

Increase Homelessness Prevention Funding

Each year Illinois assists families in avoiding homelessness. This program provides on average a **\$1000 grant** to individuals and families. It is used for rental assistance and utility assistance. Service providers also offer supportive services directly related to the prevention of homelessness.

- This line item has experienced dramatic cuts in the state budget. **At its height Homelessness Prevention received \$11 million.** This meant **14,000 households** received needed assistance annually. As of FY19, **the funding is at \$4.9 million**, a fraction of previous levels, meaning less people are served.

Steady Decline in Funding

Solution

Increase the Homelessness Prevention back to \$11 million dollars so that service providers will be able to provide more grants and services to eligible families.

This program has proved successful, cost saving, and a common-sense way in which to keep Illinois families off the streets.

This program has proven successful. In studying Chicago's Homeless Prevention Program between 2010-2012, the University of Notre Dame researchers found that those who called when funding was available—and received the cash assistance—**were 88% less likely to become homeless after 3 months and 76% less likely after 6 months.*** The program not only ensures people remain housed and saves on emergency shelter services it has also been found that simply paying someone's rent for a month until the crisis passes helps not only that person avoid the shelter, but also benefits other people who might otherwise be affected if that person's unstable situation leads to violence.

Successful Program



\$7,548



\$1,000

With this one time grant homelessness prevention services is estimated to save \$7,548 annually keeping individuals and families housed and stable.*

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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