

## **Lack of Budget Is Dismantling Critical State Services**

**By Lisa Christensen Gee**

The failure of Illinois lawmakers to restore revenue needed to support essential services is causing widespread damage to the state, with children, seniors, and those with disabilities the hardest hit.

When lawmakers allowed personal and corporate income taxes to roll back on January 1, 2015, Illinois lost between \$5 billion and 6 billion in annual revenue. Since then, both the governor and the General Assembly have failed to restore the revenue required to enact a fully funded, year-long budget.

Illinois is now in its third month without a budget. While some services are being partially funded as a result of court orders or the availability of federal dollars, the lack of state appropriations has resulted in the deterioration — and in a growing number of cases, the elimination — of critical services for children, families, and communities.

The harm is widespread — ranging from afterschool programs and autism services to conservation police and support services for seniors. Our state's most vulnerable people, including children, people with disabilities, and seniors, are especially threatened by this inaction.

Many providers of these critical services have been instructed by state agencies to continue to provide services at the level of the last fiscal year (which ended June 30). Others have been issued new contracts with lower service levels. In either case, outside of consent decrees and federal pass-through funds, zero state dollars are being spent on many critical state priorities.

Who is left standing at the end of this is completely in the hands of the Governor Rauner and the General Assembly. To prevent further damage to children, families, and communities, lawmakers and the governor need to take responsibility for funding our state's priorities by restoring the revenue we need to fully fund a year-long budget.

*There has been a lot of confusion among advocates, providers, and state officials following the enforcement of a series of consent decrees and the approval of the federal pass-through measure as to what services are, and are not, being funded in the absence of an approved budget.*

*In response, the Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children compiled this budget snapshot to identify many critical services that are not being funded, how much state funding is required to close the current funding gap, and the growing human costs of the budget impasse.*

**Failure to pass a fully funded, year-long budget is obstructing the operations of these and other critical programs and services:**

**Children & Youth's Education and Healthy Development**

After school programs  
Bilingual education  
Community-based youth crisis interventions  
Community services development programs  
Developmental therapies for kids under age 4  
Educ. & employment programs for HS dropouts  
Franklin County Juvenile Center  
Health care for kids from families w/HIV or AIDS  
Home visiting programs  
Programs for healthy pregnancies & babies  
School assessments  
Teen parent services  
Teen pregnancy prevention  
Transition services for former DCFS wards  
Violence protection for families w/young kids  
Youth incarceration reduction programs

**Health, Disability, and Senior Care**

Autism services  
Best Buddies  
Breast and cervical cancer screenings  
Disability resource hotline  
Domestic violence shelters and services  
Epilepsy grants  
Family planning programs  
Funeral and burial assistance  
HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment services  
Home-delivered meals for seniors  
In-home & community-based senior care  
Long-term care Ombudsman  
Mental health crisis training for police  
Mental health supportive housing (non-Williams)  
Mobile health clinics  
Non-Medicaid mental health rehab services  
Psychiatric care for community mental health  
Respite programs  
Senior protective services  
Sexual assault services and prevention  
Sickle cell clinic  
Substance use and prevention programs  
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Program  
Support services for seniors  
Violent crimes victim assistance

**Strong Workforce and Local Communities**

Adult education and literacy programs  
Adult incarceration reduction programs  
Aid to public colleges and universities  
Career and technical education  
Child care assistance  
Civil legal aid  
Conservation police  
Construction of new affordable housing  
Emergency and transitional housing  
Employment and training programs  
Home energy assistance program  
Homeless prevention assistance  
Homeless supportive housing  
Homeless youth services  
Illinois State Museums  
Immigrant services  
Public transit operating assistance grants  
Reentry and rehabilitation services  
Soil and water conservation districts  
Tuition assistance (MAP grants)  
Veteran's homes

