

May 2016

## Budget Impasse Creating Barriers For Women and Mothers

**Responsible  
Budget  
Coalition**

### Introduction

The state has entered its eleventh month without a comprehensive budget. State leaders have abandoned investments that provide opportunities for women and mothers to get a good education and a good job, promote health and safety, allow children to grow and succeed, provide support for those caring for children, seniors, and those with disabilities, and foster thriving communities.

Women are disproportionately harmed by the failure of leaders to make passing a fully funded budget - one that chooses revenue over cuts to vital services - our state's number one priority. This is due to the fact that women make far less than men for the very same work and caregiving responsibilities are far more likely to fall on their shoulders.

In recent weeks, members of the General Assembly have been working on emergency funding measures. However, partial funding bills do not give women, families, communities, and small businesses the tools and certainty they need to get ahead. Women and their families need a fully-funded budget immediately.

Continued delay in enacting a budget creates immediate and lasting barriers for women. There are also serious consequences for women over the medium and long-term if lawmakers fail to raise sustainable revenues. If unpaid bills continue to pile up, services that are currently receiving funding such as breast and cervical cancer screenings, energy assistance, and K-12 education could also be at risk in the not too distant future.

The Responsible Budget Coalition first provided an analysis of the budget impasse's impact on women in December. This is an update of that analysis and shows a number of ways state policymakers are creating barriers for women and mothers, including:

- denying women opportunities to go to college and work,
- failing to support female caregivers,
- robbing women seniors of independence and dignity,
- endangering women's safety,
- and increasing poverty and homelessness among women.

## Denying Women Opportunities to Go to College and Work

### ***Denying Opportunities to Go to College***

When women get education or training beyond high school, they expand their earnings and their opportunities. A two-year degree means a 38 percent increase in pay on average and a four-year degree, 78 percent.<sup>i</sup> The failure of the Governor and lawmakers to put non-budget agendas aside and choose revenue over cuts to higher education is creating barriers for women trying to obtain a college degree.

For nearly ten months, the state failed to fund college tuition assistance through MAP grants for 130,000 students.<sup>ii</sup> 62% of MAP grant recipients last year were female.<sup>iii</sup>

54% of undergraduate students at Illinois public colleges and universities are women.<sup>iv</sup> For nearly ten months, Illinois public colleges and universities did not receive any state funding. College officials around the state have reported that the lack of state support is forcing them to exhaust their schools' financial reserves.<sup>v</sup> The lack of state funding has caused faculty and staff layoffs and tuition increases.

Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago eliminated 65 noninstructional positions. Western Illinois University has cut 147 positions, including 30 faculty jobs, and about 500 employees are taking furlough days and pay cuts this spring. Northern Illinois University avoided layoffs during the budget impasse but has left 116 jobs unfilled during this academic year.<sup>vi</sup> Community colleges, including Harper College in Palatine and John A. Logan College in Carterville, have laid off staff as well.<sup>vii</sup> <sup>viii</sup> In March, Southern Illinois University announced tuition increases ranging from 3-9%.<sup>ix</sup>

In late April, the Governor and lawmakers passed an emergency payment for two and four year colleges, universities, and MAP Grants at 31% of the FY 15 level. Chicago State University was still forced to layoff 300 staff a week later. Their president commented, "It was less than what we needed and later than we needed it, as much as we appreciated getting it."<sup>x</sup> Oakton Community College in Des Plaines says even with the partial funding they will still be forced to carry through on a 10% increase in tuition for their students and may have to raise it further they do not get additional state funding.<sup>xii</sup>

### ***Denying Access to Affordable Child Care for Those Who Work***

Tens of thousands of mothers have been unable to work or go to school during this budget crisis. 78% of families using the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) are female-headed single-parent households.<sup>xiii</sup> Due to rules instituted by the Rauner Administration in July, families' co-pays for childcare have jumped as much as 20%.<sup>xiv</sup> And despite the Rauner Administration's decision to restore eligibility in November to most families denied under its July rule, 48,200 fewer children are enrolled in the Child Care Assistance Program this year.<sup>xv</sup>

### ***Cutting Jobs Held by Women***

Nearly seven in ten workers who are employed in Illinois' non-profit sector are women.<sup>xvi</sup> Many work for organizations that receive state funding.

A January survey by the United Way of 444 organizations that receive state funding found that 27 percent of these organizations have been forced to lay off staff during the budget impasse.<sup>xvii</sup>

## Failing to Support Female Caregivers

An estimated 66% of unpaid caregivers are female. One-third take care of two or more people.<sup>xviii</sup>

Without a doubt, cuts to services for children, seniors, and those with disabilities will fall upon the shoulders of unpaid or undercompensated female caregivers.

