

Illinois State Budget: Housing and homeless services

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
November 5, 2013



Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

- Founded in 1980
- CCH's mission:

“We organize and advocate to prevent and end homelessness, because we believe housing is a human right in a just society.”



Chicago Coalition for the Homeless

- Does not accept government funding
- Policy, Organizing and Law
- Advocate on behalf of homeless and formerly homeless people
- Organize homeless people and service providers to advocate for themselves around shared interests
- Partner with other advocacy organizations around budget line items and social, economic and criminal justice and human rights issues to prevent and end homelessness



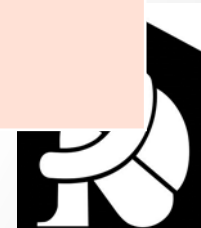
Budget Line Items

- **Supportive Housing** – Funds services provided in Permanent Supportive Housing developments across IL. Significantly more cost effective than ER's, nursing homes, mental health facilities, jail or prison.
- **Emergency and Transitional Housing (ETH)** – Safety net shelter. 54% exit into permanent or transitional housing. In Chicago, funding goes to DFSS and is distributed to many shelters around the city.
- **Homeless Prevention** – One-time rental and utility assistance that prevents homelessness. 90% of households remain housed 4-12 months after receiving funds. In Chicago, funds distributed to providers who serve those calling the Homelessness Prevention Call Center.
- **Homeless Youth Services** – Provides outreach, emergency shelter and longer-term housing for unaccompanied homeless youth
- **Homeless Education** – Funding to support the enrollment , attendance and success of homeless students



Homeless Services and Housing: IL State Budget

Budget Line Item	High	Low	Now (FY 14)	\$ Amount from Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Supportive Housing	\$27.7 million (FY 14)	n/a	\$27.7 million	\$0
Emergency and Transitional Housing	\$9.7 million (FY 03)	\$4.5 million (FY 12)	\$9.3 million	\$9.3 million
Prevention	\$11 million (FY 08)	\$1 million (FY 10)	\$4 million	\$3 million
Homeless Youth Services	\$4.7 million (FY 08)	\$3.2 million (FY 11)	\$4.6 million	\$900,000
Homeless Education	\$3 million (FY 09)	\$0	\$0	\$0



IL State Budget Goals for FY 15

- No funding cuts to housing and homeless services budget line items
- Increases to key line items
- No additional funding taken from Affordable Housing Trust Fund (ideally \$0 taken from this fund)
- Support increased revenue and more fair revenue collection such as A Better IL



Talking Points

- These programs are preventative and cost effective
- Critical safety net for families in crisis
- Housing and healthcare outcomes closely connected
- Put a personal face on the issue
- Localize to legislator's district



Challenges

- Illinois's budget crisis
- Legislators contend with competing priorities
- Pressure on elected officials to make funding cuts
- As advocates and service providers we know why these programs are important, but we have to tell them
- Legislators ask: *"Where do we find the money?"*



How to get involved

- Sign up for advocacy alerts that allow you to contact decision makers at key points
- Attend a “lobby day” in Springfield – Spring 2014
- Invite your elected officials to visit your site and learn about your programs
- Ask elected officials to support your priorities
- Support campaigns such as A Better IL Remember to thank legislators



Meeting with legislators



Contact Information

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Advocating in Springfield

