

## Confronting Homelessness in the Suburbs

Jennifer Hill, Executive Director, Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County  
Joel Williams, Executive Director, PADS Lake County

CUPPA Respondent: Charlie Hoch, Professor, Urban Planning & Policy

Friday  
April 4

2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.  
Great Cities Institute  
412 South Peoria Street  
Suite 400, CUPPA Hall

A quintessential urban problem, homelessness in the suburbs seems unreal. However, as in the City of Chicago, thousands of homeless individuals seek shelter and services across the region's suburbs. Unlike urban areas, many suburban areas lack a concentration of social services and resources necessary to effectively serve the growing homeless population and in the end to eliminate homelessness. Growing in number and in strength suburban human services organizations have been banding together to better respond to this growing problem. Join Jennifer Hill and Joel Williams to discuss the depth of homelessness in Chicago suburbs and policies and strategies to eliminate homelessness. CUPPA's Charlie Hoch will respond to the panel with his analysis of responses to homelessness.

**The Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County** is the lead agency for Cook County's Continuum of Care, and brings together a range of services and housing options for homeless people. The Alliance convenes a variety of stakeholders to cooperatively set priorities, collect data, rank project applications, and measure outcomes.

**Jennifer Hill** is executive director of the Alliance to End Homelessness in Suburban Cook County in Suburban Cook County. She holds a masters degree in city planning from the University of California – Berkeley.

**PADS Lake County, Inc.** is dedicated to providing emergency shelter, permanent supportive housing, and comprehensive resources to families with children and individuals experiencing homelessness in Lake County, Illinois. Providing Advocacy, Dignity, and Shelter, PADS Lake County offers a comprehensive approach to combatting homelessness with the compassion and respect we all deserve.

**Joel Williams** is executive director of PADS Lake County. Joel is currently the President of the Lake County Coalition for



"Homeless Rough Sleeper", Photo by Blodeuwedd, flickr.com CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

the Homeless and is the Vice Chairman of the Alliance for Human Services of Lake County. He holds master's degree in public service management from DePaul University.

### CUPPA Respondent:

Charlie Hoch is a professor of urban planning & policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Hoch's early professional experience consisted mainly of environmental land planning working as regional planner. After moving to Chicago he turned his attention to the then emerging problem of urban homelessness. Working with social researchers from several non profit groups he set out to trace the roots of contemporary homelessness to the slum and ended up discovering the value of the hotel as an urban resource for the single poor. This insight set in motion several decades of research on homelessness, affordable housing and informal helping.