

Governor Pritzker's FY24 transformational budget proposal for \$350 million in combined federal and state funding to implement *HOME Illinois* creates a foundation for achieving functional zero homelessness over the next several years.

We ask state legislators to co-sponsor these appropriations bills to demonstrate support for funding *HOME Illinois* and additional resources for existing programs that were flat-funded in the Governor's budget proposal to make sure currently funded providers can better prevent and end homelessness. Examples of challenges providers experience are:

- Unable to pay competitive wages to retain and recruit qualified staff.
- Shelters losing donated spaces and volunteers due to COVID-19 concerns.
- New supportive housing that has secured development financing, but needs operating and services funds to open.
- Timely processing of contracts and payments by IDHS.

We have the roadmap to end homelessness in Illinois, but the General Assembly must devote resources to making it so.

The Homelessness Prevention Program provides rental and utility assistance to assist families and individuals to remain in their homes. Since the creation of the program over 128,000 households have remained housed after receiving small grants from the program. After the last increase to the program, 2,000 more households received assistance, saving the state \$7,548 per household by keeping individuals and families housed and stable.

Current Funding: \$10 million—Increased Funding Need: \$5 million

The Homeless Youth Program, which supports drop-in centers, youth health initiatives, transitional housing, and case management provides lifelines for youth and a path toward a stable, successful future. These services provide youth with a "home base," a place where they can manage their immediate needs like doing laundry, a warm place to sleep, and food. While there, youth can also access services and sit down with a caseworker to learn more about permanent housing, or about enrolling in a GED class, counseling, or job training program.

Current Funding: \$7.28 million—Total Increased Funding Need: \$5 million

Supportive Housing Services is a solution that combines housing and services. Housing is the platform where Illinoisans can achieve wellness, reach economic stability, and be a part of their communities. Based on the current availability of 17,684 supportive housing units, Illinois needs an additional 40,749 supportive housing units, with almost half of those in need of these units having a disabling condition.

Current Funding: \$42.59 million—Total Increased Funding Need: \$14.5 million

The Emergency and Transitional Housing Program funds crisis housing and supportive services. Taking inflation into account, state funding for the ETH Program is only half what it was 20 years ago. A budget increase would support the new non-congregate and fixed-site shelters that many providers plan to develop using federal pandemic relief funds and other resources. The Illinois Interagency Task Force on Homelessness estimates the unmet need is for 4,551 additional emergency shelter beds.

Current Funding: \$10.38 million—Increased Funding Need: \$51 million

NIYAKELLY | Chicago Coalition for the Homeless | niya@chicagohomeless.org | 312-641-4140
BOB PALMER | Housing Action Illinois | bob@housingactionil.org | 312-282-3959
JEFF METZGER | Supportive Housing Providers Assoc. | j.metzger@shpa-il.org | 217-321-2476

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