



April 6, 2020

Dear Governor Pritzker,

On behalf of the Illinois health and human service sector, we thank you for your leadership and all that you are doing to keep Illinoisans healthy and safe through this unprecedented public health crisis. As we look ahead to the long-term ramifications of COVID-19, we hope to work with you on the following to ensure our health and human service infrastructure remains strong, and our Illinois residents stay safe.

**Clarity:** The stay at home order has uprooted most day-to-day practice. We look to your office for specifics on what this means for state contracts and future funding. We greatly appreciate Secretary Hou's and other state leadership in providing supplemental funding for fee-for-service providers and encouragement to keep staff in place. We ask for clarity from all state agencies around their fee-for-service contracts, as well as best practices for delivering services during this time.

**Predictability:** Many providers were already in precarious fiscal situations prior to the coronavirus crisis. Your administration inherited a health and human services infrastructure built on the labor of low paid staff which was further destabilized by a two-year budget impasse. Of major concern is the state's capacity to pay providers on time and in full, due to shrinking state revenues as a result of the current economic downturn. Currently, our leadership teams and boards of directors are working out scenarios about next steps, including program closures, staff layoffs and whether to apply for loans to keep doors open. Understanding the state's funding priorities will help us avoid the economic and social costs of closing programs and furloughing staff unnecessarily.

**Partnership:** We are prepared to partner with the state to brainstorm innovations, identify solutions, and establish priorities for the federal funding our sector will receive as part of the CARES Act and future federal stimulus bills. Our partners on the front lines are already innovating and want to ensure that their communities have access to both federal and state small business loans and unemployment programs. We have valuable insight on modifying contracts to support the fiscal stability of community-based agencies in order to build the resilience of the health and human service workforce. **Health and human service providers are keenly aware that as the state moves into a recession, the people of Illinois will need more services and support. Therefore, we urge leaders to make protecting the Illinois safety net a top priority in the FY21 budget.**

The Illinois health and human service sector is committed to caring for our communities and weathering this storm for the long haul. Together, we can move Illinois forward working to find solutions that keep our communities, and the essential organizations that support them, healthy and whole.

For more information and to move forward in partnership, please contact:

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In Solidarity,

A Safe Haven  
 Abilities Plus  
 Afterschool for Children and Teens Now (ACT Now)  
 AgeOptions  
 AIDS Foundation of Chicago  
 All Chicago Making Homelessness History  
 All Our Children's Advocacy Center  
 Alternatives (for the Older Adult, Inc.)  
 American Indian Center  
 Amity Day Care and Learning Center  
 Angel Harvey Family Health Center  
 Apna Ghar, Inc.  
 April House Children's Aid  
 Arden Shore Child and Family Services  
 Arrowhead Youth and Family Services  
 Arts of Life  
 Association for Individual Development (AID)  
 Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Peoria  
 Breaking Free, Inc.  
 Breakthrough  
 Bridge Communities  
 Cairo Women's Shelter, Inc.  
 Call for Help, Inc.  
 Career Development Center  
 Caritas Family Solutions  
 Carrie Lynn Children's Center  
 Casa Central Social Services Corporation  
 CCAR Industries  
 Center on Halsted  
 Centerstone of Illinois  
 Central Illinois Agency on Aging  
 Central States SER  
 Champaign County Christian Health Center  
 Champaign County Health Care Consumers  
 Chestnut Health Systems  
 CHICAGO AREA PROJECT  
 Chicago Coalition for the Homeless  
 Chicago Urban League  
 Chicago Youth Centers  
 Child Abuse Council  
 Children's Advocacy Centers of Illinois  
 Children's Advocacy Center of North and Northwest Cook County  
 Children's Home & Aid  
 ChildServ  
 College of Lake County  
 Community Assistance Programs  
 Community Behavioral Healthcare Association of Illinois  
 Community Crisis Center  
 Crisis Center Foundation  
 Deborah's Place  
 Disability Resource Center, Joliet, IL  
 DuPAGE County Area Project  
 DuPage Early Childhood Collaboration  
 DuPage Federation on Human Services Reform  
 DuPagePads  
 East Central Illinois Area Agency on Aging  
 Easterseals Central Illinois  
 Easterseals Joliet Region, Inc.  
 Egyptian Area Agency on Aging  
 ElderCARE Lake County  
 Erie Neighborhood House  
 Erikson Institute  
 EverThrive Illinois  
 F.U.T.U.R.E. Foundation Inc.  
 Family Rescue  
 Family Resources  
 Family Service Agency of DeKalb County  
 FamilyCore  
 Forefront  
 Franklin Williamson Child Advocacy Center  
 Freedom House  
 Friedman Place - A Community for Adults who are Blind or Visually Impaired  
 Good Samaritan Ministries - A Project of the Carbondale Interfaith Council  
 Greenlight Family Services  
 Guardian Angel Community Services  
 Habilitative Systems, Inc.  
 Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County  
 Haven Youth and Family Services  
 HAYAT CLINIC  
 Healthy Illinois  
 Heartland Alliance  
 Heartland Health Services  
 Hektoen Institute of Medicine  
 Help at Home, LLC  
 Housing Action Illinois  
 Howard Area Community Center  
 ICNA Relief

