



## **“ONE ILLINOIS” CALLS ATTENTION TO STATE’S RESIDENTIAL CRISIS; Persons with Disabilities and Mental Illness Need Housing Options**

**For Immediate Release  
October 24, 2006**

**Contact: Janet Stover, Executive Director  
Phone: (217) 753-1190  
Email: [jstover@hso.net](mailto:jstover@hso.net)**

Springfield, Illinois (October 24, 2006) – The Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities today calls the attention of the three gubernatorial candidates to the grim reality that persons with disabilities and mental illness throughout the State are running out of residential options. The lack of affordable, accessible housing throughout the state is a major crisis preventing many persons with disabilities and mental illness from living in the community with supports.

According to the “*ONE ILLINOIS: A Community Initiative for Persons with Disabilities*” campaign, an estimated 3,216 persons with a developmental disability have urgent needs for residential services and supports as reflected in the June 2006 Prioritization of Urgency Needs for Services (PUNS) data. In addition, a huge gap between supply and demand of supportive housing for persons with mental illness exists in Illinois evidenced by the estimated 10,400 units of permanent supportive housing that are needed, nearly double the 5,466 units that exist today.

The campaign seeks to prioritize \$25 million to increase funding for 500 emergency and new community living arrangements. According to PUNS data, there are an estimated 988 persons with emergency needs while 2,228 are in critical need of residential services, and 1,379 have planned needs for residential services.

“We cannot remain idle as thousands of our state’s residents with disabilities and mental illness lack adequate housing,” said Janet Stover, Executive Director of the Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Facilities. “Private community agencies stand ready to work with the State to expand resources for the development of residential options throughout the state.”

Take into consideration the following:

- Persons with disabilities are much more likely than people without disabilities to live in poverty – with 33% living in households earning less than \$15,000. Compare that to only 10 percent of households with disabilities.
- Only four percent of people with disabilities own their home compared to over 70 percent of Americans without a disability.

IARF and its members, other community agencies, our One Illinois partners, consumers, family members, boards of directors, staff, and communities across Illinois are 2.2 million voters calling immediate attention to the platform issues – at stake is not just people’s votes or politics, but rather the quality of daily life for Illinois’ residents with disabilities and mental illness. Statewide, 2.2 million voters are touched by, and care about disability issues and believe that you cannot talk about education, healthcare, housing, jobs, and human rights without talking about community services for persons with disabilities and mental illness.

To learn more about “*ONE ILLINOIS: A Community Initiative for Persons with Disabilities*,” please visit [www.oneillinois.info](http://www.oneillinois.info) or contact Janet Stover by phone at (217) 753-1190 or email at [jstover@hso.net](mailto:jstover@hso.net).

#####