



## 2010 Accomplishments

### **Money made available for jobs for 27,000 low-income unemployed Illinoisans**

Shriver Center attorneys advised the Illinois Department of Human Services on the use of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act money, including the allocation of funds to support Put Illinois to Work, a program that provided temporary jobs to 27,000 low-income unemployed parents and young people. The state extended this successful program twice.

### **Bill protecting victims of domestic violence from eviction passed and signed**

In April, the Illinois General Assembly passed House Bill 5523 to protect victims of violence from evictions based upon incidents of violence or their status as victims of violence. The bill, vigorously advocated by the Shriver Center, passed the General Assembly and was signed into law.

### **Families in need get support**

Shriver Center attorneys led advocacy efforts for the enactment of Illinois House Bill 1800, which expands access to the Temporary Aid for Needy Families program by raising income eligibility guidelines, speeding up and increasing initial grant payments, and allowing working recipients to keep more of their earnings.

### **Bill protecting homeowners in foreclosure passed and signed**

Shriver Center advocates led successful advocacy efforts for April passage of Illinois House Bill 5735, which makes clear that if a home goes to foreclosure sale in violation of the Making Home Affordable Program, the homeowner may have the court set aside the sale so that he or she can continue to work through the federal foreclosure prevention program.

### **Advisors on implementation of national health care reform**

Since passage of national health care reform, the Shriver Center has been engaging in the task of advising state officials and local advocates on implementation. The Center is currently working with the law firm of Kirkland & Ellis to study and analyze the law itself.

### **Collaboration for fair housing**

The Shriver Center has been working with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity ("FHEO") office about a potential written guide for publicly subsidized and private property owners on the use of criminal records in admission and evictions. Allies include the National Housing Law Project and the ACLU.

### **Linking with the IRS**

The IRS Stakeholder Partnership Education and Communication Division (IRS SPEC) offered to link to the Shriver Center's website for its [resources on asset building in the disability community](#). This was prompted by Shriver Center's presentation at the Real Economic Impact Tour, sponsored by the National Disability Institute and the IRS.

### **Clearinghouse Review receives grant for special issue**

The Hewlett Foundation supported the [2010 special issue Clearinghouse Review](#) with a \$25,000 grant. This year's annual issue, titled "Climate Change and a Green Economy—New Advocacy Opportunities", was published in October.

### **Low-income parents get help with child care**

As a result of advocacy efforts led by the Shriver Center, the Illinois Department of Human Services is using American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds to significantly lower the co-payments (through at least September 30, 2011) required of families that are enrolled in the state's Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP). CCAP assists low-income parents who work or are participating in an education program.

### **Championing transitional jobs**

The Shriver Center is working with the National Transitional Jobs Network to spearhead efforts to advance transitional jobs as an effective workforce development strategy for hard-to-employ populations. Following its successful advocacy to secure the first-ever dedicated federal funding for transitional jobs, the Center has been working with the Department of Labor and the Office of Management and Budget on the design of the national transitional jobs demonstration program and the research design.

### **Project-based Section 8 housing development saved**

The Shriver Center and its clients, the Grove Parc Tenants Association, recently took part in a "wall raising" ceremony to mark the first phase of the redevelopment of Grove Parc. Grove Parc, home to 540 families, was once a troubled project-based Section 8 development threatened with foreclosure, until the Shriver Center and the Grove Parc Tenants Association advocated for the development's preservation. Preservation of Affordable Housing (POAH) is redeveloping the property into one of few mixed-income project-based Section 8 developments in the country.

### **Working on federal budget and tax policy**

The Shriver Center has engaged the Illinois congressional delegation on important budget and tax issues on the federal level. Working with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities and other national allies, the Center has communicated frequently with both of Illinois Senators and all Illinois state representatives, helping to win such key advances as ARRA (stimulus bill), the “jobs bill” (second stimulus), several unemployment insurance extensions, and a variety of helpful provisions in the annual budget process.

### **Educating about employing people with criminal records**

In partnership with the Office of the U.S. Attorney of the Northern District of Illinois, the Shriver Center completed a pilot project to educate businesses about the benefits and risks of hiring people with criminal records. Other partners include Chicago Metropolis 2020, Chicago Jobs Council, and North Lawndale Employment Network. The partners intend to expand their project in 2011.

### **Preserving housing**

The Shriver Center has been serving as a leader of a national effort to restore the one-for-one replacement requirement for demolished or disposed-of public housing units. The 1996 repealing of one-for-one has resulted in the permanent loss of over 100,000 public housing units. The Center has worked with the Housing Justice to advise the U.S. House Financial Services Committee on proposed language for a housing bill. In July, the full Committee marked up bill incorporating much of our recommended language.

### **Coalescing statewide regarding reentry**

The Shriver Center participated in the final meeting of the Collaborative on Reentry, a statewide coalition of over 400 stakeholders convened by Chicago Metropolis 2020, the Governor's office, and the city of Chicago. The agenda featured Mayor Richard Daley and Cook County Board President Todd Stroger, both of whom affirmed their commitment to increasing reentry opportunities for people with criminal records.

### **Recommendations to improve the lives of women and girls outlined for White House**

The Shriver Center's Women's Law and Policy Project issued a report of federal policy recommendations to bring about justice, economic advancement, and brighter future for women and girls. *An Agenda for Change: An Illinois Perspective on Creating a Better Future for American's Women and Girls* was submitted to the White House Council on Women and Girls and the Office of First Lady Michelle Obama with the intention of creating a dialogue about these issues.

### **Continuing the statewide fight for budget and tax reform and protecting human services**

In 2009, the Shriver Center helped to convene the Responsible Budget Coalition, a collaborative effort of more than 200 Illinois organizations that represent thousands of state residents who want the state's budget crisis addressed responsibly. The fight continued this year with the Shriver Center helping to arrange two massive rallies at the capitol and a day of press conferences in eight cities.

### **Chicago Women's Foundation honors Wendy Pollack**

Shriver Center senior attorney Wendy Pollack was awarded the Chicago Women's Foundation's Impact Award for the work she has done on behalf of women and girls through her work as founder and director of the Women's Law and Policy Project at the Center.

### **Marie Claire Tran-Leung selected as a Soros Justice Fellow**

Shriver Center advocate, Marie Claire Tran-Leung has been selected as a 2010 Soros Justice Fellow. During her fellowship, Marie Claire will use the Federal Fair Housing Act to challenge discrimination in the private rental housing market against people with criminal records.

### **Webinar on Alternative Credit Reporting draws large national audience**

As part of its effort to encourage a robust and informed dialogue about alternative credit reporting, the Center hosted a webinar on the topic that attracted 544 registrants representing 49 states and the countries of Australia, Germany, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

### **Greenberg Traurig sponsored Equal Justice Works Fellow selects Shriver for fellowship term**

During his two-year fellowship with the Shriver Center, staff attorney Todd Belcore will focus on litigating, organizing, educating, and crafting legislation to ensure that former offenders are not unjustly denied employment or occupational licenses.

### **Enrolling in All Kids program made easier**

The Shriver Center launched an online All Kids Enrollment Event Toolkit to provide organizations with the resources and support they need to initiate an All Kids enrollment event. All Kids is a program that provides comprehensive health insurance to all children in the state of Illinois.

### **Skadden Fellow chooses Shriver for fellowship term**

Kathleen Rubenstein is a staff attorney funded by a two-year fellowship from the Skadden Foundation. Her fellowship project aims to coordinate workforce development and economic development, while addressing education and training policy in Illinois.

*Using advocacy, law and communications, the Shriver Center advances justice and opportunity for low-income people.*