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

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

Jennifer Cushman, Policy Specialist
Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
Jennifer@chicagohomeless.org
(312) 641-4140, x241

Chicago Coalition for the Homeless
70 E. Lake St., Suite 720
Chicago, IL 60601
(312) 641-4140
FAX: (312) 641-4144

chicagohomeless.org
facebook.com/ChicagoHomeless
twitter.com/ChiHomeless
Advocating in Springfield