

UNWISE AND UNFAIR

CUTS AND LATE PAYMENTS JEOPARDIZE ILLINOIS HUMAN SERVICES SAFETY NET

Human services are essential supports that enhance the well-being and quality of life of people, families, and communities throughout Illinois. They affirm human dignity and avert more costly approaches to addressing individual and societal need. Such programs are among the wisest of public investments. The majority of human services provided in Illinois are delivered by organizations at the community level. The State's failure to provide timely payment to providers who are serving in this role is unfair, forcing providers, in effect, to serve as lenders to the state. As the following survey results and data indicate, continued cuts and late payments are damaging Illinois' human services safety net with negative ripple effects throughout individual lives and local communities.

OVERVIEW:

\$3,294,300,000: Amount of unpaid state bills

26%: Percent of total unpaid state bills owed to contracts held with the state's core human service agencies (Departments of Aging, Children and Family Services, Human Services, Healthcare and Family Services, and Public Health)

1,755: Number of state contracts with nonprofit organizations awaiting payment

\$20,912: Median amount owed by the state on contracts with nonprofit organizations

321: Number of contracts with nonprofits where the state owes over a quarter million dollars (with 192 owed over half a million and 106 owed over one million dollars)

118: Number of days it takes Illinois to pay a bill after the paperwork is completed

1st: Where Illinois ranks nationwide when it comes to late payments

3,802,296: Number of clients served last fiscal year by organizations in **Cook County** that responded to survey on the impact of the state budget cuts and late payments

49,850 and 12,324: The number of full-time and part-time workers currently employed by responding organizations in **Cook County**

92% and 86%

The percent of responding organizations in **Cook County** that have been negatively impacted by state budget cuts and by delayed payments, respectively. **85%** have of those impacted have been simultaneously hit by both state budget cuts and late payments.

October, 2011. Information in this fact sheet comes from three sources: data on late state payments from the Illinois Comptroller's Office, information published by the Associated Press, and a survey of human service organizations in Illinois.

State Payment Data

State payment data were obtained via a Freedom of Information Act Request submitted to the Illinois Office of the Comptroller. Data reflect a point in time snapshot as of October 12, 2011 of cleared bills awaiting payment.

Associated Press Analysis

The Associated Press analyzed state documents on unpaid bills and published its findings in a series of stories, available on Illinois Partner's website.

Survey Data

The survey was conducted in September 2011. 238 organizations responded, though not all answered every question. The most common services provided by the responding organizations were: youth (46%) mental health (44%), employment and training (39%), homeless/housing (32%), adult education (25%), disability (25%), and early childhood education (25%).

Responding organizations provide services throughout Illinois: 56% in Cook County, 32% in Northern Counties, 12% in North-Central Counties, 10% in South-Central Counties, and 8% in Southern Counties.

The survey was conducted by the Social IMPACT Research Center at Heartland Alliance on behalf of Illinois Partners for Human Service.

More information, including the state payment data, the AP stories, and regional fact sheets, is available at www.illinoispartners.org

