Government is the Foundation of Well-Being: Why Philanthropy Cannot Replace Government in Helping Illinois Communities Reach Their Potential

State government must fully fund human services because no other entity can do so at the same capacity, according to an analysis of government funding, individual income and foundation data, charitable contributions, and tax policy.

Government Funds the Vast Majority of Human Services Provided in Most Fields

Percent of Revenue by Source for Providers

Foundations and Individuals Lack the Capacity to Expand Resources Across the State and Offset Government Spending

1. Analysis of individual income data statewide indicates that the vast majority of individual income and wealth from which to solicit donations lies in Chicago and its suburbs.

2. Foundations lack the resources to offset government spending across the state because of their current giving strategies, of which human services is already one of many, as well as the geographic location of some foundations.

3. Lowered taxation might result in minimal giving increases, but would not offset significant reductions in tax revenue and it is unlikely donors would contribute to human services proportionally to government.

Just 12-15% of giving from high wealth individuals goes to human services.

Find citations and the full report at illinoispartners.org