**A closer look at some of these areas reveals the “on the ground” impacts already in effect across the state:**

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
<b>Children and Youth’s Education and Healthy Development</b>		
Children’s Place	No state funding flowing (about \$400,000 in Fiscal Year 2015)	Medical, mental health, and transportation services at risk in coming months for over 100 children and 86 families affected by HIV/AIDS.
Community Services Grants	No state funding flowing (over \$5.5 million in FY15)	Program closures in Bloomington, Decatur, and Peoria. All staff laid off in DuPage 8/15.
Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services	No state funding flowing (over \$16 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released make up less than 17% of FY15 program budget, helping with expenses through some but not all of August	Reported provider closures, reductions in services to mandated clients only, transferring cases, and staff layoffs. September a crucial month for most agencies’ cash flow.
Early Intervention	No state funding flowing (over \$85 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued, but no payments being made without enacted budget	At least four Child and Family Connections agencies will run out of money by mid-September, and will close unless additional funding is released, resulting in 97 employees furloughed or laid off, suspending services for over 4,000 families, and no way to serve hundreds of new children in need of services every month. Providers with access to more cash will start cutting transportation services in the coming months.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
Home Visiting (Parents Too Soon and Healthy Families)	No state funding flowing (combined \$16.5 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued, but no payments being made without enacted budget	Providers are doing everything they can to avoid disrupting services that promote positive parenting and healthy growth and childhood development among new and expectant parents, including reducing staff, not filling empty positions, instituting travel restrictions, and furloughing administrative staff. More disruptive steps will need to be taken each month.
Intensive Prenatal and Family Case Management	No state funding flowing (about \$36 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut significantly for non-Federally Qualified Health Centers), but no payments being made without enacted budget	Pregnant women and infants are at increased risk of poor birth and health outcomes due to anticipated program delays and service reductions by even large providers.
Redeploy Illinois	No state funding flowing (about \$4.8 million in FY15)	Compromised services for hundreds of teenagers at high-risk of incarceration.
Safe from the Start (violence protection for kids)	No state funding flowing (over \$1 million in FY15); providers told they may be reimbursed for expenses incurred as of 7/1 unless grant program suspended	Therapist layoffs leading to reduced services for fragile families exposed to family or community violence. Providers who can are continuing services with private support but at reduced hours, which won't be sustainable in coming months.
Teen Pregnancy Prevention Grants	No state funding flowing; FY16 contracts issued (cut significantly & capped at \$50,000), but no payments being made without enacted budget	Planned sex education programming for areas with high-STD and teen pregnancy rates (e.g., Decatur) no longer possible with funding reductions and payment delays.
Teen REACH afterschool programs	No state funding flowing (over \$13 million in FY15)	16 program closures and 79 staff layoffs, leading to more than 1,500 youth losing programming with another 572 at immediate risk.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
<b>Health, Disability, and Senior Care</b>		
ARC of Illinois Life Span Project (disability hotline)	No state funding flowing (\$471,400 in FY15)	Referral services suspended 7/1, leaving families with special needs to navigate complex insurance, educational, institutional, and legal systems unaided and at greater risk of not receiving needed support.
The Autism Project (TAP)	No state funding flowing (\$4.3 million in FY15)	Program closure in Charleston, eliminating services for over 100 children and their families and trainings/consultations for about 900 educators and health providers. Other providers operating at significantly reduced staffing levels, drastically cutting or eliminating services, and eliminating sliding scale payment options, all limiting access to life-changing services for children and their families.
Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings	No state funding flowing (\$13.5 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released make up just over 30% of FY15 program budget	Without state funding, an estimated 15,000 fewer women will receive these potentially life-saving services compared to FY15.
Domestic Violence Shelters and Services	No state funding flowing (over \$18 million); federal pass-through dollars released make up less than 9% of FY15 program budget and are not available to non-shelter providers of DV services	Services for 75,000 survivors of domestic violence are at risk. Many providers reducing hours and staff and experiencing difficulty extending credit lines due to uncertain state funding. More reductions and closures are expected in September, compromising needed services for over 20,000 women and children in Cook County alone.
Epilepsy Grants	No state funding flowing (about \$2 million in FY15)	Epilepsy Resource Center in Springfield closed 6/30, with no plans to reinstate the organization or the services provided. Other providers are canceling certain services and anticipating staff layoffs and/or service reductions in the coming months, compromising care for tens of thousands of Illinoisans living with epilepsy.

