



May 17, 2016

Illinois Budget Update

Illinois hasn't had a balanced budget since 2001, which has left Illinois with the worst credit rating of any state in the country, a \$4 billion budget shortfall, and more than \$7 billion in unpaid bills. Every day we operate without a budget in Illinois, it costs tax payers over \$30 million a day.

The Mercatus Center at George Mason University currently ranks Illinois 50th in the nation for fiscal solvency, a measure for how well (or poorly) a state can meet its spending obligations.

Illinois is approaching a full year without an approved balanced budget. The state continues to operate on court orders and partial funding appropriations for programs like child care, CEDA, LIHEAP, programs for senior citizens, and mental health services.

Most recently, Governor Rauner signed into law a bi-partisan \$600 million measure that provided only a portion of the support that state colleges and universities have normally received from the state.

Recently, both the House and the Senate continued our bi-partisan work and approved legislation to send a bill, Senate Bill 2038, to the Governor for partial emergency funding to provide relief for human services providers for FY16 for a total amount of \$719,860,700. Here is a quick summary of the items in the bill. For complete item descriptions, please check the actual legislative language.

Addiction Prevention Services	\$458,900
Addiction Treatment and Related Services	\$530,000
Addiction Treatment and Related Services	\$3,212,200
Addiction Treatment Services	\$5,105,800
Addiction Treatment Services	\$23,783,400
Addiction Treatment-Special Population	\$2,516,100
Adult Redeploy	\$3,893,000
AIDS/HIV Education, Drugs ADAP	\$10,534,000
ARC of Illinois Life Span Project	\$215,900
Assistance to the Homeless	\$300,000
Assistance, Grants, Mortgages, Loans or Savings Bonds Per Affordable Housing Act	\$65,000,000
Autism Awareness	\$100,000
Autism Research Checkoff	\$100,000
Balancing Incentive Program	\$1,556,500

Benefits, Eligibility, Assistance, and Monitoring	\$827,700
Best Buddies	\$447,700
Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings	\$5,038,000
CCP Including Prior Year Costs	\$189,164,400
Children's Health Programs	\$1,229,700
Children's Place	\$174,600
Community Based Services for Equal Distribution to Each of the 13 Area Agencies on Aging	\$336,300
Community Health Center HPSAs	\$1,364,600
Community Services	\$2,290,000
Comprehensive Case Coordination	\$27,201,000
Comprehensive Community Services	\$6,949,700
Compulsive Gamblers Treatment	\$1,029,500
Dental Grants for Developmental Disabilities	\$451,600
DHS Community Services	\$15,000,000
Elder Abuse and Neglect Act	\$9,160,000
Emergency and Transitional Housing	\$9,383,700
Emergency Food Program	\$98,700
Epilepsy Services	\$950,400
Foster Grandparent Program	\$108,100
Franklin County Methamphetamine Pilot Program	\$410,600
Funeral and Burial of Indigent Persons	\$4,122,000
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Program	\$134,300
Grant Allocations Through the Federal HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$15,000,000
Grant Allocations Through the Federal HOME Investment Partnership Program	\$25,000,000
Grants Supportive Housing Services	\$3,382,500
Grants to Area Agencies on Aging	\$3,457,100
Group Home Loans	\$200,000
Health and Human Services Medicaid Trust - bridge subsidies only	\$7,500,000
Healthy Families	\$4,494,900
Home Delivered Meals (formula/non-formula)	\$5,203,700
Homeless Youth Services	\$1,000,000
Homeless Youth Services	\$2,083,900
Homelessness Prevention	\$446,600
Homelessness Prevention	\$3,000,000
Housing for Families	\$100,000
Illinois Affordable Housing Act	\$4,100,000
Illinois African American Family Commission	\$343,500
Illinois Council on Aging	\$11,600
Illinois Latino Family Commission	\$343,500
Immigrant Integration Services	\$2,764,000
Infant Mortality	\$15,098,000
Information Technonogy - State of Michigan	\$5,400,000

Lincoln's Challenge	\$1,266,500
Long Term Care Ombudsman Fund	\$2,600,000
Long Term Care Systems Development	\$109,100
Mental Health Balancing Incentive Programs	\$3,592,500
Mental Health Grants, C&A, Transitions, and State Operated Facilities	\$64,549,800
Mental Health Psychotropic Medications	\$861,900
Mental Health Supportive Housing	\$7,289,400
Monitoring and Support Services	\$81,500
Northeast DuPage Special Recreation Assn	\$114,500
Ombudsman Program	\$603,700
Other State Agencies for Rental Assistance, Supportive Living and Adaptive Housing	\$3,000,000
Out-of-State Residential Services	\$229,000
Parents Too Soon	\$3,075,800
Pilot Program Opioid Dependents	\$223,900
Poison Control Center	\$916,000
Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS	\$572,500
Private Partnerships Projects	\$345,000
Project Cornerstone	\$194,100
Project For Autism	\$1,969,400
Prostate Cancer Awareness	\$67,100
Prostate Cancer Research	\$30,000
Psychiatric Leadership Grants	\$12,366,000
Rape Victims/Prevention Act	\$2,757,700
Redeploy Illinois	\$1,958,000
Rehabilitation Services	\$9,650,000
Rental Assistance Per the Rental Housing Support Program Administered by IHDA	\$43,000,000
Rental Housing Support Program	\$1,600,000
Respite Care	\$4,020,300
Retired Senior Volunteer Program	\$247,000
Safe from the Start	\$420,000
Save Our Neighborhood - Abandoned Property Program	\$15,000,000
Save Our Neighborhood - Foreclosure Prevention Fund	\$8,500,000
Save Our Neighborhood - Foreclosure Prevention Graduated Fund	\$11,000,000
School Health Centers	\$527,200
Senior Employment Specialist Program	\$85,200
Senior Health Assistance Programs	\$1,600,000
Senior Help Line	\$624,000
Senior Meal Program.	\$13,900
Sexual Assault Support Services	\$100,000
Sexual Assault Support Services and Prevention	\$600,000
SIDS	\$111,900
Specialized Mental Health Rehabilitative Facility Community Program	\$734,300

Specialized Training Program	\$22,400
Supportive Housing Services	\$5,038,000
Teen Parents Services	\$458,000
U of I Sickle Cell	\$221,600
Welcoming Centers	\$686,500
Westside Health Authority Crisis Intervention	\$134,300
Youth Jobs Program	\$3,206,000
Youth Programs	\$5,954,000
Youthbuild	\$4,375,000
TOTAL	\$719,860,700

Illinois is facing a crisis like never before. The Chicago Public Schools are on the brink of closing their doors on the children, crime and drug overdoses on the rise, and many human services providers are struggling to keep their doors open to help protect the most at-risk populations. The state's five pension funds officially report \$146 billion in accrued liabilities for earned benefits.

The solution is to raise revenue by increasing taxes on gas, personal income taxes, and other services that will only impact the struggling working class in Illinois. It's very disappointing to know that when the economy was good and the politicians were spending tax-payers money, communities like Austin were left out of the spending party, while others have major developments, new businesses, new schools, new parks, better roads and bridges, better police services, and mostly better city services. The time will come when, just like the Illinois Lottery, we will pay more into the system but get less out for our community.

Why not raise taxes on luxuries not considered essential so the majority of the people are not affected by it and are not subject to the tax?

Chances are, we will be forced to attack the working class, and taxes will go up on people in communities like Austin when the years of dedicated tax payers have little to compare to those in other communities. But, I will join with my colleagues to continue to fight for the middle class and those who are less well off.

Sincerely,



La Shawn K. Ford
State Representative-Eighth District