## **Robbing Women Seniors of Independence and Dignity**

### ***Increasing Hunger***

60% of seniors experiencing food insecurity – meaning they, at times, don't have enough to eat and may not know where their next meal will come from - are female.<sup>xi</sup>

No state funding is being provided to the Meals on Wheels Program, placing at risk more than 6.5 million meals delivered five days a week to homebound seniors each year.<sup>xx</sup> The Meals on Wheels Programs in Alton<sup>xxi</sup> and Springfield<sup>xxii</sup> are among those that have been forced to cut the number of meals provided to seniors.<sup>xxiii</sup>

### ***Defunding Support Services for Senior Women***

Illinois' seniors have a poverty rate of 8.5 percent. For senior women, the poverty rate is much higher, 13.8 percent.<sup>xxiv</sup>

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois has closed seven home care and adult day care centers, cutting off services to 2,355 seniors in Canton, Chicago, DeKalb, Freeport, Moline, Peoria and Rockford. LSSI also closed its case management and adult protective services programs for 2,713 seniors in Sterling. The Neighborhood House in East St. Louis has closed its adult day care program.<sup>xxv</sup>

## **Endangering Women's Safety**

### ***Defunding Services Domestic Violence Survivors Need***

Domestic violence occurs to 1 in 4 women regardless of their race, socio-economic status, ethnicity, religion, age, or educational background.<sup>xxvi</sup> For more than five months, the state failed to provide funding for services for 75,000 domestic violence survivors.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Rockford Renewing Lives was forced to turn away 100 women and children fleeing domestic violence.<sup>xxviii</sup> An Effingham-based domestic violence organization serving five counties in Southern Illinois closed before October. Shelters in Lake County have also cut domestic violence support services.<sup>xxix</sup>

No state funding is flowing for Civil Legal Aid (\$1.4 million in FY15), meaning 17,500 fewer Illinoisans impacted by domestic violence, eviction, and financial exploitation may lose access to the civil justice system.<sup>xxx</sup>

### ***Defunding Sexual Assault Services***

1 in 5 women in the United States has been raped in their lifetime.<sup>xxxi</sup>

Illinois is not providing any state funding for sexual assault services and prevention. All 29 agencies serving survivors of sexual assault have instituted furloughs and left staff vacancies unfilled since July 2015. Some agencies report salary reductions of up to 25%. While 24-hour hotline, hospital support services, and criminal justice services continue, agencies across the state have instituted waitlists for counseling services. As a result, survivors of sexual assault across the state are not receiving critical trauma-centered counseling to support their recovery. One center reports 65 survivors are waiting for counseling services in the Chicago area alone.<sup>xxxii</sup>

## Increasing Poverty and Homelessness Among Women

### ***Women are Paid Less and Experience Higher Rates of Poverty and Homelessness***

At all education levels, earnings for Illinois women are much lower than for men.<sup>xxxiii</sup> So it comes as no surprise that 55% of Illinoisans living in poverty are women.<sup>xxxiv</sup>

Families with young children are among the fastest growing groups in the United States affected by homelessness. A typical sheltered homeless family is comprised of a mother in her late twenties with two children.<sup>xxxv</sup> Many families who do have housing are on the brink of losing it. Nearly a quarter of families in Illinois pay more than 50% of their income on rent.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

### ***90% of Homeless Services Organizations Have or Will Be Forced to Reduced Services***

According to a survey released in September 2015, 90% of homeless service providers in Illinois have already 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.<sup>xxxvii</sup> A December housing provider survey found 5,458 clients already have had their housing services reduced or eliminated. Providers also anticipated an additional 2,729 clients would have their services reduced or eliminated by the end of March.<sup>xxxviii</sup>

### ***Defunding Affordable Housing***

The HOME Investment Partnerships Program is not being funded, meaning contractors building new affordable housing in Illinois and working on emergency repairs in mostly rural counties are not being paid.<sup>xxxix</sup>

## Conclusion

The loss of critical state services shifts a greater burden onto the shoulders of women. State policymakers are failing women across the state by failing to pass a year-long, fully-funded budget that chooses revenue over cuts to services women rely on.

When women are denied opportunity and independence, our families, our communities, our economy, and our entire state suffer. It's time that state leaders put the needs of mothers and families on the agenda. **The right choice for women is the right choice for Illinois, to put non-budget agendas aside and choose revenue.**

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The [Responsible Budget Coalition \(RBC\)](#) is a large and diverse coalition of over 250 organizations concerned about state budget and tax issues. It includes organizations that serve children, families, veterans, seniors and people with disabilities; education groups concerned about early learning, K-12 and higher education; labor unions; faith-based and civic organizations; and many others.

