



# Health and Human Services FY26 Budget Presentation

FEBRUARY 19, 2025

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER

# Governor's Office Health and Human Services Team

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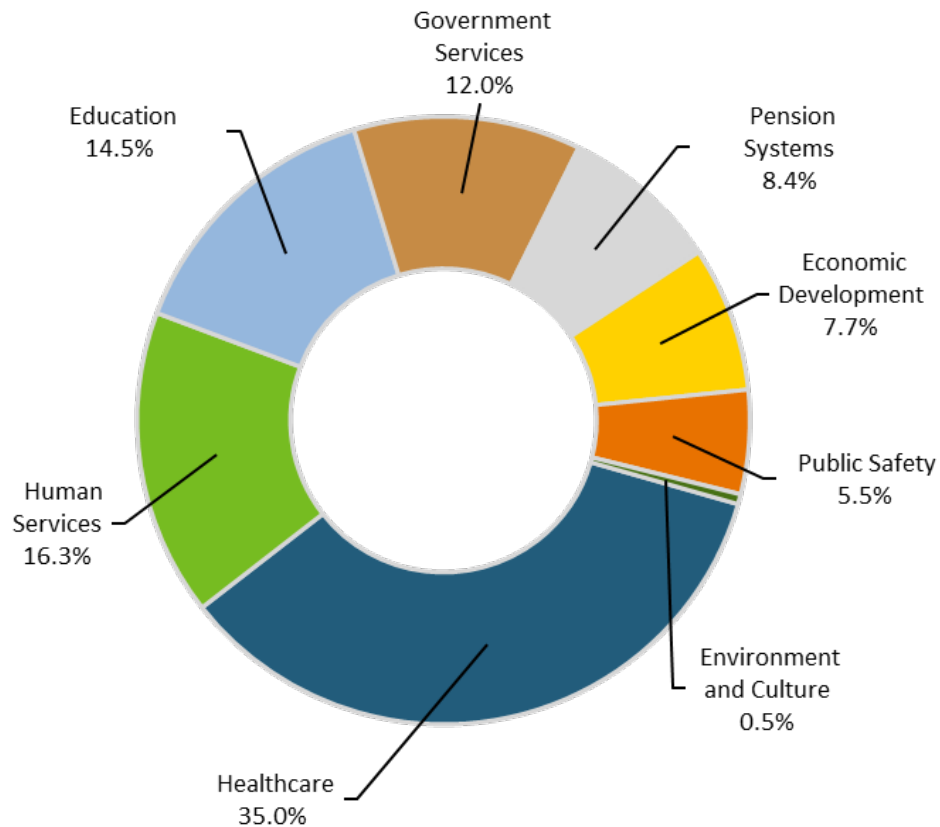
# Proposed Fiscal Year 2026 Budget:

