



Protect vital priorities for children in FY 2011

With a projected budget shortfall of more than \$13 billion, the state of Illinois faces incredible fiscal challenges. Yet Illinois children, families and communities also face great challenges every day: the need for high-quality education, decent health care, effective human services and basic economic security – public services that are particularly necessary to help families get back on their feet during a national economic recession.

Vital state programs were slashed by more than \$1 billion in FY 2010. They continue to erode from long delays in state payments. Now, those services – and the families who need them – face more than \$2 billion in additional cuts, not to mention longer payment delays.

A more balanced, responsible approach is necessary to solve Illinois’ fiscal woes. It is critical that we raise more adequate revenues to stabilize vital state services, and that we do so in a manner that reflects families’ ability to pay: A general tax increase, coupled with greater use of tax credits and exemptions.

Below is a snapshot of several policy priorities that Voices for Illinois Children counts among the most important to families and communities. **We urge state leaders to protect these services from further budget cuts, restore the cuts they’ve already sustained, and put our state back on track toward fulfilling children’s many unmet needs.**

<i>Priority</i>	<i>Description</i>	<i>FY 10 adopted budget (GRF only)</i>	<i>Governor’s proposed FY 11 change</i>	<i>2-year change (FY 09 approp to FY 11 proposed)</i>	<i>Effects / comments</i>
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	\$54.3 million cut (15.9 percent)	\$92.4 million cut (24.3 percent)	PreK enrollments could drop to levels 30,000 children below FY09; thousands more infants and toddlers could lose vital services. Preschools already are closing statewide, due to payment delays as well as budget cuts
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 \$2.4 million in DHS	\$ 1 million cut (37.4 percent) No change	\$1.3 million cut (43.6 percent) \$558,600 cut (23.4 percent, in FY 10)	About 1 in 10 Illinois children suffer from a mental illness severe enough to cause impairment – yet up to 80 percent of children and youth who need mental health services do not receive them

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Home-visiting programs	Healthy Families Illinois (HFI) & Parents Too Soon (PTS): "Parent-coaching" for new moms and dads of at-risk children from birth to age 3	\$10.1 million for HFI in DHS \$6.9 million for PTS in DHS	\$1 million cut (10 percent) \$694,000 cut (10 percent)	\$2.1 million cut (18.1 percent) \$1.5 million cut (19 percent)	Home-visiting programs reach less than 5 percent of the at-risk infants and toddlers who need help to ensure their optimal growth and safety – needs that grow during times of economic stress on their families
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	\$76.2 million cut (11.8 percent)	\$76.2 million cut (11.8 percent; no change from FY 09 - FY 10)	Cuts could strip services from more than 14,000 children. Proposals include slashing education-and-training assistance for non-TANF parents who are trying to further their educations and need a safe, educational place for their kids while they're in class. The loss of child care eliminates an important job support for thousands of working parents – and threatens \$74 million in federal ARRA funding for Illinois
Teen REACH after-school programs	Help with homework, enrichment activities and healthy alternatives to the streets for children outside school hours	\$15.7 million in DHS	\$1.6 million cut (10 percent)	\$4.6 million cut (21.7 percent)	More children and youth will be left to risky behaviors – including violence, alcohol and drug abuse – during "prime time for juvenile crime"

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Bilingual education	Second-language educational help for 190,000 children for whom English is not the first language	\$68.1 million in ISBE	\$20.4 million cut (30 percent)	\$28 million cut (37 percent)	A growing population of English-language learners is left to struggle without the help they need to thrive inside and outside the classroom – with local schools left to pick-up much of the costs
Early Intervention	For children birth to 3 with diagnosed developmental delays; provides therapies, counseling, social work and other services	\$76.7 million in DHS	\$7.7 million cut (10 percent)	\$10.1 million cut (12.7 percent)	More young children will go undiagnosed and untreated for developmental delays or disabilities until they enter school – despite research showing early childhood is the most effective and important time to intervene in such challenges

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