



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

Restore Funding for Homeless Services in Illinois

Considering the foreclosure crisis and the current economic climate, more people are facing hard times and are more likely to need crisis assistance. Instead, homeless services are being cut. *See chart of funding cuts to these programs on reverse.*

From FY 2008 to FY 2011, state line items specifically dedicated to homeless services were reduced by over \$14 million or 49%.

- **Restore Homeless Prevention funding to \$5 million.** Homeless prevention funding was reduced from \$11 million in FY 2008 to \$1.5 million in FY 2012, an 87% decrease. This is especially detrimental as federal prevention dollars, called Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing that have filled the gap, will be gone at the start of FY 13.
 - With \$2.4 million in funding during FY 2011, only **2,559** households were served. An estimated **9,118** households had to be turned away at that funding level.
- **Maintain funding of Emergency and Transitional housing at \$9.1 million as funded in FY 2012.** There were 55,811 turn-aways due to insufficient funds even when the program was at its recent high funding level.
- **Restore Homeless Youth Programs' funding to \$4.7 million.** Homeless youth funding in Illinois has been cut from \$4.7 million in 2008 to \$3.2 million in 2011. This represents a 32% cut over three years.
 - 87% of unaccompanied youth served in Illinois moved into safe, stable housing. However, due to limited funding, 95% of youth experiencing homelessness are unable to access services.
- **Restore Homeless Education Funding to \$1 million.** In FY 2009 homeless education received \$3 million in funding in the ISBE budget. Since then, the homeless student population in Illinois has increased by 60%. Funding of at least \$1 million would provide grants to at least 10 school districts statewide.

Prevent Harmful Transfers of Programs to Other State Agencies

All state-funded homeless programs described above, except Homeless Education, should be kept in the Illinois Department of Human Services, specifically within the Division of Family and Community Services, where they will continue to benefit from staff with expertise and experience in overseeing these programs.



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Budget Cuts for Homeless Programs

State Budget Line Item	Recent High Funding Level	High Funding Year	FY11 Funding	FY12 Funding	Total funds cut	% Change High/ FY12
Homeless Prevention	11,000,000	FY 2008	2,400,000	1,485,000	9,515,000	(87%)
Emergency and Transitional Housing*	9,123,600	FY 2010	9,104,900	4,383,700 + 4,700,000 in a Supplemental Appropriation	39,900	(0.5%)
Homeless Youth	4,747,700	FY 2008	3,259,800	3,227,200	1,520,500	(32%)
Homeless Education	3,000,000	FY 2009	0	0	3,000,000	(100%)
Total	27,871,300		14,764,700	13,795,900	14,075,400	(49%)

* Formerly called the Emergency Food and Shelter Program

When we prevent a family's descent into homelessness or provide shelter and housing to individuals experiencing homelessness, it is hard to measure the value of this service. For some, we are intervening in a life or death situation.

- Homeless unaccompanied youth fleeing abuse at home or violence on the street can achieve stability and independence with the help of homeless youth programs. ***Eighty-seven percent of homeless youth exit programs into safe, stable housing.***
- A family facing a one-time economic crisis can avoid eviction with the assistance of the homeless prevention program. ***Ninety percent of households stayed housed 4 months after using homeless prevention funds.***
- When stable housing is unavoidably lost, a family can seek shelter or transitional housing rather than squat in an abandoned building not knowing if they will have a meal that day. ***Fifty-four percent exited into permanent or transitional housing.***
- Homeless education funds allow for special services to unaccompanied homeless youth to ensure that they are in school and on track to graduate.

What costs are we avoiding by providing these services?

- Crimes of survival such as prostitution, theft and forgery that unnecessarily clog up our courts, jails, and prisons.
- Victimization in the home of origin or on the street
- Hospitalizations and ER visits for untreated medical and mental health issues
- Loss of employment and base of tax-paying citizenry (and associated consumer consumption)