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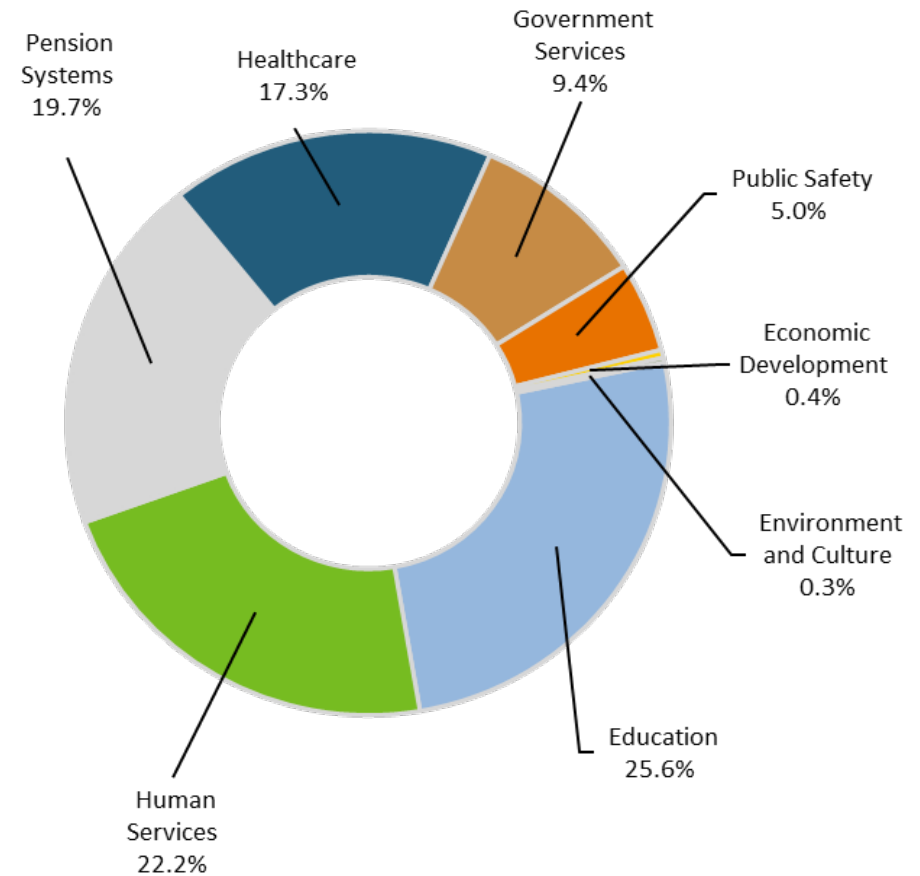
- ▶ Builds on six years of **historic fiscal progress** with balanced budgets, nine credit rating upgrades, \$2.2B Rainy Day Fund, and eliminated bill backlog.
- ▶ Maintains the Governor's commitment to fiscal responsibility while growing Illinois into an economic powerhouse.
- ▶ Continues **transformative investments** in early childhood education and child care, K-12 education, higher education, economic development and efforts to fight poverty.
- ▶ Continues record level of K-12 funding.
- ▶ Extends SMART START ILLINOIS to provide historic investments and a comprehensive approach to early learning.
- ▶ Builds on previous higher education investments.
- ▶ Provides record funding for human services and Illinois' social safety network.
- ▶ Ensures healthcare and food access to raise families out of poverty.
- ▶ Further invests in Illinois' economic infrastructure to support private sector job creation and make Illinois more competitive on the national stage.

# FY26 Proposed Operating Budget

All Funds:  
\$129.4 Billion



General Funds:  
\$53.9 Billion



# Governor Pritzker's FY26 HHS Investments

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Total HHS\* FY'26 Budget:

**\$66.406 Billion**

▶ A 9.5% increase from FY25

Total FY'26 Budget for 6 Biggest Agencies

IDHS, HFS, IDPH, DCFS, IDoA, IDVA:

**\$65.661 Billion**

▶ 9.7% increase from FY25

**Health and Human  
Services remain a priority  
in FY26.**

\*Includes: HFS, IDHS, DCFS, IDPH, IDoA, IDVA, IDHS, IDHR, DJJ, Illinois Guardianship and Advocacy Commission, Illinois Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission, & the Illinois Council on Developmental Disabilities.

# FY26 HHS Federal Funding

The FY'26 HHS Budget includes **\$6.4\* Billion** in federal funding, **~9.64% of our total budget**

