

WHY THE STATE CANNOT WALK AWAY FROM HUMAN SERVICE

Illinois Partners for Human Service urge the State of Illinois to fully fund human services to prevent the collapse of the system upon which Illinois citizens depend.

The State budget approved by the legislature on May 31 slashes appropriations for human services from \$5.6 billion to less than \$3.3 billion. It becomes law July 1.

The cuts include all pre-school funding, substance abuse prevention, programs for people with disabilities, teen pregnancy prevention, sexual violence, delinquency prevention, elder care among other services.

Response from the Field:

“The human service sector in Illinois is comprised of three critical partners – the government, private philanthropy and community-based service providers. The State of Illinois is the largest funder providing about 97% of the dollars for services. As the second largest funder of human services United Way invests about \$100 million across Illinois with foundations providing another \$73 million. No matter how generous individual or corporate donors are, there simply is no other source to fill this more than \$2 billion funding gap.”

Laura S. Thrall, president and CEO of United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

“The Chicago Community Trust provides over \$20 million annually to support health and human services delivered by the nonprofits in the Chicago area. The deepening recession has led to a reprioritizing of our grant making strategy to increase funding for basic human needs, including a \$3 million effort to respond to the growing demands for support from food pantries, homelessness shelters, legal aid assistance, etc. in this time of crisis. While The Trust is working to strategically reinforce providers as needs skyrocket, it is the government that supports the ongoing needs for human services in our community.”

Terry Mazany, president and CEO of The Chicago Community Trust

“The appropriate role for private philanthropic resources is:

- To provide seed money and support pilots, which can lift best practices in the delivery of human services that the state can then institutionalize with its funding;
- To provide more flexible, unrestricted support to human services providers so they can apply those resources to important infrastructure components that state funding will not support;
- To support specific capacity building efforts of human service providers, including evaluating and assessing their performance and outcomes as well as conducting effective strategic planning.

Private philanthropy complements but does not, can not and was never intended to supplant state funds in the delivery of the broad range of human and community services. The numbers speak for themselves.”

Valerie Lies, president and CEO of Donors Forum.

“Illinois Partners for Human Service represents the private funders and agencies working together to support the State of Illinois in delivering human services. Just like roads and bridges, a healthy infrastructure of community-based programs means the difference

between quality of life and no place to go. State leaders must reengage in this partnership and return the budget to full funding for human services."

Nancy Ronquillo, president and CEO of Children's Home + Aid Society and co-chair of Illinois Partners for Human Service.

"In my twenty plus years working in the non-profit sector, I have never seen a budget crisis this dire. Our state leaders must find a way to create a budget that supports the programs, clients and employees of more than 12,000 organizations across Illinois. If we are forced to close our doors thousands of women-owned businesses will close, children will be left without care and victims of rape will have nowhere to turn."

Christine Bork, CEO, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago.

"We already operate on a bare bones budget. The elimination would have to come directly out of the services and supplies provided the residents and members of our community. We would have to eliminate clinical services, supplies, food, community Food Pantry, Community Clothing Closet, and all other services offered the community."

Barb Hicks, Executive Director, Madonna House, Quincy

"If their contracts are cut in half, some of those centers would have to close their doors, and others would have to impose such drastic reductions in staff that they could no longer respond to the needs of their consumers. ... Countless thousands of consumers would have nowhere to go for services."

Ann Ford, executive director of the Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living, regarding the 23 centers she represents across Illinois that serve almost 9,000 people a year.

"We are an agency that has served the homeless in Southern Illinois for 25 years. This is the first time state funding cuts have put our efforts to help the homeless in such jeopardy. With the loss of jobs in the area increasing, now is no time to close shelters that provide shelter and food. We don't want to close our doors."

Peggy Russell, Executive Director, Williamson County Family Crisis Center, Herrin

According to Chicago Coalition for the Homeless:

The statewide Homelessness Prevention Program will be eliminated. These funds go to households in danger of losing their housing due to a temporary economic crisis. They are used to pay back rent or mortgage, utility bills, or legal assistance. We anticipate 12,500 households will not be served if this program is eliminated. It has successfully kept 79,507 people housed since it's beginning in 1999.

According to the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago:

More than 116,000 abused women, children and families would no longer have access to rape crisis services. 138,000 YWCA clients will be displaced and unable to find resources for their child care, job skills training, financial planning, computer technology skills and rape crisis counseling.

According to the Center for Economic Progress:

A 50% reduction in our state funding for our free tax preparation program would cut our service delivery in half. Instead of providing free tax preparation services to 33,000 Illinois individuals and families who earn less than \$45,000 per year, and returning \$53 million in refunds, we would only be able to serve 16,500, and deprive low-income Illinois communities of approximately \$26 million in federal and state refunds.

This would be a devastating economic blow to these 35 communities. The median income of families served by our program is \$14,000. It is self-evident that losing a tax refund of, on average, \$1,800, would cause great hardship for families already struggling with unemployment, underemployment, and the loss of a wide range of social services.

According to the American Association of Mental Retardation:

Illinois ranks 51st in the country (behind District of Columbia) in the percentage of disabled people who live in a setting with six or fewer people. Roughly 17,000 people are on a waiting list for services in Illinois.

According to Illinois Action For Children:

Up to 80,000 families - roughly 150,000 children - will lose their child care, and Preschool for All could be eliminated for the 100,000 children currently in the program.

Eliminating Human Service Programs Now Cost More Later

According to Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, for every dollar spent on health and human services, taxpayers save \$6 to \$8 dollars. For example, every dollar invested in early learning programs generates \$7.13 in taxpayer benefits. To forfeit these programs now means higher spending more than six times that later at a greater cost.

Illinois Partners for Human Service represents human service providers and private funders who share interest and responsibility to promote the common good by ensuring that the public infrastructure includes a strong, well-managed network of community services that complement traditional government institutions. In order for communities throughout Illinois and the families that call them home to succeed and prosper, we must repair and strengthen the community services that protect public health, improve public safety, revitalize local economies and enhance learning.