

eliminating racism empowering women ywca

YWCA METROPOLITAN CHICAGO ILLINOIS BUDGET CUTS TOOLKIT

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON YWCA BUDGET CUTS

What will the YWCA lose if the FY11 budget process looks like last year's?

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago will lose the ability to serve more than 138,000 women, children and their families. Without the YWCA, women and children will lose ground in their efforts to move beyond mere self-sufficiency to financial security. More 116,000 victims of sexual assault will have nowhere to receive comprehensive crisis services and more than 2,800 child care providers served by the YWCA in Cook, Kane and DuPage will go out of business.

In addition, the YWCA's 133-year legacy and knowledge in providing service for metro Chicago's women and children will be lost. Without the YWCA, the benefit of our rich history in fighting for women's and civil rights, the lessons learned from our unique service delivery model and our ability to impact and mobilize talented and progressive women will no longer be available.

Who will be impacted by a delayed or inadequate budget?

If this legislative season resembles last year's, or May concludes without a responsible budget, we anticipate a severe reduction in funds to the YWCA's Early Childhood Services and Sexual Violence and Support Services. Across Illinois, hundreds of non-profit organizations will be forced to shut their door and thousands of Illinois residents will go without much needed services. Here in Chicago, YWCA Metropolitan Chicago estimates a loss of at least **5-10 full-time employees** (most of whom are women). We will lose **\$1 million** in revenue, which equates to 10% of our budget. Our capacity will be reduced to less than half, literally changing the service model of our organization. Today, our client lists have only continued to grow and, without our staff to provide help to those in need, we are estimating **118,800** of our clients will no longer receive services.

What will be the impact of these anticipated losses and delayed action?

At this point, delayed action will be equal to harmful action. The city of Chicago can expect to suffer severe ramifications if the YWCA is no longer able to provide services. More than one in twelve Illinois workers is employed by a nonprofit. With nonprofit workers across the spectrum out of work and with clients lacking services, the state of Illinois can expect to witness a domino effect of increases of violence, unemployment, and financial upset.

When will these losses go into effect?

Though it's too early to tell what our FY11 funding will be, it's apparent that if the state government does not put a responsible budget in place by June 30, the face of one of Chicago's oldest and largest women's organization's will forever be changed.

Is the YWCA in favor of a tax increase?

YWCA Metropolitan Chicago is in favor of the plan proposed by **HB174**, as that is the only rational solution currently on the table. Our state's structural deficits can't be solved by cuts alone. At this point, we are calling on our elected leaders to act on behalf of the vulnerable people of Illinois and protect the communities in their districts that rely on our services. We have the ability to protect 138,000 MORE women, children and families but only if the state doesn't delay. Every lost dollar of human services funding translates into a potential future cost of \$6-8 to taxpayers. It would be to the benefit of our state to find additional revenue to support those in need, those working to help those in need and the overall economic stability of our communities.

For more information, contact Delia Coleman,
Gov't Relations Officer at delia.coleman@ywcachicago.org
or 312-762-2742.

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LETTER TO THE EDITOR DRAFT:

IMPORTANT: Your letter to legislators/editors must come from you as a concerned citizen, **NOT** an employee of the YWCA. Use your personal email address and copy and paste the text below into the body of an e-mail. Feel free to customize the text of the message if you'd like. Sign your name, provide your contact information and send to the publications/legislators list on the following pages. It is that easy!

Dear XXX:

Here in **[Community X]**, and across the state, families are in shock from the recession. At the same time, city, county and state budgets are being squeezed – with working women, especially those with children, paying the price. Human services organizations like YWCA Metropolitan Chicago have seen their budgets decrease steadily and sharply, meaning they aren't able to provide the same level of access to rape crisis, early childhood or economic empowerment services that our community counts on.

The bad news is that next year's state budget is going to be worse than last year's, with a projected \$13 billion hole. The good news is there may be a solution: House Bill 174 – legislation to raise adequate revenues and make taxes fairer for low- and moderate-income working families. HB174 passed the state Senate last summer, but hasn't been voted on in the House.

[Community X] needs leadership from State Representative **[Name]** and any further delay on giving us a responsible budget puts communities at immediate risk. I urge Rep. **[Name]** and the entire Illinois House and leadership to follow the good example of the state Senate and pass HB174 now, rather than later.

Sincerely,

NAME

ADDRESS AND PHONE NUMBER

For more information, contact Delia Coleman,
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PUBLICATIONS

AFRICAN AMERICAN TIMES

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For more information, contact Delia Coleman,
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or 312-762-2742.

FACEBOOK/TWITTER TEXT

Facebook Status Updates

To all Illinois residents: Stop budget cuts impacting women, children and families! Visit www.ywcachicago.org NOW to send a letter to your elected officials.

Protect women and children in Illinois! Visit www.ywcachicago.org to learn what you can do.

Join Our Movement! Stay informed of issues affecting women and families in Illinois. Visit www.ywcachicago.org and sign up for FREE membership.

