

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Public Invited to Speak on Proposed Skilled Nursing Facility at June 9 Hearing

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY, IL – Advocates for Aging Care (AAC) is encouraging residents, healthcare professionals, community leaders, and families to attend a public hearing on June 9 to share their support of a proposed skilled nursing facility designed to address Champaign County's severe shortage of skilled nursing beds.

AAC has submitted an application to the State of Illinois seeking approval for 120 licensed skilled nursing beds. The proposal comes as Champaign County faces a documented shortage of more than 300 skilled nursing beds - the largest deficit of any county in Illinois.

The Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB) will hold a public hearing to gather community input on the proposal.

Public Hearing Details

Date: Tuesday, June 9

Time: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Location: Savoy Municipal Building Board Room

611 N. Dunlap Avenue

Savoy, Illinois

AAC is urging community members to attend and provide oral comments regarding the need for additional skilled nursing services in Champaign County.

“We encourage residents and families to make their voices heard,” said AAC Committee Chair Cathy Emanuel. “Currently, Champaign County is estimated to be more than 300 skilled nursing beds short of meeting community demand – by far the largest shortage in the State. Too many seniors are forced to leave the county to receive care. Community support will play a vital role in demonstrating the urgent need for additional skilled nursing resources.”

The proposed \$26 million project would create an innovative, resident-centered skilled nursing community featuring ten cottages, each with 12 private rooms and private baths. The community would provide both short-term rehabilitation and long-term skilled nursing care for individuals requiring 24-hour services.

The University of Illinois has formed a strategic partnership with AAC to explore how research, education, and clinical practice can be integrated to advance person-directed aging care. AAC is also partnering with a developer with extensive experience in building and operating cottage communities.

While a site in Savoy has been identified, discussions with the village and property owner are ongoing. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2026, with the community projected to open in spring 2028.

Under Illinois law, organizations seeking to provide skilled nursing services must obtain approval from the HFSRB before becoming licensed. AAC has been advised that the board is expected to consider the application at its July 21 meeting.

Residents are encouraged to share personal experiences related to the shortage of skilled nursing beds, challenges finding local placements, or the importance of expanding skilled nursing services for older adults and their families.

Individuals who cannot attend the hearing may submit written letters of support to the HFSRB no later than June 20.

Mailing Address for Letters of Support

Debra Savage, Chair
Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board
525 West Jefferson Street, 2nd Floor
Springfield, Illinois 62761

For additional information about the proposal or hearing participation, contact Advocates for Aging Care at info@advocatesforagingcare.org.