

## **Support \$5 Million for the Homeless Prevention Program in FY13**

The **Homeless Prevention Program** provides one-time rental assistance grants, utility assistance grants and supportive services that prevent and end homelessness.

### **Cuts Have Decimated this Highly Cost-Effective Program**

Since 2000, the program has helped 96,231 Illinois households. The average grant in FY 2011 was \$938, and 90% of recipients reported they remained housed four months after getting the grant.

But state budget cutbacks have decimated the program, leaving just \$1.5 million available in FY 2012—\$9.5 million (87%) less than was funded in FY 2008.

For the past two years, the impact of the cut has been temporarily mitigated by the availability of \$71 million in federal Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Rehousing Program (HPRP) funds. However, those funds are already exhausted in many parts of the state and will be totally gone early in FY 2013.

### **Impact of the Cuts to Date**

- More than half, 55%, of providers exhausted their FY 2012 state prevention funds by the end of 2011. This means they will have no prevention assistance for households this winter.
- With \$2.4 million in funding during FY 2011, only 2,559 households were served. An estimated 9,118 households had to be turned away.

### **Options for FY13**

- Governor Quinn's proposed budget of \$1.5 million in funding will only assist approximately 1,500 households.
- \$5 million in funding will prevent homelessness for more than 5,000 households.

### **Who gets assistance from the Homeless Prevention Program?**

- In FY 2011, 58% of recipients were families with children. Unemployment, a health crisis or a family breakup are common causes for needing assistance.
- Recipients must be in immediate danger of eviction or foreclosure or currently homeless.
- Recipients must document a temporary economic crisis beyond their control, and must be able to demonstrate an ability to meet the prospective rental/utility obligations after the assistance has been granted based on current or anticipated income.

### **What are the benefits of preventing homelessness?**

- Stabilizes individuals and families in their existing homes.
- Keeps households out of an already overburdened shelter and emergency service system.
- Avoids the disruptions to the education of children often caused by homelessness.

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THE HOMELESS

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