

Increase Homelessness Prevention Funding

Each year Illinois assists families in avoiding 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.

Steady Decline in Funding

- This line item has experienced dramatic cuts in the state budget. **At its height Homelessness Prevention received \$11 million.** This meant **14,000 households** received needed assistance annually. As of FY18, **the funding is at \$4.9 million**, a fraction of previous levels, meaning less people are served.
- Per IDHS' rules, **providers are only permitted to spend 10% of funding on case management.** As the line item funding declines so does case management. This restricts their ability to meet with potential clients and assess their needs. Families may need further assistance outside of the grant. They often need mental health assessments, job training, or child care assistance that would ensure their continued success in staying housed.

Solution

Increase the Homelessness Prevention by \$2 million dollars so that service providers will be able to provide more grants and services to eligible families.

This program has proved successful, cost saving, and a common-sense way in which to keep Illinois families off the streets.

Successful Program

This program has proven successful. In studying Chicago's Homeless Prevention Program between 2010-2012, the University of Notre Dame researchers found that those who called when funding was available—and received the cash assistance—**were 88% less likely to become homeless after 3 months and 76% less likely after 6 months.***



\$7,548



\$1,000

With this one time grant homelessness prevention services is estimated to save \$7,548 annually keeping individuals and families housed and stable.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Niya Kelly, Chicago Coalition for the Homeless, State Legislative Director, niya@chicagohomeless.org, (312)641-4140



*The impact of homelessness prevention programs on homelessness William N. Evans, James X. Sullivan, Melanie Wallskog Science 12 Aug 2016; Vol. 353, Issue 6300, pp. 694-699 DOI: 10.1126/science.aag0833