

FY19 Funding Priorities for IDHS Programs That End Homelessness: Homelessness Prevention, Emergency and Transitional Housing, and Permanent Supportive Housing Services

- To end homelessness in Illinois, we need to prevent it whenever possible.
- When someone does become homeless, they need immediate access to shelter and crisis services.
- We will only be able to eliminate homelessness when there is affordable housing for everyone who needs it, including supportive housing, which has been proven to help people with the most severe challenges permanently stay out of homelessness and improve their health conditions, while lowering public costs for crisis services.

Increased funding in the FY19 budget for these programs will allow them to work better together to provide the services needed to prevent or end homelessness and keep people housed.

- **Increase the Homelessness Prevention Program by \$2 million, from \$4.9 million to \$6.9 million, so that service providers will be able to provide more grants and services to eligible families to assist them avoid or end homelessness.** This program provides on average a \$1000 grant to individuals and families. It is used for rental assistance and utility assistance. Service providers also offer supportive services directly related to the prevention of homelessness. A study of outcomes in Chicago, found that recipients were 88% less likely to become homeless after 3 months compared to those that did not receive a prevention grant. This line item has experienced dramatic cuts in the state budget. At its height Homelessness Prevention received \$11 million.
- **Increase funding for Emergency and Transitional Housing Program (ETHP) by \$1 million, from \$9.4 million to \$10.4 million, to stabilize homeless individuals and families and helping them achieve permanent housing.** Through more than 75 non-profit partner agencies statewide, in FY17 ETHP served 32,793 Illinoisans—nearly a third under the age of 18—providing nearly 2,000,000 total shelter nights. ETHP is highly effective—half of the Illinoisans served by the program exit to stabilizing permanent or transitional housing. However, lack of capacity in the system resulted in more people being turned away—33,982, 40% of them children—than served.
- **Increase funding for Supportive Housing line items by \$2.9 million, from \$32.7 million to \$35.7 million, to provide services necessary to end homelessness and unnecessary institutionalization.** This represents an increase of 9%, or \$2,945,493, based on current funding of \$32,727,700, for programs serving over 12,000 individuals and families; \$19,298,300 for Supportive MI Housing, serving people with severe mental illness, and \$13,429,400 for Supportive Housing Services to end homelessness. Additional funds are necessary for providers to manage the escalating cost of services for existing residents—which have increased at least 3% annually during the last three years—and rebuild organizational capacity to increase the number of people served. In addition, these funds will support at least 251 new or expanded federally funded supportive housing units opening in the next year. Supportive Housing is a wise investment that saves the state an average of \$22,000 per household annually from unnecessary institutionalization. Addressing the unmet need will require Illinois to create supportive housing for over 10,000 additional households.

