

# Human Services as an Economic Engine:

## How Human Services in Illinois Drive Jobs and Economic Benefits

**REPORT BRIEFING:** Illinois Partners for Human Service commissioned this report to examine the economic value of human services in Illinois. The results reveal that providers offer services throughout the state, constitute a significant part of the workforce, and generate economic benefits for Illinois.

### What's the impact?

The human services sector makes a major contribution to Illinois' economy, with \$3.1 B in direct spending and \$1.4 B in induced spending per year.

# \$4.5 B

Total annual economic impact

### Human services are everywhere.

Providers are located in all counties across Illinois and address needs regionally - not just in Chicago.

### The industry is full of small businesses.

The human services sector looks like any other industry in terms of the percent of establishments that are "small businesses."

### The Human Services Worker Profile:



#### Highly educated...

36% of human service workers have a bachelor's degree, which closely resembles the education attainment average for Illinois' entire workforce (38%).

#### ... but working for low wages.



With a college degree, the median hourly wage for human service workers is \$16.61, while the median hourly wage for all Illinois workers with degrees is \$26.14. At all education levels, human service workers have a median wage of \$12.25 per hour compared to the median wage for all workers in Illinois of \$19.61 per hour.

**This study provides data for lawmakers to consider as they create a budget that aims to improve the state's finances and invest in community well-being.**