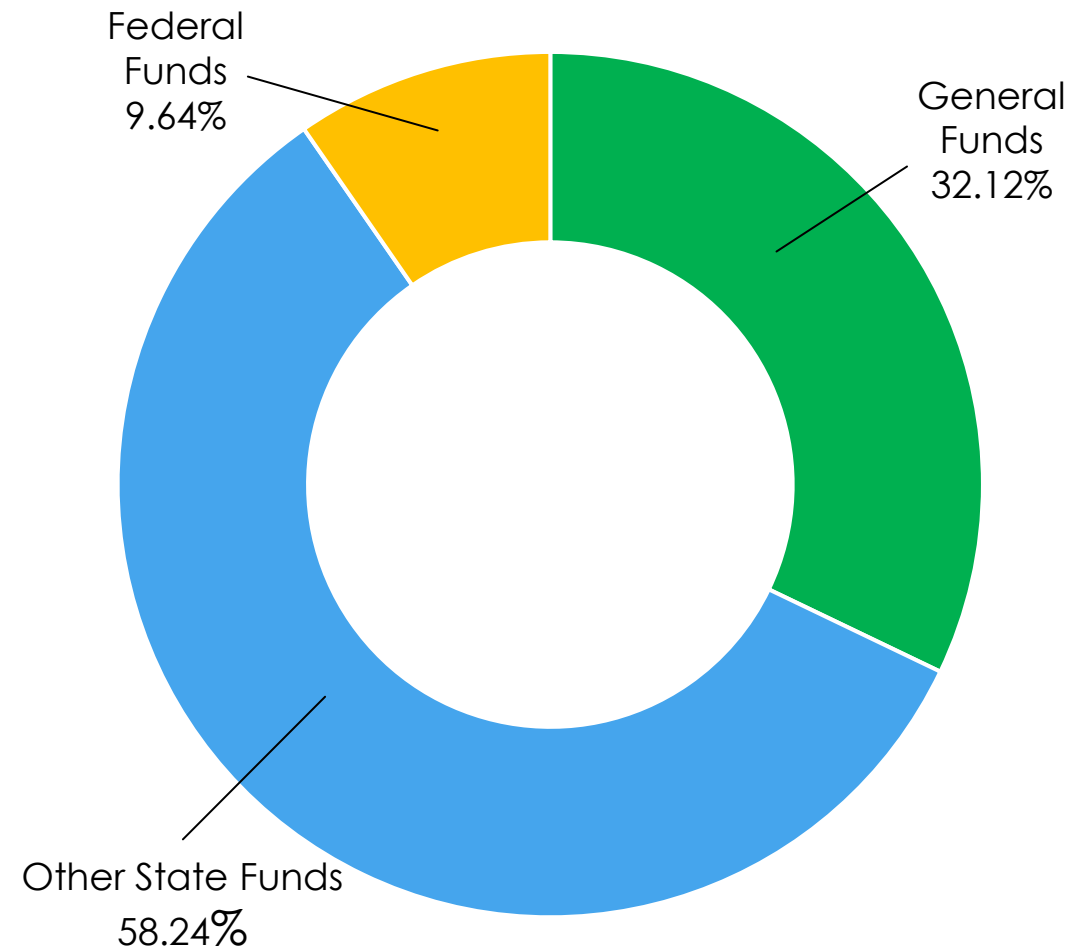
This funding is critical for essential services we provide, including:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- Child Care Services

Federal funding threats

\*Does not include Medicaid funding

### HHS Funding by Category (\$66.4 Billion)



# Governor Pritzker's FY26 HHS Priorities

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- Maintaining Illinois' Social Services Ecosystem
- Keeping our Communities Safe and Healthy
- Investing in Early Childhood: Smart Start
- Stable Homes and Safe Neighborhoods: Home Illinois and Violence Prevention
- Expanding Opportunity for People with Disabilities, Veterans, and Older Adults and Community-Integrated Living
- Creating a Sound Economy and Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility
- Continuing to Increase Child Welfare worker staff ratios
- Streamlined Behavioral Health Services

# Health and Human Services Portfolio



**Dulce  
Quintero**  
Department  
of Human  
Services



**Lizzy  
Whitehorn**  
Healthcare  
and Family  
Services



**Heidi  
Mueller**  
Department  
of Children  
and Family  
Services



**Sameer  
Vohra**  
Department  
of Public  
Health



**Mary  
Killough**  
Department  
on Aging



**Terry  
Prince**  
Department of  
Veterans Affairs





JB Pritzker, Governor  
Dulce M. Quintero, Secretary

# FY25 Key Accomplishments and Efficiencies

IDHS collaborated with stakeholders and the General Assembly, for passage of Dignity in Pay, moving Illinois towards elimination of subminimum wage.



IDHS initiated a space consolidation project to reduce lease space by over 290,000 square feet with a future anticipated savings of \$7.1M.

Thanks to Smart Start Workforce Grants, over 14,000 childcare professionals in Illinois, working in over 3,800 childcare centers and homes, now earn between \$17-\$19 per hour.



Over the past year the Division of Family and Community Services' SNAP application determination timeliness was 4<sup>th</sup> in the nation at 95.85%.

Statewide Overdose Report showed an 8.3% decrease in overdose deaths between 2022 and 2023. Mobile Medication Assisted Recovery services expanded to west and south side locations.



