

## **Housing Assistance for Students**

This guide is intended to aid community members to become aware of signs that a student might be experiencing homelessness so that they can be connected to supports.

### **What is homelessness?**

- Sharing housing of others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason
- Living in motels, hotels, trailer parks, or campgrounds due to the lack of alternative adequate accommodations
- Staying in an emergency or transitional shelter
- Living in cars, parks, public spaces, abandoned buildings, bus or train stations, or similar settings

### **What are the signs of homelessness?**

- Students staying late or sleeping on campus until buildings close like the library, student center, 24 hour study rooms, etc.
- Social behavioral changes like withdrawal, aggression, clinginess, difficulty with peer and/or adult relationships
- Lack of participation in class, poor attention span, or sudden decline in academic achievement
- Poor hygiene, unmet medical/dental needs, wearing the same clothes repeatedly, fatigue, sickness

*Source: Illinois Board of Higher Education*

The Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE) requires that every institution of higher education designate a HOUSE Liaison, who is available to assist students experiencing homelessness and to connect them with resources. If you are in need of housing assistance, or you are concerned that a student may be unhoused, contact ICSW's HOUSE Liaison for assistance:

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