The individual organizations that belong to the RBC represent a diverse range of interests but are united by these three common principles:

- Adequate revenue to support state priorities and make smart investments
- No more cuts to vital programs and services
- Fairness in raising revenue

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- <sup>i</sup> <http://womenemployed.org/educational-success>
- <sup>ii</sup> p 11 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Lack-of-Budget-Dismantling-Critical-State-Services-Final.pdf>
- <sup>iii</sup> Response to Inquiry from Women Employed to the Illinois Student Assistance Commission. August 2015.
- <sup>iv</sup> Illinois Board of Higher Education. <http://www.ibhe.org/IBHEDatabook/Chapter1/Table%20I-2.aspx>
- <sup>v</sup> <http://wuis.org/post/education-desk-colleges-are-running-out-money#stream/0>
- <sup>vi</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-chicago-state-layoffs-20160429-story.html>
- <sup>vii</sup> [http://thesouthern.com/news/local/siu/siu-board-approves-percent-tuition-hike/article\\_e20fc866-4797-5c8d-a691-b109e15b1334.html](http://thesouthern.com/news/local/siu/siu-board-approves-percent-tuition-hike/article_e20fc866-4797-5c8d-a691-b109e15b1334.html)
- <sup>viii</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-harper-college-cuts-met-20160331-story.html>
- <sup>ix</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-harper-college-cuts-met-20160331-story.html>
- <sup>x</sup> <http://www.wsilvtv.com/story/31381609/jalc-employees-vow-to-fight-layoffs#.Vtkg5DAN-dM.facebook>
- <sup>xi</sup> <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/local/breaking/ct-chicago-state-layoffs-20160429-story.html>
- <sup>xii</sup> <http://dailynorthwestern.com/2016/05/05/city/oakton-community-college-to-raise-tuition-cut-classes-without-adequate-state-funding/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> Fiscal Policy Center estimate based on data from the [FY 2014 Illinois Child Care Report](#) and American Community Survey 3-Year Estimates on Families with Related Children Below 185% of Federal Poverty Level (2011-2013).
- <sup>xiv</sup> <http://www.seiuhcilin.org/2015/11/17/as-gov-rauner-deal-is-codified-at-jcar-meeting-major-threats-to-child-care-remain/>
- <sup>xv</sup> <http://www.sj-r.com/article/20160119/NEWS/160119467/?Start=1>
- <sup>xvi</sup> <http://buildingstrongeril.com/statewide-profile/social-impact-employees/>
- <sup>xvii</sup> <http://uw-mc.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/UWI-Budget-Survey-Results.pdf>
- <sup>xviii</sup> <https://www.caregiver.org/selected-caregiver-statistics>
- <sup>xix</sup> p 26 <http://www.mowaa.org/document.doc?id=193>
- <sup>xx</sup> p 6 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Lack-of-Budget-Dismantling-Critical-State-Services-Final.pdf>
- <sup>xxi</sup> <http://thetelegraph.com/news/73487/frerichs-calls-for-budget-talks>
- <sup>xxii</sup> <http://wics.com/sports/senior-services-to-cut-food-programs-due-to-lack-of-state-budget>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> p 9 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Lack-of-Budget-Dismantling-Critical-State-Services-Final.pdf>
- <sup>xxiv</sup> <http://www.progressillinois.com/quick-hits/content/2013/06/07/half-america-s-seniors-have-dangerously-low-incomes-new-report-shows>
- <sup>xxv</sup> P15 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Budget-Impasse-Continues-to-Devastate-Illinois-Families-and-Communities-FINAL.pdf>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> [http://ncadv.org/files/Domestic\\_Violence\\_and\\_Physical\\_Abuse\\_NCADV.pdf](http://ncadv.org/files/Domestic_Violence_and_Physical_Abuse_NCADV.pdf)
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- <sup>xxviii</sup> <http://www.rrstar.com/article/20151004/NEWS/151009825>
- <sup>xxix</sup> <http://www.sj-r.com/article/20151004/NEWS/151009825/?Start=2>
- <sup>xxx</sup> P19 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Budget-Impasse-Continues-to-Devastate-Illinois-Families-and-Communities-FINAL.pdf>
- <sup>xxxi</sup> <http://www.ncadv.org/learn/statistics>
- <sup>xxxii</sup> P13 <http://www.voices4kids.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/Budget-Impasse-Continues-to-Devastate-Illinois-Families-and-Communities-FINAL.pdf>
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- <sup>xxxiv</sup> p 8 [http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Illinois\\_33percent\\_PovertyReport\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/Illinois_33percent_PovertyReport_FINAL.pdf)
- <sup>xxxv</sup> p 1 <http://www.familyhomelessness.org/media/327.pdf>
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> [http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/PR15\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.ilpovertyreport.org/sites/default/files/uploads/PR15_Report_FINAL.pdf)
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> [http://housingactionil.org/downloads/State\\_Budget\\_Homeless\\_Service\\_Provider\\_Report.pdf](http://housingactionil.org/downloads/State_Budget_Homeless_Service_Provider_Report.pdf)
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> <http://housingactionil.org/2015/12/21/due-to-state-budget-impasse-more-than-107-million-in-dedicated-funds-for-affordable-housing-are-going-unused/>
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