When the lows feel too low.  
Free, trained, confidential support.



In November 2024, Division of Mental Health 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline In-State answer rate was 92.3%, exceeding the federal benchmark of 90%.

# IDHS FY26 Budget Highlights

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## Total Proposed Budget of \$13.9 Billion

- An increase of \$388.6M in GRF over FY25 estimated spending

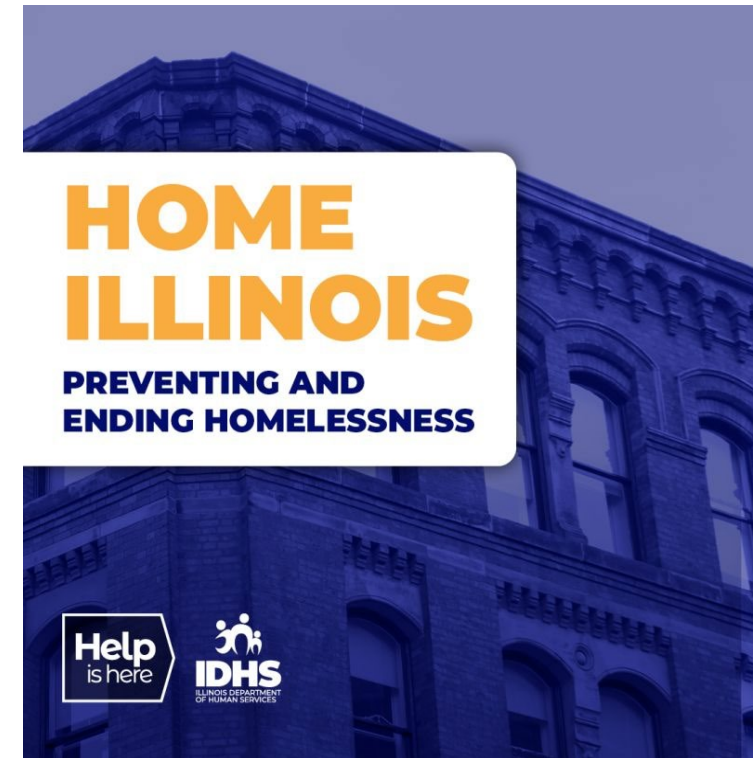
### ► Continued Commitment to *Olmstead*

- **\$51.2M** for Ligas Placements and annualizations of FY25 placements and to support a \$0.50 per hour DSP wage increase effective 1/1/26
- **\$12.5M** increase for Williams & Colbert budget to provide ongoing resources for transitions and continued investment in SOAR and Front Door Diversion programs
- **\$105.0M** to support increased Home Services Program enrollment and service level needs
- **\$12.0M** Increase in HBS of 5% for Community Day Services or other community integrated services

## ► Home Illinois – One System Initiative

The proposed budget includes a total investment of **\$282.7M** for continued Home Illinois funding

- **\$91.5M** in the Home Illinois appropriation line for the One System Initiative, a project to integrate the shelter systems supporting new arrivals and other people experiencing homelessness in the Chicago area.
  - Supports 1,700 shelter beds
  - Shelter Placement and Resource Center (SPARC)



## ► Early Childhood

- **\$90.0M** in GRF pickup for the SMART Start Workforce Grants
- **\$10.0M** to support rate enhancements for Early Intervention service providers

## ► Behavioral Health & Recovery

- Anticipated 988 dedicated revenue allowing for the continuation of **\$37.0M** of federal ARPA funded programs providing crisis services



# Meet Mackenzie

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- Mackenzie has been a 988 Helpline Specialist/Crisis Counselor for 6+ months.
- Shares that she has helped a nurse who was struggling with thoughts of suicide feel safe and supported enough to seek medical support for her mental health.

