Special Edition: Fiscal Year 2015 “Not Recommended Budget”  
*The Impact of Cuts to Maternal and Child Health Services and Programs*

This memo is a special edition focused entirely on the fiscal year 2015 budget scenario. Currently, the default FY15 budget, which reflects a sunset of the temporary income tax increase, also known as the "not recommended" budget, would result in a nearly $900 million cut from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS) and a $600 million cut from the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH). These two departments provide a majority of funding for maternal and child health programs and services in our state and the impact to our most vulnerable citizens would be devastating.

We must protect the critical services in our communities by asking the General Assembly to reject the "not recommended budget" in support of the Governor’s “introduced” budget proposal, which reflects an extension of the temporary income tax rate. The *Illinois Fiscal Year 2015 Budget* is available online.

**Take Action Now! Contact your legislator here.**

**IDPH Programs and Services Affected by Budget Cuts**

- **School Health Centers**: The non-recommended budget would cut $182,000 from SHCs resulting in the closing of 4 of the 40 existing centers  
  - This cut would result in 6,500 fewer health education encounters, 7,500 fewer medical visits, 2,000 fewer mental health visits, and 500 fewer dental visits  
  - Will disproportionately impact medically underserved areas, especially urban and rural areas in the state where SHCs are the only accessible medical care options for adolescents  
  - SHCs reduce the use of emergency room visits for non-urgent care, which reduces the overall cost of health care
- **Illinois Regionalized Perinatal Program**: A reduction of $158,600 to Regional Perinatal Care Centers will result in poor quality of services to moms and infants, especially high risk low birth weight (LBW) infants  
  - Cuts will result in increased health disparities, higher infant and maternal mortality rates, and increase the teen birth rate  
  - LBW infants are at risk for lifelong disabilities and premature death at a tremendous cost to parents as well as tax payers  
  - The cut especially jeopardizes rural perinatal care for women and children because there is already a shortage of obstetric providers and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICU)
- **Family Planning (Title X)**: A proposed cut of $66,900  
  - Title X provides significant cost savings to taxpayers; every dollar spent on contraceptive services yields millions in savings on pregnancy care costs to Medicaid  
  - Family planning services often serve as the first entry into primary care services  
  - Having fewer, healthier children can reduce the economic burden on poor families
- **HIV/AIDS**: Testing, outreach, counseling and prevention services will be reduced by $3.6 million
- **Local health department’s communicable disease and environment health services**: Will experience $2.4 million in cuts, limiting their ability to provide immunization services and investigate disease outbreaks  
  - $657,300 in cuts to childhood immunization clinics
- **IDPH Administration**: The already severely understaffed IDPH workforce will be reduced by ten percent  
  - Eliminating staff for the state lab, communicable disease, environmental health, and inspection services
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- **Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Prevention (IBCCP):** A $2.0 million reduction in FY 2015 funding would decrease this program’s ability to serve 3,000 women in need of breast and cervical cancer screenings.

**IDHS Programs and Services Affected by Budget Cuts**

- **DHS Administration:** Staff would be reduced by 3,128 individuals
  - DHS would also be unable to adequately comply with numerous federal and state reporting requirements putting federal resources at risk
  - There would be an increase in average case completion and application times further delaying access to services
- **General Revenue Funds (GRF):** Cuts could jeopardize a portion or all federal funding if Maintenance of Effort (MOE) match is not met for the following programs:
  - Maternal Child Health Block Grant (portion) $31 million
  - Child Care Development Fund (portion) $208 million
  - TANF (portion) $585 million
  - Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant (portion) $16 million
  - Maternal, Infant, Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (all) $7 million
- **Family Case Management (FCM):** Proposed cut of $9 million to the Family Case Management program
  - FCM provides high-risk, low-income women with health care and human services needed to ensure a healthy birth and first year of life
  - FCM saves millions in Medicaid and private health care expenditures by reducing the rates of low and very-low birth weight
  - This cut will reduce Illinois’ Medicaid revenues through the loss of federal matching funds
- **Aid to Aged, Blind and Disabled (AABD):** Cuts will result in Illinois losing all Medicaid match funding, amounting to more than $13 billion
- **Domestic Violence Programs:** Budget reductions will result in program cuts for 250 individuals

**Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS)**

- **DCFS clients:** These budget cuts will reduce services to an estimated 572 DCFS recipients resulting in:
  - Fewer family reunifications
  - Fewer youth transitioning out of DCFS custody
  - Fewer youth receiving early intervention and treatment for substance use problems

These budget cuts widely impact health and human services and disproportionately affect maternal and child health programs. The Illinois Social Services Advisory Council is hosting two budget briefings in **Springfield on April 30 at the State Museum** and **in Chicago on May 2 at the Bilandic Building**. The meetings will address how current budget proposals will severely cut maternal and child health services in Illinois.

It is vital that organizations and consumers advocate for the support of the Governor’s introduced budget. Legislators need to hear from their constituents that severe cuts to vital health programs are not an option. [Contact your legislator here, and please share this information with your professional and personal communities.](mailto:aboesen@everthriveil.org)

Preserving funding for maternal and child health services is a top priority for EverThrive IL, and we will advocate for the Governor’s introduced budget through legislative lobbying and by organizing our members and field to take action. We will keep you apprised of the evolving Illinois budget situation.