



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

NO YOUTH ALONE

WE CANNOT CUT FUNDING NOW FOR HOMELESS CHILDREN AND YOUTH!

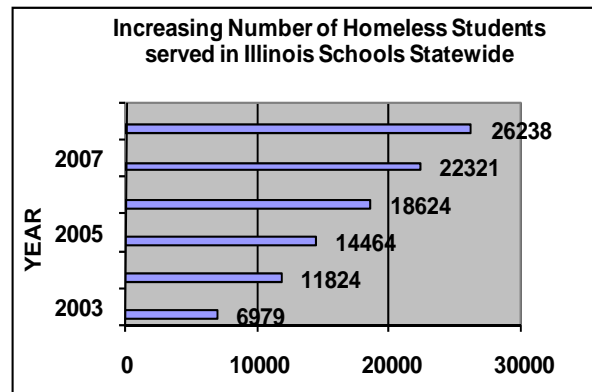
1 in 50 children in the US are homeless (National Center on Family Homelessness)

Do Not Support Governor Quinn's cuts against Homeless Education (ISBE) and Homeless Youth Programs (IDHS)—Maintain FY2009 appropriations!

Restore \$3 million Cut for Educational Services for Homeless Children and Youth—Program eliminated in introduced budget.

Last year, Illinois became the first state in the country to provide state funding for homeless education programs. The State Board of Education just awarded grants under this program in February 2009 to school districts statewide. These school districts have committed to launching new strategies to ensure success in school for homeless children. Those programs will have to end after three months, if the state eliminates this program.

- Statewide, the number of homeless students in schools increased by 17.5% in 2008.
- This year the Chicago Public Schools have already identified 11,143 students, an 18.3% increase, far surpassing the total number of students served last year.



Restore \$700,000 cut to Homeless Youth Programs—a 15% cut in the Governor's introduced budget that brings us back to pre-1998 levels.

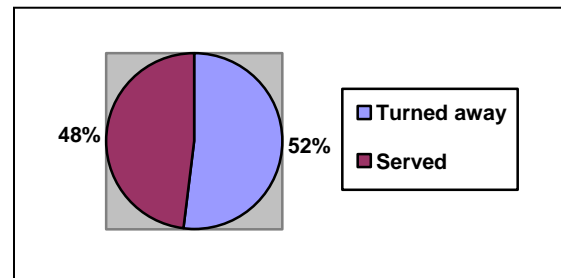
These programs provide the only safe refuge available to hundreds of youth statewide. Emergency shelter, transitional living, job training, and other support services will be lost.

There are 24,968 unaccompanied homeless youth in Illinois,

- ♦ *At the FY 2009 funding level there are only 318 state-funded beds to serve them.*
- ♦ Almost 30% of homeless youth in the state are minors.
- ♦ 62% experienced some form of victimization while homeless.
- ♦ 38% were neglected or abused by a parent and nearly 62% had a parent with a substance abuse problem.

Homeless youth programs are forced to turn away 52% of youth who need housing.

- **2,895:** Number of homeless *youth served* in FY 2007
- **3,088:** Number of homeless *youth turned away* from homeless youth programs, largely due to lack of space.



For more information, please contact:
Daria Mueller, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 312-435-4548 or daria@chicagohomeless.org.



CHICAGO COALITION FOR THE HOMELESS

NO YOUTH ALONE

Endorsing Organizations

Chicago:

Alternatives, Inc.

Blue Sky Inn

Chicago Alliance to End Homelessness

Chicago Jobs Council

Heartland Alliance for Human Needs and Human Rights

New Moms

Project Irene

Teen Living Programs

The Night Ministry

Unity Parenting and Counseling

Suburban:

Aunt Martha's TIPS, Riverdale

NCO Youth and Family Services, Lisle

Outreach Community Ministries (Wheaton Youth Outreach)

YMCA Network, Alsip

Downstate Illinois

Association for Individual Development (AID), Aurora

Community Crisis Center, Elgin

Project Oz, Bloomington

Youth Service Bureau, Springfield

Statewide

Illinois Collaboration on Youth (ICOY)

Voices for Illinois Children

What the general public can do to help restore these cuts:

Call your district legislator.

Call or write to the Governor

Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper.

For more information, please contact:

Daria Mueller, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, 312-435-4548 or

daria@chicagohomeless.org.