



**ILLINOIS BUDGET CUTS TO HUMAN SERVICES
ADVERSELY IMPACT WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

The Center for Tax and Budget Accountability's latest report details how women suffer disproportionately from the state's cuts to its human services budget.

"At a time when Illinois should be increasing its investment in human services to match the increasing demand, legislators are failing to measure up," said Yerik Kaslow, principal author of the study, entitled "***Gender Disparity in Human Services: The Impact of Illinois' State Budget Cuts on Human Services Supporting Women***".

Women, both directly due to losing access to services, and indirectly due to losing employment providing these services, are likely to bear the brunt of a substantial portion of human service budget cuts. Women are already over-represented as a percentage of those in poverty. Add to this their over-representation in the fields of healthcare and human services delivery, and it becomes clear that women will be particularly impacted by state budget cuts to human services.

Over the last decade, the state has cut its real investment in assorted human service programs collectively by more than \$4.4 billion. None of the other three state core service areas -- education, health care or public safety -- have experienced cuts of that magnitude. For this reason, human service providers, particularly those who do not qualify for federal funds, are especially vulnerable.

Deep cuts to programs that disproportionately affect women and children, especially those living in poverty, make it more difficult for them to withstand the economic downturn. Assisting victims of sexual assault and domestic violence, aiding children in poverty, promoting maternal health, and helping families avoid homelessness not only lessen the effects of the recession, but also promote self-sufficiency while reducing future costs to taxpayers.

The only way to avoid devastating cuts to education, healthcare, human services and public safety while simultaneously balancing the state budget is to raise state revenue through a comprehensive restructuring of the state tax code in a manner that raises revenue to address the budget shortfall, but also implements a more progressive system that decreases the tax burden on the poor.

Examine a copy of the "[Gender Disparity in Human Services](#)" report for yourself. The fact that adequate funding for human services must be accomplished in uniquely challenging financial times makes the commitment to provide for our most vulnerable all the more essential.

If you would like more detailed information on solutions to the budget crisis, please see CTBA's report, *Funding Our Future*, at www.ctbaonline.org.

Our agenda is ambitious and the need for your personal contribution in support of our efforts is more important than ever. We do not accept state or federal government funds. Please consider making a generous contribution to the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability [today](#).

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