurants that opt into the program.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Harper
* *CCH Partners:* Heartland Alliance and Shriver Center

**SB 1641: End hunger on campus**

Would require the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) to identify and flag college students who are potentially eligible to receive SNAP benefits. Would require Illinois institutions of higher education to provide notice in writing to all students that are potentially SNAP eligible.

* *Sponsors:* Sen. Peters
* *CCH Partners:* Heartland Alliance and Shriver Center

**HB 3129: Strengthen TANF as a lifeline**

Would amend Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) policy to include a child-only benefit portion (75%) that is barred from being sanctioned if a parent falls out of compliance with requirements. Would create “good cause” exemptions if a parent can demonstrate mitigating circumstances for not meeting participant requirements, including homelessness, eviction notice, or utilities disruption. Would mandate that TANF benefit levels be adjusted annually to remain equal to at least 30% of the most recent federal poverty guidelines.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Flowers
* *CCH Partners:* Heartland Alliance and Shriver Center

**RROCI Bills**

**HB 3056: Employee Background Fairness Act**

Would establish reasonable standards and practices for the use of criminal records in hiring by limiting when an employer can deny someone because of his or her record. Would give applicants the right to an individualized review of their background and to provide evidence of mitigating circumstances and rehabilitation to an employer.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Harper
* *CCH Partners:* Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance

**HB 3332: Landlord incentives for housing opportunities**

Would create an income tax credit for landlords that enter into or renew a lease with a person with a conviction record.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Ramirez
* *CCH Partners:* Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance

**HB 3227: Housing as a human right**

Would amend the Human Rights Act of Illinois to provide housing protections for individuals with criminal records. Would prohibit a landlord from refusing to sell or rent a housing accommodation to an individual due to arrest, juvenile record, or criminal record information ordered expunged, sealed, or impounded under the Criminal Identification Act.

* *Sponsor:* Rep. Tarver
* *CCH Partners*: Cabrini Green Legal Aid, Community Renewal Society, Heartland Alliance

*For more information on these bills, please contact:*

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