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Family Planning Programs	No state funding flowing (\$2 million in FY15)	Reduced hours, nurse layoffs, and closing of laboratory services at local health departments, all of which impair family planning services.
Funeral and Burial Assistance	No state funding flowing (\$9.3 million in FY15)	Without funeral or burial assistance that in FY14 helped about 9,000 families, many will be turned away from funeral homes, have to locate scarce donated services, or rent caskets followed by the cremation of loved ones they are culturally or religiously expected to bury. As in past years, costs may fall on county coroners, and morgues may exceed capacity.
HIV/AIDS Prevention and Treatment Services	No state funding flowing (about \$28 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released don't cover over 30% of FY15 program budget	Without state funding, thousands of HIV tests will not be administered. Federal funding is estimated to only support HIV Prevention Lead Support Grants into October, depriving thousands of at-risk residents access to life-saving education, prevention services, counseling, and testing.
Home-delivered Meals for Seniors	No state funding flowing (over \$11 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released don't cover about 50% of FY15 program budget	Without a state budget this year and uncertain federal funding next year, more than 6.5 million meals delivered five days a week to homebound elderly each year are at risk. Five meal agencies in Monroe, Randolph, and St. Clair counties closed as of 7/31, terminating over 7,000 meals per month for more than 400 seniors. These programs have since reopened due to the availability of federal funds, but how long they will be able to remain open is uncertain.
Sexual Assault Services and Prevention	No state funding flowing (over \$6.5 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released don't cover 40% of FY15 program budget	Rape crisis centers are facing layoffs of 30-40%, which would result in turning away 3,400 victims of sexual violence who need advocacy and counseling. Pending closures due to lack of funds for rent, phone, utilities, and other essential costs. Another 3,700+ victims who need crisis intervention and information after a sexual assault will not receive this critical care.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
Substance Use and Prevention Programs	No state funding flowing for non-Medicaid services (over \$67.5 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut 25% from FY15), but no payments being made for non-Medicaid services without enacted budget	Services and treatment are at risk for 70,000 Illinoisans. The Delta Center in southern Illinois closed 8/15, increasing the demand for substance abuse treatment in two of Illinois' poorest counties—Alexander and Pulaski. An agency in central Illinois anticipates closing all its detox programs as of 10/1, laying off staff and leaving residents in the position of having to travel to Bloomington for services.
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome Program	No state funding flowing (\$244,000 in FY15)	Program no longer able to provide hundreds of families with low-cost, portable cribs, leaving many low-income families vulnerable to accidental infant deaths. Staff of sole provider for the entire state reduced to one person, leading to substantial reductions in life-saving educational trainings for parents, health providers, and law enforcement.
Support Services for Seniors	No state funding flowing (about \$8 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released don't cover 40% of FY15 program budget	Nonprofits relying on extended lines of credit and spending down cash reserves. Reduced capacity to provide senior support services including housekeeping assistance, friendly visiting, home repair, housing, respite, senior centers, telephone reassurance, transportation, and an information and referral network.
University of Illinois Sickle Cell Clinic	No state funding flowing (\$500,00 in FY15)	Community screenings for the sickle cell genetic trait on hold until FY16 budget implemented, leading to increased risk of sickle cell disease occurring among the offspring of unknown carriers of the trait.
Violent Crimes Victim Assistance	No state funding flowing (over \$9 million in FY15); fees collected to support program can't be spent without enacted budget	250 providers of medical, social, and court advocacy services for victims of violent crimes across the state will not receive the grant dollars necessary to fund these services until a FY16 budget is implemented.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
<b>Strong Workforce and Local Communities</b>		
Adult Education and Literacy Programs	No state funding flowing (about \$115 million in FY15)	With many education programs scheduled to start in September, community-based providers are being forced to gamble—those that can are using other dollars to cover the costs of their adult, parent, and family education programs and hoping the state dollars eventually come through.
Adult Redeploy	No state funding flowing (about \$7 million in FY15)	Services that treat and supervise hundreds of non-violent offenders each year in their communities instead of prison are at risk, threatening \$17 million in annual cost-savings to the state.
Aid to Public Colleges and Universities	No state funding flowing (about \$1.6 billion in FY15)	Without state aid to higher education: Chicago State University would have to raise tuition by 55% to make up the difference; Northern Illinois University would need to cut recruitment, staff and student retention, support services, and any raises for students; Eastern Illinois University would need to furlough or lay off 250 people; Western Illinois University would need to increase tuition by 65 percent (which is impossible since over half the student population is low-income) or close programs and lay off/furlough significant numbers of staff; and Southern Illinois University, the largest employer south of Springfield, would have to furlough or lay off staff to reduce payroll by \$500,000.
Child Care Assistance Program	No state funding flowing (\$500 million to equal FY15 program budget); federal pass-through dollars released don't cover 43% FY15 program budget	Providers are just now starting to get paid for expenses incurred since 7/1. Without full funding for the program, providers who are already struggling since the new eligibility restrictions went into place also face uncertainty over whether the state will have enough money each month and over the course of the fiscal year to pay them for services rendered.
Civil Legal Aid	No state funding flowing (\$1.4 million in FY15)	17,500 fewer vulnerable Illinoisans impacted by domestic violence, eviction, and financial exploitation will have access to the civil justice system.



Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
Community Care Program	No state funding flowing for non-Medicaid seniors; state not paying providers of Medicaid seniors until compelled by court to do so	Department of Aging won't transfer provider bills to the Comptroller, making it difficult for providers to extend credit lines. Cash reserves are expected to run out by the end of September. Some providers have already had to transfer their clients and close their doors, leaving older adults more likely to need to move into nursing care rather than be able to stay in their homes.
Conservation Police	No state funding flowing (\$1.25 million in FY15)	33 conservation police officers have been laid off, leaving natural resources unprotected from hunting violations, illegal wildlife takings, or property damage. The state is no longer equipped to conduct river rescues, which could result in otherwise preventable drownings.
Emergency and Transitional Housing	No state funding flowing (over \$9 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut from FY15), but no payments being made without enacted budget	90% of homeless service providers in Illinois have or will be forced to reduce intake of new clients, decrease or eliminate services, layoff/furlough staff, eliminate programs, or close their sites, making it harder for individuals and families who are homeless to access emergency shelter and transitional housing.
Employment and Training Programs	No state funding flowing for the Job Training and Economic Development Grant Program (about \$1.7 million in FY15), Employment Opportunities Grant Program (about \$1.4 million in FY15), or Employer Training Investment Program (about \$7 million in FY15)	Hundreds of unemployed, low-income, or low-skilled workers don't have access to employment training that helps improve employment rates and increase earning potential.
HOME Investment Partnerships Program	Federal program, but no funding because not included in SB 2042 (\$35 million in FY15)	Contractors building new affordable housing in Illinois and working on emergency repairs in mostly rural counties are not being paid.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
Homeless Prevention Assistance	No state funding flowing (about \$4 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut from FY15), but no payments being made without enacted budget	90% of homeless service providers in Illinois have or will be forced to reduce intake of new clients, decrease or eliminate services, layoff/furlough staff, eliminate programs, or close their sites, increasing the likelihood that thousands of individuals and families in arrears will become homeless.
Homeless Supportive Housing	No state funding flowing (about \$30 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut 49% from FY15), but no payments being made without enacted budget	90% of homeless service providers in Illinois have or will be forced to reduce intake of new clients, decrease or eliminate services, layoff/furlough staff, eliminate programs, or close their sites, leaving recently homeless individuals and families without the tenant services they need to help them stay in their homes.
Homeless Youth Services	No state funding flowing (about \$5.5 million in FY15); FY16 contracts issued (cut from FY15), but no payments being made without enacted budget	90% of homeless service providers in Illinois have or will be forced to reduce intake of new clients, decrease or eliminate services, layoff/furlough staff, eliminate programs, or close their sites, leaving youth who are separated from their families without access to shelters that keep them safe and off the streets.
Illinois State Museums	No state funding flowing (over \$6 million in FY15)	54 staff have been laid off and closures of five state museums are pending, which would lead to an estimated loss of \$30 million per year in related economic activity, millions of artifacts left at risk, violations of contracts, and the loss of Illinois history and natural resource experts.
Immigrant Services	No state funding flowing (\$6 million in FY15)	Providers laying off staff and reducing number of immigrants they help connect to vital services and work towards obtaining citizenship. Mujeres Latinas En Accion in Chicago is operating at 60% capacity. The Latino Organization of the Southwest shutdown operations after more than 20 years of service. More organization closures are expected.

Service	Funding Status	Reported Impacts
LIHEAP (home energy assistance)	No state funding flowing (\$165 million in FY15); federal pass-through dollars released are insufficient to serve everyone who needs and qualifies for assistance	60,000 families have been enduring extreme temperatures without cooling assistance. Applications for the coming year have been delayed by a month, posing serious health and safety concerns for senior citizens, people with disabilities, families with children under 6 experiencing utility shutoffs, and other low-income families.
Monetary Award Program (tuition assistance)	No state funding flowing (\$365 million in FY15)	As many as 130,000 students whose college plans are dependent on MAP funding will not have the financial assistance they need to pay for college.
Public Transit Operating Assistance Grants	No state funding flowing (\$255 million in FY15)	20 staff were laid off and public transit services for school children, and seniors in cities like Waterloo, Red Bud, and Sparta, Illinois were eliminated due to the closing of the area transit district.
Reentry and Rehabilitation Services	No state funding flowing; FY16 contracts issued (cut 50% from FY15), but no payments being made without enacted budget; federal pass-through dollars released don't cover recovery homes or other residential housing programs	A provider in Chicago had to reduce payroll by \$265,000 due to delays in state cash flow; they are trying to preserve a continuity of services, but can't do so without staff. Efforts to help men and women recently released from prison transition successfully back into their communities through residential housing programs are undermined by cuts and reductions to other support services including child care assistance and job training.
Soil and Water Conservation Districts Grants	No state funding flowing (about \$3 million in FY15); federal funding impaired (\$400 million)	Half of the 97 soil and water conservation districts will likely close by the end of September, impairing federal conservation contracts, causing significant soil erosion, and increasing the amount of nitrogen and phosphorous in Illinois waterways.

## **ABOUT THE FISCAL POLICY CENTER**

The Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children provides timely, credible, and accessible information and analysis on fiscal issues that affect children, families, and communities in Illinois. The FPC is a member of the State Priorities Project, a network of nonprofit organizations in more than 40 states. The Project is coordinated by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, a Washington, D.C.-based research organization and strategic policy institute that works on a range of federal and state issues.

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