

Investments in Homeless Services

Lead to Positive Outcomes and Cost Savings



A Home for Everyone

Good News: Homelessness is decreasing in Illinois, even in the midst of a deep recession. From 2008 to 2009, Illinois saw a 5% decrease in the overall homeless population and an impressive 32% decrease in the number of people sleeping on the street. State-funded supportive housing saves the state \$2,400 per person per year (compared to other services) and leverages \$200 million in federal funds every year.

Bad News: State line items dedicated to homeless services have already been reduced by \$10 million or 41% over the past four fiscal years. The Governor's proposed FY 2012 budget proposes an additional \$6 million. Additional cuts would drastically impair our efforts to end homelessness in Illinois and ensure all Illinoisans have safe, affordable housing.

Homeless Prevention

- It costs the state only \$916 per household served to prevent homelessness and 89% of the households served are able to stay in their homes.
- FY 2012 funding should stay at \$2.4 million and the General Assembly should work to restore previous funding cuts by FY 2013 when federal stimulus funds run out.

Emergency and Transitional Housing

- 42,000 people are served per year and an additional 56,000 are turned-away.
- FY 2012 funding should stay at \$9.1 million. Cutting the program in half, as proposed by Governor Quinn, would force 21,000 people out on the streets.

Homeless Youth

- 87% of the youth served move into safe, stable housing. However, 95% of youth experiencing homelessness in Illinois are unable to access assistance due to limited funding.
- FY 2012 funding should be restored to the FY 2010 level of \$4.7 million.

Supportive Housing

- Supportive housing will help Illinois meet its Williams v. Quinn consent decree obligation by moving people from restrictive and expensive institutionalization (**\$115 per day**) to humane and cost-efficient community based housing and services (**\$42 per day**).
- FY 2012 funding should stay at \$23.9 million to serve all 6,000 households currently housed.

All four state-funded homeless programs should stay in the Illinois Department of Human Services, specifically within the Division of Human Capital Development, where they will continue to benefit from a coordinated approach to homelessness and staff with expertise and experience in the field.