

State of Our State: Failure to Invest in Families and Communities Is Weakening Illinois

Responsible budgeting isn't just about balancing revenues and expenditures. It's fundamentally about making sure all families in Illinois – all of them – can live in a state that offers opportunity and makes the public investments needed to secure a prosperous future.

By using families and communities as leverage for a non-budget agenda and failing to enact a budget that includes the resources needed to preserve thriving communities and to support families, policymakers have lost sight of the common good. The result is a weakening Illinois.

Policymakers' failure to choose revenue and enact a fully funded state budget has weakened Illinois families, communities, and economy. With no state budget in place more than halfway into the fiscal year, essential activities have stopped, and the state is once again racking up billions of dollars in unpaid bills that will haunt Illinois for years to come. Nonprofits that provide vital services like those for children with epilepsy and home-care for veterans are laying off staff and closing their doors.

Without action, the harm to our communities and our economy will continue to grow, and the foundation for opportunity and broad-based prosperity for generations of Illinoisans will continue to crumble.

The damage is widespread across our state. Students are dropping out of college because they have been cut off of tuition assistance that makes college affordable — denying Illinois future economic gains from having a better educated, higher earning workforce.

More families are becoming homeless as they are turned away from those who used to help people in need.

Retired people who worked hard all their lives are losing home-delivered meals and services that help them keep their independence.

Individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorder and their families are being denied a range of services that previously made Illinois a beacon.

More than 15,000 fewer women will receive potentially life-saving breast and cervical cancer screenings this year.

It is time for our elected leaders to put everything else aside and carry out their most basic responsibility: enact a budget that meets the needs of families and communities and invests in the economic future of Illinois.

The following page provides examples of how inaction in Springfield is undermining Illinoisans' future.

Harm to Working Families and the Economy

- The state is not funding MAP tuition grants for [130,000 college students](#), forcing many to drop out.
- Colleges and universities have been forced to raise tuition and cut faculty and staff.
- [10,000 children](#) are not eligible for childcare and co-pays have risen as high as 20%.
- 419 state construction projects [remain on hold](#).
- The 138-year-old State Museum is [closed](#) to the public at the direction of the Governor.
- Public transportation for working families, seniors, and those with disabilities has been [eliminated](#) on certain days in some Central Illinois counties.
- [90% of homeless services providers](#) have or will be forced to cut clients, services, or staff.
- [Over 100,000 immigrants](#), including those hoping to become U.S. citizens, can't get vital services.
- No state funding is flowing for adult education services and job training services.
- No funding is being provided for home visiting programs that offer support and coaching to 6,000 pregnant women, young parents, and children birth through age 3.

Harm to Communities and Public Safety

- The state is not funding training for [57,000 law enforcement officers](#).
- Nearly 15,000 youth lost access to high-quality, comprehensive after-school services (Teen REACH) at 122 sites around the state.
- Redeploy Illinois, which saves the state millions by diverting youth from incarceration in the Department of Juvenile Justice, [is shut down in 23 counties](#).
- The state stopped funding grants for psychiatrists, forcing providers to [turn away](#) new patients with serious mental illness who do not have health insurance.
- Substance abuse programs have been shuttered and treatment for [70,000 Illinoisans](#) are at risk.

Harm to Seniors and those with Disabilities

- [84,500 seniors](#) will lose Meals on Wheels and/or Home and Community Based Services by February.
- Senior protective services are [not being funded](#).
- Centers for Independent Living around the state are not being funded, resulting in cuts to trainings for personal assistants and referral services for those with disabilities. Some, like the [Northwestern Illinois Center for Independent Living](#), had to suspend services and lay off staff.

Harm to Children

- TAP (The Autism Program) is not being funded for nearly 1,800 families; TAP facilities around the state [have closed or reduced capacity](#).
- The state is failing to fund services for [130,000 people](#) living with epilepsy, including children, in the greater Chicagoland area; and the [Springfield facility closed](#).
- The Sudden Infant Death Program no longer provides free training for parents, health providers, and law enforcement outside the Chicagoland area and can [no longer provide](#) no-cost safe cribs to families.

Harm to Women and Public Health

- [Nearly half of county health departments](#) have reduced capacity, including more than one-third that have laid off staff and one-sixth that have reduced hours.
- No state funding is going to breast and cervical cancer screenings, meaning an estimated [15,000](#) fewer women might not get these potentially life-saving services.
- Those with HIV/AIDS [no longer receive](#) prescription assistance that allows them to afford vital medication.