

Increase Emergency and Transitional Housing Funding

Increase funding for Emergency and Transitional Housing Program (ETHP) from \$9.4 million to \$10.4 million. Through more than 75 non-profit partner agencies statewide, ETHP provides critical support for a coordinated system which emphasizes stabilizing homeless individuals and families and helping them achieve permanent housing. **In Fiscal Year 2017, ETHP served 32,793 Illinoisans – nearly a third under the age of 18 – providing nearly 2,000,000 total shelter nights.**

ETHP FUNDING IS INADEQUATE

- The stability of the statewide shelter network that depends on ETHP is in jeopardy as these local organizations struggle to deliver services in the face of growing costs, and as appropriations for emergency and transitional housing in Illinois have experienced either cuts or flat funding for the past decade.
- Many ETHP community partners are at risk of drastically reducing the number of beds they have available and reducing critical services, including outreach, training and classes, case management, and shelter security.
- In Chicago, the citywide network of overnight and interim shelter agencies is stretched to capacity, with an average of 96% beds full each night. Yet many of the nonprofit organizations that deliver these crucial services are facing fiscal insolvency, representing half of Chicago Department of Family and Support Services' homeless service partners.

ETHP IS EFFECTIVE

- ETHP is highly effective – half of the Illinoisans served by the program exit to stabilizing permanent or transitional housing.
- ETHP providers offer more than emergency housing, they also deliver a variety of wrap-around services, including employment and education, substance abuse, legal referrals and health services. Statewide, more than one in five participants in the ETHP exhibits disability or impairment when they enter the program.
- In communities across Illinois, ETHP relieves the burden on hospital emergency rooms, local police and other first responders in our area.

ETHP NEEDS ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- A \$1 million increase to ETHP is critical to preserve these vital services and agencies, as they try to prevent the kind of major increases in local homeless populations occurring across the nation.

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.

- 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.



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.

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

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