*"That call remains a powerful reminder of why I do this work. It is moments like these that show the importance of being present, offering empathy, and walking alongside someone until they feel safe again."*

# IDHS FY26 Budget Snapshot

Funding Source	FY25 Estimated Spending with supplemental \$s in thousands	Proposed FY26 \$s in thousands	Change from FY25 \$s in thousands	Change from FY25 (%)
<b>GRF</b>	\$7,514,590.3	\$7,903,187.6	\$388,597.3	<b>5.2%</b>
<b>Other State</b>	\$1,502,099.8	\$1,871,862.3	\$369,762.6	<b>24.6%</b>
<b>Federal</b>	\$4,525,655.4	\$4,142,198.5	(\$383,456.9)	<b>(8.5%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$13,542,345.5	\$13,917,248.5	\$374,902.9	<b>2.8%</b>

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

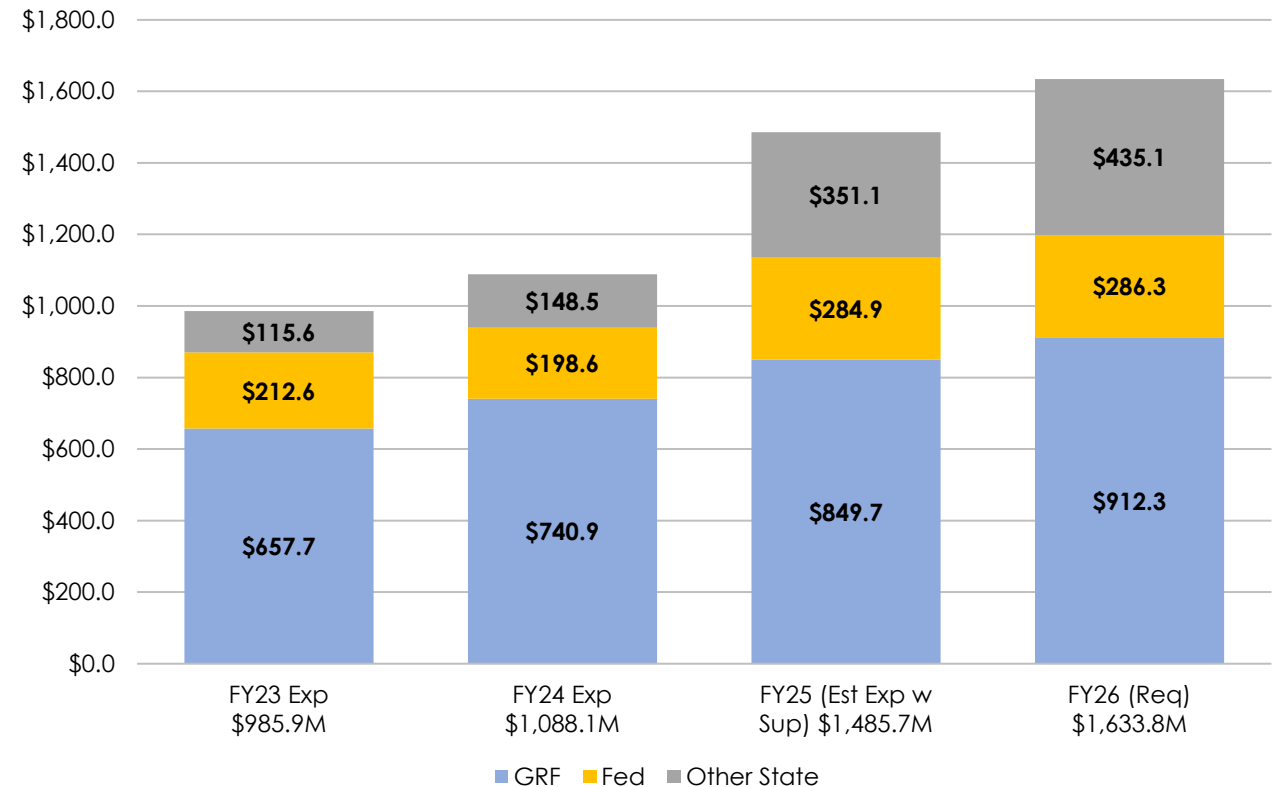
# Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery

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## FY26 Budget Proposed Highlights

- ▶ Department will integrate the Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (SUPR) and the Division of Mental Health (DMH) into a new Division of Behavioral Health and Recovery, subject to GA review of the Executive Order.
- ▶ The proposed budget supports statutorily-required rate increases for substance use disorder community-based services.

