



Quality Services. Adequate Funding. Measurable Results.

Why Human Services Matter

What are Human Services?

Human services are a wide variety of programs available to the people of Illinois to help them find work, care for their children while they work, recover from addiction or assist vulnerable populations such as the elderly or disabled in their daily lives.

Examples of human services include: 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.

Who Receives Human Services?

Human service programs ensure that low-income and other vulnerable families have the opportunity to work and meet basic human needs while improving their lives.

Why Should the Taxpayer Pay for These Services?

The country is in one of the worst recessions in history. Unemployment is above 10 percent in Illinois. Helping the unemployed and our most vulnerable populations – children, the disabled and the elderly – is simply what we do in America. We don't leave people behind, and we help people who are ready to help themselves.

Aren't Human Services a Luxury Given the Budget Crisis?

In fact, human services are a bargain. Helping people in need is actually more cost effective than letting problems fester and get worse. 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

Aren't These Programs Just More Big Government??

The majority of human services in Illinois are provided by local, community-based nonprofit organizations under contract to the state. These organizations employ to more than 400,000 Illinois residents throughout the state.