



## Reduce Violence By Investing in Kids

Some communities in Illinois are infected by epidemic levels of violence. While the causes of violence are complex, investing in children and teens is an essential component of violence-reduction strategies. **To interrupt the cycles of violence, we must:**

- Invest in children’s healthy development starting at birth;
- Help children and teens’ build strong social and emotional skills;
- Treat the toxic effects of the trauma often associated with growing up in violent communities; and
- Provide children and teens with safe spaces and enriching activities.

**Over the last few years, Illinois has unfortunately been deeply cutting the very programs that can help interrupt these cycles of violence.**

Program Area	Benefits	General Funds Change FY09-13
Home Visiting	Empowers new and expectant parents to provide a nurturing environment for their young children.	<b>CUT</b> \$1.7 million – Healthy Families Illinois & \ Parents Too Soon
Early Intervention	Provides services to families with children under age 3 who have diagnosed disabilities or are experiencing developmental delays.	<b>CUT</b> \$6.2 million – Early Intervention Program
Preschool	Improves children’s healthy development, school readiness, and social and emotional skills. Particularly assists low-income and at-risk children improve attention and persistence.	<b>CUT</b> \$78.2 million – Early Childhood Block Grant
Children’s Mental Health Services	Helps children manage emotions, develop caring and concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and deal effectively with challenging situations.	<b>CUT</b> \$17.9 million – DHS children’s mental health services & Illinois Children’s Mental Health Partnership
Afterschool	Provides children and youth with enriching afterschool opportunities that enhance positive growth and development, keep kids safe, and reduce harmful, risk-taking behaviors.	<b>CUT</b> \$9.9 million – Teen REACH
Delinquency Prevention	Steers youth away from involvement in the juvenile justice system by connecting youth to a ranges of services and supports in their home communities.	<b>CUT</b> \$11.2 million – Variety of DHS programs