



Quality Services. Adequate Funding. Measurable Results.

## HOW HAVE HUMAN SERVICES BEEN CUT IN RECENT YEARS?

Human services are vital programs that enable people to work, learn and live independently across Illinois. As many as 2 million people in Illinois depend on state funding for basic human services – child care and after-school programs, community services for people with mental illness or developmental disabilities, skills training or help finding jobs, addictions treatment, counseling for victims of abuse, in-home care for seniors and people with disabilities. In addition to the millions of people served, over 400,000 Illinoisans are employed in the human services sector.

In the face of a difficult economy and continued fiscal challenges, Illinois' human services delivery system is especially vital to family budgets and local economies, assisting Illinoisans in every part of the state to live healthy, independent lives, to succeed in school and at work, and to participate in their communities. Over and over again, research shows that these services save the state money in the long run and that neglecting services to Illinois residents simply shifts costs to other, more costly systems.

There is ongoing debate whether there have been sufficient cuts to programs and services as part of our state's struggle to fix its longstanding budget crisis. The data indicates that there have been significant cuts to human services in recent years.

- Over the last decade, the state has cut its real investment in various human service programs collectively by more than \$4.4 billion. None of the other core service areas – education, healthcare or public safety - have experienced cuts of that magnitude.<sup>1</sup>
- Between 2001 and 2004 alone, spending on human services decreased by \$387 million, or 10%.<sup>2</sup>
- Since FY 2009, the state has slashed about \$750 million – about 20 percent – from Department of Human Services grants to community-based providers.<sup>3</sup>

Illinois Partners recognizes the continued need to reform the Illinois budget and believes that additional reform and restructuring of the budget should be carried out with research and care, based on facts and careful consideration of state priorities. The disproportionate cuts that have been shouldered by the human services sector cannot continue.

The Governor's FY12 budget proposal continues the pattern of disproportionate cuts to human services instead of the shared sacrifice that is necessary. It is up to the Illinois General Assembly to restore balance and shared sacrifice as they complete the FY12 budgeting process.

Illinois Partners for Human Service is a statewide network that advocates for high quality, evidence-based, sustainable approaches to providing human service in Illinois. Over 700 organizations located in all legislative districts have joined the network since 2009.

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<sup>1</sup> Center for Tax and Budget Accountability

<sup>2</sup> Center for Tax and Budget Accountability

<sup>3</sup> Voices for Illinois Children