

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

IN THIS SECTION:

- ◆ **PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**
- ◆ **PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS**
- ◆ **PERSONS WITH ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)**
- ◆ **ELDERLY**

SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Special populations within the Consortium area include persons with disabilities, developmental disabilities, mental illness, Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), and the elderly. These populations require exceptional programs and services to improve the quality of their lives and move them towards self-sufficiency.



PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM

There are approximately 145,000 individuals in the St. Louis Consortium area with physical disabilities, and nearly 12,000 individuals that have developmental disabilities in this same area.



CURRENT SERVICES

The non-profit organization that is the leader in servicing persons with disabilities throughout the St. Louis region, is Paraquad. Historically, Paraquad has received Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money from St. Louis County for community outreach to provide information and referrals, employment services, advocacy, independent living skills training, and peer counseling for persons with disabilities.

In 2002, Paraquad was awarded \$65,000 in CDBG funding for outreach activities in targeted areas of St. Louis County. Specifically, the CDBG dollars funded the establishment and operation of a telephone hotline to serve as a centralized intake and referral phone line for anyone in St. Louis County who has questions or issues regarding a disability, including housing, transportation, job training, or accessibility. Additionally, CDBG funding enabled Paraquad to hire two independent living specialists to work exclusively in the targeted areas to identify and educate people with disabilities, and to ensure that they are accessing services. The independent living specialists also focus significant effort on community outreach and education of disability issues. The community outreach program proved so successful that it continues to receive CDBG funding. The table below summarizes the amount of CDBG funding received and the

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES St. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



PARAQUAD OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

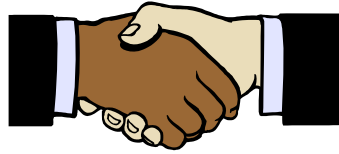
Independent Living Centers in North St. Louis County have provided direct service to 80 people and indirect service to 6,129 people. ILCs provide direct services or referrals for persons with disabilities.

Town Hall Meetings were held to raise awareness and initiate a dialogue on disability issues.

Information and Referral Specialist provided service to over 900 people, and a full-time county outreach assistant was hired.

A part-time van provided Transportation for people with disabilities participating in Outreach Programs.

Presentations were made to city councils, non-profit organizations, local colleges and universities, and community groups.



Current Services (Continued)

number of persons served by outreach activities, since the program' inception in 1996.

Additionally, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding has been made available to Paraquad, in a cooperative regional effort with two other adjacent entitlement grantees, to

Year	Amount of CDBG Funding	Persons Receiving Direct Services	Persons Connected to Services
1996	\$140,000	20	300
1997	\$191,000	96	140
1998	\$140,000	119	200
1999	\$143,654	241	400
2001	\$106,000	80	350
2002	\$65,000	106	370

help address the difficulty in finding suitable housing situations for persons with disabilities. This effort, called the Accessible Housing Clearinghouse Project, will develop a comprehensive inventory of accessible housing within the St. Louis metropolitan area. The Clearinghouse database was made available by both telephone and Internet in January, 2000.

Current service delivery to persons with developmental disabilities is primarily through The Productive Living Board for St. Louis County Citizens (PLB). The PLB supports organizations that provide job training, residential services, respite care, and transportation to persons with developmental disabilities. The PLB also assists agencies in locating federal funds for the provision of assisted housing units for persons with developmental disabilities.

The PLB is funded through a designated County property tax, which is then in turn used to fund non-profit organizations offering programs and services for persons with developmental disabilities.

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

Specifically, the PLB allocates approximately \$2 million per year to assist dispersed housing projects, offer support services, and provide matching costs with the State of Missouri Department of Mental Health for support services in supervised housing. The programs and services funded by the PLB assist over 3,000 persons annually.



NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

◆ **Need: Improved Access to Facilities**

Access to facilities is a critical issue for both public and private entities. Although building codes in the St. Louis Consortium area require accessible features in new non-residential structures, many existing, older structures do not have the necessary ramps and elevators to accommodate persons with disabilities.

➤ **Priority: Persons With Disabilities**

Persons with disabilities are required to live in an environment geared towards non-disabled individuals. The built environment is often lacking the modifications that persons with disabilities, especially those in wheelchairs, require. To live with independence and self-reliance, persons with disabilities need access to merchants, transportation, housing, employment, recreation, and other basic needs, such as health care.



PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS St. Louis HOME Consortium

Almost 100,000 individuals suffer from mental illness in the Consortium area. Individuals with mental illness tend to be evenly divided between males and females, and range in age from 23 to 84. Of the persons with mental illness, schizophrenia is the most frequent diagnosis.

The demographic profile of persons with mental illness has been changing over the years. Historically, persons with mental illness

PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES St. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM

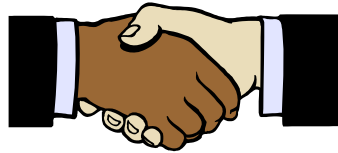


STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



were characterized by a long history of continuous hospitalization. Now, although individuals may have long histories of mental illness, they typically have not had such long hospital stays. Additionally, the average age of persons with mental illness has decreased, and they are now more commonly under the age of 40. Other changes in the population with mental illness are an increased amount of homelessness, more person dually diagnosed with mental illness and substance abuse, and a greater likelihood to have custody of their children.



CURRENT SERVICES

There are over thirty mental health service providers in the St. Louis area. A leader in service provision for persons with mental illness is Places for People (PfP), a private, non-profit agency established in 1972 when hundreds of people were discharged from St. Louis State Hospital. PfP specializes in more intensive, individualized services for persons with mental illness, who are at least 18 years old, have a funding base, and reside in St. Louis County or the City of St. Louis. Services are delivered by teams who share responsibility, which is particularly effective in serving very disabled clients because it allows continuous coverage and availability.

