

HOUSING NEEDS IN MILWAUKEE

Specific Client Needs

Numerous needs and issues were mentioned in relation to specific and specialized population groups. The range of these specific needs was broad. Three of these needs and the relevant client populations are detailed in the following section. The range of the needs and issues below is indicative of the range within the sample.

Safe, stable, long-term housing for individuals who are HIV positive.

The AID's Resource Center of Milwaukee is preventing homelessness and promoting safe housing situations for people who are HIV positive. The Center addresses these concerns through an aggressive rent assistance program and by building housing and SRO's, where necessary, to meet specific housing needs of the HIV positive population in Milwaukee.

Housing and home-buying assistance for immigrant groups.

The Council for the Spanish Speaking is developing new housing for the elderly and persons with disabilities from Hispanic cultures. The Hmong/American Friendship Association is providing home ownership counseling, prequalifying buyers, providing translation services and generally helping Hmong families figure out how to become home-owners.

Service-enriched housing facilities are needed for individuals with chronic mental illness.

Most housing for individuals with chronic mental illness in the City consists of SRO facilities which may provide three hot meals. Generally these facilities provide very limited assistance and services. Housing with Help, one wing of the Tri-Corp Organization, is examining the possibility of expanding its emphasis on special needs housing through the construction of a "Community Based Residential Facility." This facility would provide a limited independence model or assisted living for individuals with chronic mental illness. Single-room-occupancy units would be located in a facility with full food service, medical service and referrals, counseling services and social opportunities as well as other supports to enable a higher quality of life for individuals with chronic mental illness.