IFF

Illinois Assistive Technology Program  
 Illinois Association for Behavioral Health  
 Illinois Association for the Education of Young Children  
 Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
 Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
 Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
 Illinois Collaboration on Youth  
 Illinois Developmental Therapy Association  
 Illinois Head Start Association  
 Illinois Hunger Coalition  
 Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living  
 Illinois Partners for Human Service  
 Illinois Public Health Association  
 Impact Behavioral Health Partners  
 IMPACT CIL  
 Indian American Medical Association Charitable Foundation  
 Instituto del Progreso Latino  
 Japanese American Service Committee  
 KC-CASA  
 Knox County Child Advocacy Center  
 Lake County Crisis Center DBA A safe Place  
 Legal Council for Health Justice  
 Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House  
 Literacy DuPage  
 Literacy Works  
 Livingston Family Care Center  
 Lutheran Child and Family Services of IL  
 Lutheran Social Services of Illinois  
 Malecki & Brooks Law Group, LLC  
 Malone's Early Learning Center Inc  
 Mano a Mano Family Resource Center  
 Marillac St Vincent Family Services  
 McManus Consulting/Disability Services  
 Metropolitan Family Services  
 Mission Plus Strategy Consulting, Inc.  
 Mujeres Latinas en Accion  
 Mutual Ground, Inc.  
 NAMI DuPage  
 National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
 Neighborhood House  
 Neopolitan Lighthouse

New Moms  
 New Star  
 Nicasa, NFP Behavioral Health Services  
 North Shore Senior Center  
 Northwest Center Against Sexual Assault  
 Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living  
 Nurse-Family Partnership  
 OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACCESS (OFA CIL)  
 Pam Heavens, Private Citizen  
 PEER Services  
 Planned Parenthood of Illinois  
 Prevent Child Abuse Illinois  
 Rape Advocacy Counseling & Education Services  
 Remedies Renewing Lives  
 Respiratory Health Association  
 Rhonda Andrews-Ray, Southern Seven Health Department  
 Riverview Center  
 Riverwalk Adult Day Services  
 Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling  
 RRAF  
 RRF Foundation for Aging  
 Safe Journeys (formerly, ADV & SAS)  
 Safe Passage, INC.  
 Sankofa Safe Child Initiative  
 Sarah's Inn  
 Sexual Assault and Family Emergencies SAFE  
 Sexual Assault Counseling and Information Service (SACIS)  
 SHALVA, Inc.  
 SHOW BUS  
 Shriver Center on Poverty Law  
 Sinai Infectious Disease Center  
 Sojourn Shelter & Services, Inc.  
 South Suburban Area Project  
 South Suburban Family Shelter  
 South-East Asia Center  
 Southern Illinois Center for Independent Living  
 St. John's Community Care  
 Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois  
 Stone-Hayes Center for Independent Living  
 Syrian Community Network  
 TASC  
 The Alliance for Human Services  
 The HANA Center

ILLINOIS PARTNERS

for HUMAN SERVICE

The Illinois Association of Free and Charitable Clinics

The Institute on Public Policy for People with Disabilities

The Kennedy Forum Illinois

The Lake County Community Foundation

The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence

The New Chicago Heights Community Committee

The Night Ministry

The Ounce of Prevention Fund

The Way Back Inn

TRADE Industries

Transitions Mental Health Services

Trilogy, Inc

Twice As Nice Mother & Child

Voices for Illinois Children

VOICES of Stephenson County

Western DuPage Chamber of Commerce

Western Illinois Area Agency on Aging

Will County Children's Advocacy Center

WIRC-CAA-Victim Services

YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago

Youth & Family Counseling

Youth Crossroads, Inc.

YWCA McLean County

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago

YWCA of the Sauk Valley

Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center

Cc:

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IDHS Secretary Grace Hou

IDOA Director Paula Basta

DCFS Director Marc Smith

HFS Director Theresa Eagleson

IDPH Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike

House Speaker Michael Madigan

Senate President Don Harmon

Representative Greg Harris

Representative Robyn Gabel

Representative Frances Ann Hurley

Senator Sara Feigenholtz

Senator Heather Steans

Senator Dale Righter

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