



Protect vital services for families already hurt by budget cuts, delays

The Governor’s office and administrative agencies face tough decisions in determining how to specifically allocate the “lump sum” appropriations authorized by legislators in the FY2011 budget. However, it’s particularly important that we preserve the education and human services on which struggling families and communities depend most heavily, particularly in these toughest of times.

Too many of these priorities are harmed by long payment delays that are forcing schools and service providers to cut-back or close altogether. Many still are reeling from budget cuts enacted in FY2010. Among the many policy priorities Voices counts as most in need of protection from further cuts are these:

Priority	Supports	FY 2010 adopted budget (GRF only)	Change from FY2009
Early Childhood Block Grant Programs	Preschool services for 3- and 4-year-olds; developmental services for at-risk infants and toddlers	\$342.2 million in ISBE	\$38.1 million cut (10 percent)
Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership initiatives	Prevention, early intervention and treatment services to strengthen kids’ social and emotional well-being	\$2.7 million in ISBE \$2.38 million in DHS	\$300,000 cut (10 percent) \$558,600 cut (19 percent)
Home-visiting programs	Healthy Families Illinois & Parents Too Soon: “Parent-coaching” for new moms and dads of at-risk kids from birth to age 3	\$10.1 million for HFI in DHS \$6.9 million for PTS in DHS	\$1.1 million cut (10 percent) \$771,100 cut (10 percent)
Child care assistance	State-assisted child care for low-income, working parents – an integral part of many children’s early learning experiences	\$641.2 million in DHS	Level funding
Teen REACH after-school programs	Homework assistance, enrichment activities and healthy alternatives to the streets for youth outside of school hours	\$15.7 million in DHS	\$3 million cut (16 percent)
Bilingual education	Second-language educational help for 190,000 children, for whom English is not the first language	\$68.1 million in ISBE	\$7.6 million cut (10 percent)
Early Intervention	For children birth to 3 with diagnosed developmental delays; provides therapies, counseling, social work and other services	\$76.7 million in DHS	\$2.4 million cut (3 percent)