

ILLINOIS

FIGHT CRIME: INVEST IN KIDS ILLINOIS is an anti-crime organization of more than 330 Illinois police chiefs, sheriffs, and state's attorneys. To prevent future crime and violence, we urge adoption of the following state budget and policy priorities.

Early childhood education

High-quality preschool and birth-to-3 programs can dramatically reduce future crime. While we have made real progress as a state in our support for these programs, we still have a long way to go before we can say that all families have access to a quality preschool program for their three- and four-year-olds. The consequences of this underinvestment are seen as early as kindergarten when only one in four kindergartners are deemed "ready" by their teachers. Those consequences continue all the way through school and into adulthood with reduced high school completion and, for too many, encounters with our criminal justice system. The proposed FY2020 budget would allow Illinois to take a significant step forward towards a much better future for our very young children and our communities with an additional \$100 million investment in the Early Childhood Block Grant.

<i>Budget line & agency</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>FY20 Governor Proposed</i>
Early Childhood Block Grant (ISBE)	\$444 million	\$494 million	\$594 million

Home-visiting programs

Voluntary home visiting provides "coaching" for new parents of very young, at-risk children. These community based programs are among the most effective strategies for reducing exposure to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and have also shown success with helping addicted parents achieve sobriety. Funding for home visiting, however, has remained stagnant for nearly a decade and we continue to only reach about one in ten families who could benefit. We look forward to working with the General Assembly to increase support for these highly effective programs.

<i>Budget line & agency</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>FY20 Governor Proposed</i>
Healthy Families Illinois (IDHS)	\$10.04 million	\$10.04 million	\$10.04 million
Parents Too Soon (IDHS)	\$6.87 million	\$6.87 million	\$6.87 million

Early Childhood Capital (HR 87, SR 85)

In far too many of Illinois' most challenged communities, the lack of physical space for early childhood classrooms (either in a school district or community based provider) may well be the biggest obstacle to reaching more children with quality early childhood programs. In the last capital bill, there were nearly \$500 million in requests for only \$45 million in funding. **When a capital bill moves forward in the 101st General Assembly, it needs to include a minimum of \$250 million set aside for early childhood programs as outlined in HR 87 and SR 85.**

Teen REACH after-school programs

Youth-development programs can help effectively deal with "prime time for juvenile crime" in the after-school hours. Law enforcement leaders support restoring funding for Teen REACH in the FY20 budget to a level that can provide support for more of our communities that need safe and enriching places for our young people to be in those risky after-school hours.

<i>Budget line & agency</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>Fight Crime FY20 Request</i>	<i>FY20 Governor Proposed</i>
Teen REACH (IDHS)	\$12.5 million	\$13.8 million	\$20 million	\$13.8 million

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Redeploy Illinois (juvenile)

Redeploy Illinois cuts recidivism and saves money by contracting with counties to provide support and accountability for juvenile offenders in their home communities, instead of sending them to a Department of Juvenile Justice prison facility. The budget impasse continues to have a negative impact on this highly effective initiative with many counties reluctant to reengage. There is certainly room for growth but in FY20 the focus of the Department of Human Services needs to be on bringing counties back into the program and working on a plan to expand to more or even all counties in the future.

<i>Budget line & agency</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>FY20 Governor Proposed</i>
Redeploy Illinois (IDHS)	\$4.88 million	\$5.37 million	\$5.37 million

Child Care Assistance Program

State child care assistance for low-income, working families has long helped parents find reliable, educational settings for children’s care while on the job. These programs are also a significant component of the early learning system; high-quality care can be as educational as good preschool programs, and child care often helps families to access half-day preK services. The Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) is still recovering from two years of reduced eligibility; under emergency rulemaking authority, its maximum family-eligibility income had been dropped to much lower levels and eligibility was eliminated altogether for parents enrolled in education or training programs. All of these eligibility restrictions have since been restored but CCAP participation remains tens of thousands children lower than even a few years ago. We support the Governor’s proposal to expand income eligibility for working families to 200% of the Federal poverty level (as outlined in SB 1679) and encourage the Department of Human Services to expand outreach to enroll eligible families.

<i>Budget line & agency*</i>	<i>FY18</i>	<i>FY19</i>	<i>FY20 Governor Proposed</i>
Child Care Assistance Program (IDHS)	\$376.8 million	\$402 million	\$432 million

** This is the appropriation from state general revenue funds (GRF). CCAP also receives funding from federal sources (Child Care Development Block Grant and Temporary Assistance to Needy Families). GRF funds are usually just over one third of the overall expenditures.*

Children’s Mental Health/Social-Emotional Learning: We will continue to promote strategies to provide more resources to early childhood programs (preschool and child care programs) for initiatives around increased mental health consultations and classroom management supports. These efforts build on the legislation passed in 2017 aimed at reducing suspensions and expulsions in early childhood settings. Together, these policies can help to ensure that some of our most at-risk children are not being left behind at a very young age.