

Dear XXX

As a member of the Human Services Commission, I am writing to invite you and members of your organizations to attend a budget briefing on the impact of current budget proposals that will severely impact services to your community. The "reality" budget that the Governor put forth means an almost \$900 million cut to the Illinois Department of Human Services. He and other members of the general assembly are pushing for an extension of the income tax increase, so that the critical services our communities need may continue. You can find the line item budget proposal here:

<http://www2.illinois.gov/gov/budget/Documents/Budget%20Book/FY%202015%20Budget%20Book/FY%202015%20Illinois%20Operating%20Budget%20Book.pdf>.

**Some of the impacts include:**

- A reduction of State funding to DHS DASA will result in 15,922 fewer individuals being served, which will result in many of these untreated individuals potentially being housed in Jails, State hospital, crisis center, community hospitals, homeless shelters, or on the streets.
- Reduced funding negatively impacts the ability for DASA providers to provide a fully integrated level of care within the local service networks and will reduce access to youth in need of inpatient, outpatient, and other support services for addiction treatment. Examples of these impacts:
- 10,000 fewer clients will receive DASA services due to reductions in non Medicaid GRF funding.
- Non Medicaid GRF expenditures are used to meet SAPT Block Grant State spending (MOE) requirement. GRF reductions will result in a failure to meet this requirement, and a penalty of \$1 in SAPT funding for each \$1 in GRF reduced. This reduction to SAPT funds would result in an additional 5,922 fewer clients receiving addiction treatment services to due to this penalty.

**The reduction in Medicaid funds will likely result in:**

- DHS DASA having to modify the current state plan by removing/changing eligibility requirements for Medicaid billable services
- Reduction of DASA Medicaid Rates for providers who have not seen a rate increase since SFY 2006
- 4500 clients impacted.
- DCFS clients: These reductions will reduce services to DCFS recipients by an estimated 572 individuals. This may result in fewer family reunifications; fewer youth transitioning out of DCFS custody will receive early intervention and treatment for substance use problems.
- Victims of Domestic Violence: The reductions will reduce services to victims of domestic violence by an estimated 250 individuals.
- Heroin Addiction: A reduction in Services capacity by 750 slots, exacerbating the current increased need for Opioid treatment for heroin users in Illinois.
- Criminal Justice: The reduction will result in 6,000 fewer jail diversions from the criminal justice system, and delays in admissions may delay release dates for incarcerated individuals as a result of reduced access to after release treatment services.

**Developmental Disabilities**

- The Direct Service Personnel funding levels included in DD community service rates are long overdue for needed increases. The proposed budget reductions would eliminate the possibility of these rate increases and require rates paid for DD services to be decreased by more than 20%.

## **Family & Community Services**

- Aid to Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD) cuts will result in Illinois losing all Medicaid match (\$13B+)
- Cuts to GRF may jeopardize a portion or all federal funding if Maintenance Of Effort (MOE)/match is not met.
- MCH Block Grant (portion) \$31 Mil.
- Child Care Development Fund (portion) \$208 Mil.
- TANF (portion) \$585 Mil.
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (portion) \$16 Mil.
- Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (all) \$7 Mil.

## **Mental Health**

- 140,000 individuals currently receiving publically funded mental health services will have reduced access to psychiatry, therapy/counseling, ACT, emergency medications, etc., which will decrease their ability to maintain stabilization and increase use of Emergency Departments, inpatient hospitalizations, etc.
- It is projected that 35,000 individuals will no longer receive services.

## **Rehabilitation Services**

- The Home Services Program will require a federally approved waiver change to increase the Determination of Need from 29 to at least 43. This will remove 16,400, or 51%, of current customers from service. Local offices will be consolidated and/ or closed resulting in 82 staff being laid off and caseloads more than doubling. Over 20,000 thousand Personal Assistants/Individual Providers and employees of provider agencies will lose jobs.

## **Administrative**

- DHS would not be able to provide necessary support for critical computer systems, technology systems, and data networks.
- DHS would also be unable to adequately comply with numerous Federal and State Reporting requirements, thus putting Federal resources at risk.
- The Office of Inspector General would see a reduction in investigative staff resulting in an increase in average case completion times even further beyond the required times.

It is *vital* that those who value and use human services in Illinois understand current budget discussions. Communities and neighborhoods need to be included in these negotiations and need to be heard.

Please see the attached flyer for the details, and please attend!

Sincerely

Jane Doe

Human Services Commissioner