Places for People (PfP) has used St. Louis County Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars to fund The Home Team program. The program started in 1996 in response to the changing population of people with mental illness. The Home Team provides immediate services to specific target populations including persons with mental illness who are homeless and dually diagnosed with mental illness and a substance abuse disorder. The Home Team program prioritizes stabilization services such as housing and entitlements, and offers ongoing support services delivered by a team of professionals. Using this approach, the PfP Home Team program works toward the ultimate goal of preventing persons with mental illness from relapsing or becoming homeless.

PERSONS WITH MENTAL ILLNESS ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

- ◆ **Need: Increased Housing Opportunities**

There are a limited amount of housing opportunities for special populations in the St. Louis metropolitan area. Group homes, supported living facilities, and supervised apartments are at a premium.
- **Priority: Persons With Mental Illness**

Persons with mental illness have traditionally resided almost exclusively with their families or in institutions. Although there are now housing alternatives for persons with mental illness, there are not enough housing options within the St. Louis Consortium area to meet the demand of de-institutionalized persons.
- ◆ **Need: Improved Transitional Services**

The current services that assist special populations in the transition from institutionalized care to independent living are inadequate. Currently, agencies such as Places for People and the Independence Center provide housing for persons with mental illness through placement and by providing actual living situations. However, these agencies alone cannot meet the housing and service level demands.
- **Priority: Persons With Mental Illness**

Because of limited housing alternatives, mental patients are often placed in nursing homes and hospitals. Nursing homes and hospitals are not only less desirable environments for persons with mental illness to thrive and become contributing members of society, but they are also much more costly than assisted living options.

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS



PERSONS WITH ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS) ST. LOUIS COUNTY

The first case of aids was diagnosed in St. Louis County in 1983. Between 1991 and 2001 the number of cases listed below have been reported.

Year	AIDS Cases	Cumulative Total
1991	91	91
1992	96	187
1993	259	446
1994	123	569
1995	107	676
1996	155	831
1997	86	917
1998	70	987
1999	70	1057
2000	63	1120
2001	65	1185

People with AIDS typically fit one of two profiles: 1) previously self-supporting, but now unable to work, creating a downward spiral of income related problems including loss of medical insurance, increased medical expenses, and decreased income to pay for housing and food, or 2) low income status prior to being diagnosed with AIDS. Of the two profiles, the latter predominantly consists of minorities and women with children who were born with AIDS.



CURRENT SERVICES ST. LOUIS COUNTY

Many local agencies provide support services to persons with AIDS. Doorways is one such agency specializing in housing assistance to approximately fifty individuals with AIDS in both the City of St. Louis and St. Louis County monthly. Doorways' mission

CURRENT SERVICES ST. LOUIS COUNTY



STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

revolves around the provision of stable housing, and their services include the provision of rental subsidies in the amounts of \$100 and \$200 per month, as well as acting as a housing clearinghouse for persons with AIDS.



NEEDS AND PRIORITIES

Need: Increased Housing Opportunities

Priority: Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)

As the number of persons diagnosed with AIDS rises each year, housing needs for this special population are a growing concern. It is estimated that from one-third to one-half of all people with AIDs are either homeless or in imminent danger of becoming homeless due to the lack of income brought on by the illness and weak support networks.



ELDERLY ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM

According to the 2000 U.S. Census, there are 150,617 persons 65 years and older in the St. Louis Consortium area. Mirroring national trends, the number of elderly has increased in recent years, and will continue to increase more rapidly than for any other age group. Population estimates predict that the number of elderly individuals will grow to about 211,000 by 2010.

Another trend is the near tripling of the population aged eighty-five and over, for they are more likely than any other age group to suffer major social and health problems. As a group, elderly persons often have a lower economic status than other groups, largely resulting from retirement from the work force, death of a spouse, or decline in health. In 1999, approximately 7,671 seniors

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

ELDERLY ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



were living below the poverty level in the St. Louis Consortium area. This number represents 5.1% of the sixty-five and older population.



CURRENT SERVICES ST. LOUIS COUNTY

St. Louis County Older Residents Program (CORP) has used Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money in the past to provide services and programs to help the elderly maintain independent lifestyles. Services offered to elderly residents of St. Louis County include transportation, home repairs, legal advice, tax assistance, telephone and personal visits, and referrals to other community resources. CORP relies heavily on volunteers to assist in delivering services and programs to the elderly. In 2001, over 537 volunteers dedicated 34,957 hours of service to older residents of St. Louis County.

Specific programs for the elderly, which have been funded through the CDBG program, include Project Heat's On, a cooperative effort with the Mechanical Contractors Union to provide free furnace inspections. Last year, Project Heat's On inspected approximately 500 furnaces. CDBG funding has also assisted in expanding the St. Louis County Adult Computer Club Program, a program that teaches computer skills to the elderly.



NEEDS AND PRIORITIES ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



Need: In-home support services

A variety of housing related services are critical to allow individuals to remain in their own homes for as long as possible. These services include respite care, transportation to health and shopping centers, ongoing home maintenance and repair assistance, adaptive equipment, and financial counseling.

STRATEGIC PLAN: SPECIAL POPULATIONS

ELDERLY ST. LOUIS HOME CONSORTIUM



▶ **Priority: Elderly**

While it is likely that family support will continue to predominate, in-home support services will become more critical with the increasing number of elderly in the St. Louis Consortium area.