Center for Community Engagement at Chestnut Health Systems

HOUSING DOCUMENTATION

Many people who are in early recovery may have trouble getting the required documentation for housing, such as Social Security Card and identification card. They may not have these documents because of homelessness or incarceration. Below you will find the steps that need to be taken to help obtain these necessary documents.

Social Security Card

For a replacement card you will need to:

- Make an application online or in person
- Proof of citizenship and identity

To establish citizenship, you will need an original U.S. birth certificate or a U.S. passport. Birth certificates can be obtained from the state where the birth occurred. Here is the link for Illinois birth certificates.

Qualified Identification

To establish identity, you will need a current (not expired) document that shows:

- Your name
- Identifying information (date of birth or age)
- Preferably a recent photograph

Example documents include U.S. driver's license, state-issued non-driver identification card or U.S. passport. These can often be obtained through local health departments.

Other Documents

If you do not have one of the above documents or you cannot get a replacement for one of them, other documents can be used. Any other documents submitted must be current (not expired) and show:

- Your name
- Identifying information (date of birth or age)
- Preferably a recent photograph

Some examples of these may be *an employee identification card*, *a school identification card*, *a health insurance card* (not a Medicare card), or *a U.S. military identification card*.

State Identification (ID) Card

A State ID card can be used to prove identity and help with getting housing, jobs, and other identity documents. The information below about State ID cards is specific to Illinois. Other states will likely have a similar process and required documentation. Check with your specific state to be sure of any requirements.

To get a State ID card in Illinois, you need:

- To visit a Secretary of State facility
- Show required identification documents
- Have your photo taken
- Pay any required fees

The required documents needed must show:

- Written signature
- Date of birth
- Social Security number
- Residency

A full list of acceptable documents showing the above requirements can be found here.

A person who is unhoused will qualify for a no fee ID card. Proof of legal name, date of birth, social security number, and signature is still required. The individual must also bring a completed Homeless Status Certification. To learn more about program qualifications click here.

People who are incarcerated in Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) may be issued a no fee identification card prior to their release. Applicants must work directly with IDOC to gather the required documents, including proof of date of birth and social security number. IDOC then gives the state ID card to the individual upon release. To learn more about this program click here.

For more resources, visit the Chestnut Health Systems Toolkit.

The Center for Community Engagement is funded in full or in part through a State Opioid Response Grant (TI085769) to the Illinois Department of Human Services, Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.