



Quality Services. Adequate Funding. Measurable Results.

Human Services & Illinois' Budget Crisis

Why Does Illinois Partners Say “No Cuts” to Human Services

Human services are severely underfunded in Illinois.

When inflation and demand and growth are taken into consideration, human services would have required an additional \$4.4 billion between 2003 and 2010 just to maintain 2002 funding levels.

But even in 2002, funding levels were weak in comparison to other states. In 2002, for example, Illinois ranked 35th and 40th, respectively, in funding services for Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities.

What is the Impact of Under-funding Human Services?

Payments from the state are running anywhere from 6 to 18 months behind, forcing nonprofit organizations to take out loans to operate programs mandated by the state. Not only do organizations have to bear the interest costs themselves, in some cases, lines of their credit have been completely exhausted, leading to program cutbacks and closures.

In addition, the state has begun demanding retroactive contract changes that unexpectedly further reducing funding. All of this makes it difficult to provide high quality, consistent services.

How Many People are Impacted?

As many as 2 million people in Illinois depend on state funding for basic services such as child care; after-school programs for teens; skills training or help finding jobs; counseling for victims of sexual or domestic abuse; assistance for the mentally ill and developmentally disabled; in-home care for the elderly.

How Do Cuts Impact Jobs?

According the Center on Tax and Budget Accountability, cuts to human services cost Illinois jobs and are bad for the state economy. In addition to the families that receive services, cuts to human services will fall primarily on private sector workers and businesses, hurting family and business incomes and local economies statewide.

- Approximately **400,000 jobs in Illinois** are connected to the human services sector.
- More than 75% of the human services contracts are with **private sector/non-profit businesses**
- Approximately **61,000 private sector jobs were cut** in the past eight years due to \$4.4 billion in spending cuts.
- **\$1.36 of private sector economic activity is lost for every one dollar** cut in humans services spending

Can We Afford Human Services Given the Budget Crisis?

We can't afford not to. Human service programs are a cost effective way for ensuring that low-income and other vulnerable families have the opportunity to work and meet basic human needs while improving their lives. For example:

- **Every \$1 spent** on child abuse prevention **saves taxpayers \$19** in child abuse treatments
- **Every \$1 spent** on home care for the elderly **saves taxpayers \$10.50** on nursing home costs
- **Every \$1 spent** on childhood learning **generates \$7.00 in taxpayer benefits**
- **Every \$1 spent** on drug treatment **saves taxpayers \$7** in reduced crime, emergency room visits
- **Every \$1 spent** in job training **returns \$4.60** to the taxpayer

Does Illinois Partners Support a Tax Increase? Where should the funds come from?

Illinois Partners doesn't take a position on how services should be funded. We leave that to the people who were elected to make those decisions. This is the purpose of electing a governor and state legislators. It is their job to ensure the state's citizens get the services they need and make the best decision about how to make sure those services are paid for.