Illinois’ Budget Crisis is Harming Families & Communities

The Governor & lawmakers need to immediately pass a budget that CHOOSES REVENUE over cuts that harm families, communities, and our economy - they can debate non-budget items later. Illinois can’t wait any longer to pass a fully funded, year-long budget.

- Families are going without essential services, providers are closing their doors, and hard-working and highly-skilled people are losing their jobs because Springfield is failing to choose revenue.

- Studies by the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability, the Fiscal Policy Center at Voices for Illinois Children, and the business-backed Civic Federation demonstrate that our state policy makers have not just one revenue solution to the budget crisis, but many.

Cuts are NOT a solution

- Our service infrastructure, which includes human services, k-12, higher education, public safety, and more have all been crumbling since 2009 when Illinois started making deep cuts.
- Illinois families want Illinois to be a state that rewards hard work, provides safety, attracts businesses, and helps create opportunity. We can’t accomplish these shared goals with a crumbling service infrastructure. That’s why we must choose revenue – not cuts – to invest in the people and future of Illinois.

Our state service infrastructure is crumbling because we lack needed revenue

- Leaders in Springfield let corporate and individual tax rates drop in January, draining $6 billion from the state budget that pays for k-12 and higher education, human services, environmental protection, and many other critical services.
- Despite court orders, many service providers are receiving ZERO state dollars right now.
- The Comptroller’s office says there’s not enough revenue to pay bills and cites January’s tax cuts as a reason why.
Passing a fully funded, year-long budget should be the first priority

- The Governor has his priorities backwards; families and communities are not bargaining chips, and they should not be held hostage to the Governor’s social policy demands.
- Gov. Jim Edgar has said, and we agree, that passing a budget must be the first priority.
- The Governor and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle are responsible for the fact that we lack a fully funded, year-long budget.
  - The governor’s stated priorities are the elimination of collective bargaining and instituting political reforms like term limits. Programs for children and families—including life-saving programs—do not take top billing.
  - While some lawmakers have prioritized and highlighted programs that support and enrich the lives of families and communities, none have taken a stand by proposing a bill that actually raises the revenue our state needs to fund them.

Illinois is underinvesting in its families and communities

Illinois has the lowest effective income tax in the Midwest, which prevents us from investing in the vital services that foster strong and safe communities and a growing economy.

- Our state investment as a whole is below the national average.
- We have the lowest number of state workers per capita than any other state.
- We contribute the least amount of state funding to k-12 education than any other state.

More information from the Responsible Budget Coalition can be found at [http://bit.ly/1WtWTQH](http://bit.ly/1WtWTQH)