Fight for women, children and families in Illinois! Visit www.ywcachicago.org to learn more about what you can do to stop budget cuts.

Tell your friends and family to stand up for women and children in Illinois. Visit www.ywcachicago.org to call or send a letter to your elected officials.

Tweets

Stop IL budget cuts impacting women, children & families! Visit www.ywcachicago.org to send a letter to your elected officials.

Protect women and children in Illinois! Visit www.ywcachicago.org to learn what you can do.

Join Our Movement! Stay informed of issues affecting women & families in Illinois. Visit [ywcachicago.org](http://www.ywcachicago.org) and sign up for FREE membership.

Fight for women, children & families in IL! Visit www.ywcachicago.org to learn more about what you can do to stop budget cuts.

Tell friends & family to stand up for women in IL. Visit www.ywcachicago.org to contact elected officials.

LEGISLATOR TWITTER ACCOUNTS

Rep. Mike Boland <http://twitter.com/RepBoland>

Rep. Mike Bost <http://twitter.com/repbost>

Rep. William Burns <http://twitter.com/ilrepwillburns>

Rep. Linda Chappa LaVia <http://twitter.com/lindachapalavia>

Rep. Franco Coladipietro <http://twitter.com/coladipietro>

Rep. Monique Davis <http://twitter.com/repmoniquedavis>

Rep. Roger Eddy <http://twitter.com/repeddyRep>.

Rep. Sara Feigenholtz - <http://twitter.com/SaraFeigenholtz>

Rep. Robert Flider - <http://twitter.com/RepBobFlider>

Rep. John Fritchey - <http://twitter.com/johnfritchey>

Rep. Sidney Mathias - <http://twitter.com/sidneymath>

Rep. Suzana Mendoza <http://twitter.com/repmendoza01>

Rep. David Miller <http://twitter.com/davidemiller>

Rep. Robert Pritchard <http://twitter.com/reppritchard>

Illinois House Republicans <http://twitter.com/ilhgop>

Rep. Chapin Rose - <http://twitter.com/reprose>

Rep. Jim Sacia - <http://twitter.com/jimsacia>

Rep. Mike Tryon (R-64) - <http://twitter.com/reptryon>

Rep. Dave Winters (R-68) - <http://twitter.com/repdavewinters>

Rep. Michael Zalewski (D-21) - <http://twitter.com/mjzalewski>

For more information, contact Delia Coleman,
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LANGUAGE FOR LEGISLATOR PHONE CALLS

Please use the language below when calling your elected officials listed on the following pages:

For All Elected Officials

“My name is X, and I’m calling in to ask the legislator not to delay action on a FY11 budget. Please support HB174 and protect human services and the working women and families who depend on fully funded programs.”

“My name is X, and I’m calling on behalf of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago about the FY11 budget. At the YWCA alone, these cuts will result in the downsizing of rape crisis and early childcare services, affecting communities across Cook, DuPage and Kane counties. Delayed action equals harmful action; please support HB174.”

“My name is X, and I’m calling on behalf of YWCA Metropolitan Chicago about the FY11 budget. Please support HB174 to protect human services and the 138,000 working women and families we serve who depend on fully funded programs.”

“My name is X, I’m calling from (on behalf of) YWCA Metropolitan Chicago about the FY11 budget. We can’t survive another budget cycle like last summer’s. We need a responsible budget that protects human services **now** rather than later. Please consider supporting HB174.”

“My name is X, and I’m calling on behalf of the YWCA in regards to the upcoming FY11 budget cycle. Any cuts to human services will result in a devastating loss of service as well as employment for rape crisis and early child care services. Please give us a budget that protects human services. Support HB174.”

For Governor

“My name is X, and I’d like to leave a message for the Governor. On behalf of the YWCA Metropolitan Chicago, stop devastating cuts to human services, schools, hospitals and public safety. Protect human services and the 138,000 working women and families we serve who depend on these programs. Give us a responsible FY11 budget without delay.”

LANGUAGE FOR LEGISLATOR PHONE CALLS

| When They Say... | We Say... |
|---|--|
| We need to eliminate waste/fraud. | \$13B in waste/fraud doesn't exist. |
| We need to find efficiencies. | Agreed; then what? |
| Everyone needs to share the pain. | Agreed; we've borne the pain for 10 years and we need immediate help. |
| This isn't the time for a tax increase. | When is? Next year, federal stimulus money runs out and the situation becomes more critical. |
| The answer is still in cuts. | Ok; <i>you</i> make the choice. Who gets cut? |
| We've been shut out the process. OR We've brought them proposals and they haven't considered them. | That is in the past. If you aren't part of the solution, then your inaction is contributing to our crisis. We're asking <i>everyone</i> to be part of the solution by giving us a responsible, and policy-driven, solution to our state's problems. <i>Will you ask your leader to release you to support HB174 or a similar plan?</i> |