**Budget by Year**  
(\$ Millions)



# Meet John

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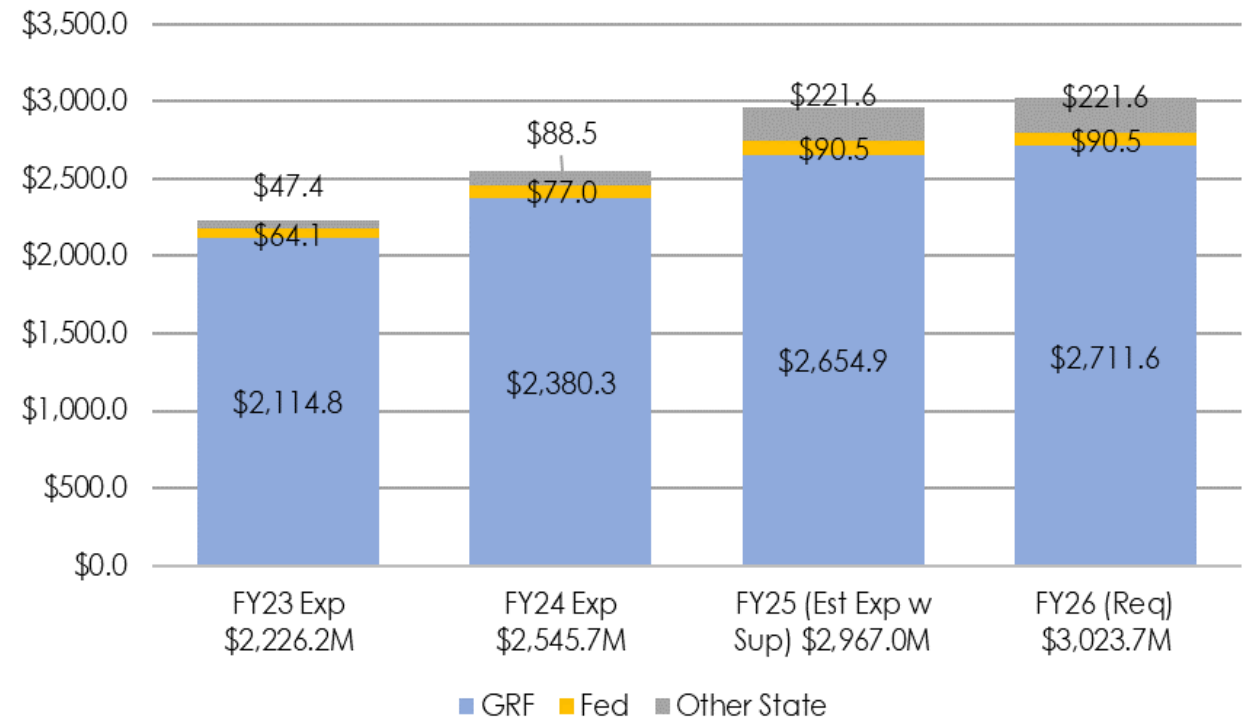
- John was previously experiencing homelessness, living in his car on the West side of Chicago, grappling with substance use disorder.
- In early 2024, John was arrested for possession of heroin.
- Instead of facing immediate charges, he was referred to Thresholds as part of the Narcotics Arrest Diversion Program.
- As part of his treatment plan, John received help from the Thresholds Recovery Support Team (RST), which is funded through a grant administered by IDHS.
- The RST team frequently visited John and provided guidance on housing and employment, and access to community resources.
- John is now a dedicated member of the treatment community, actively participating in self-help groups and supporting others in their own recovery journeys.

# Division of Developmental Disabilities (DDD)

## FY26 Proposed Budget Highlights

- ▶ **\$31.2M** for 630 new adult PUNS placements in FY25 and 630 more placements in FY26
- ▶ **\$27.2M** proposed investment for Home Based Program including 2.5% increase related to SSI and a 5% increase for Community Day Services or other community integrated services
- ▶ **\$20.0M** DD Guidehouse \$0.50/hour DSP rate increase effective 1/1/26 funded with partial rollback of the CILA adjustment factor
- ▶ By regularly analyzing key metrics and drivers of overtime, the Department estimates a savings of **(\$10.0M)** in overtime costs in FY26

### Budget by Year (\$ Millions)

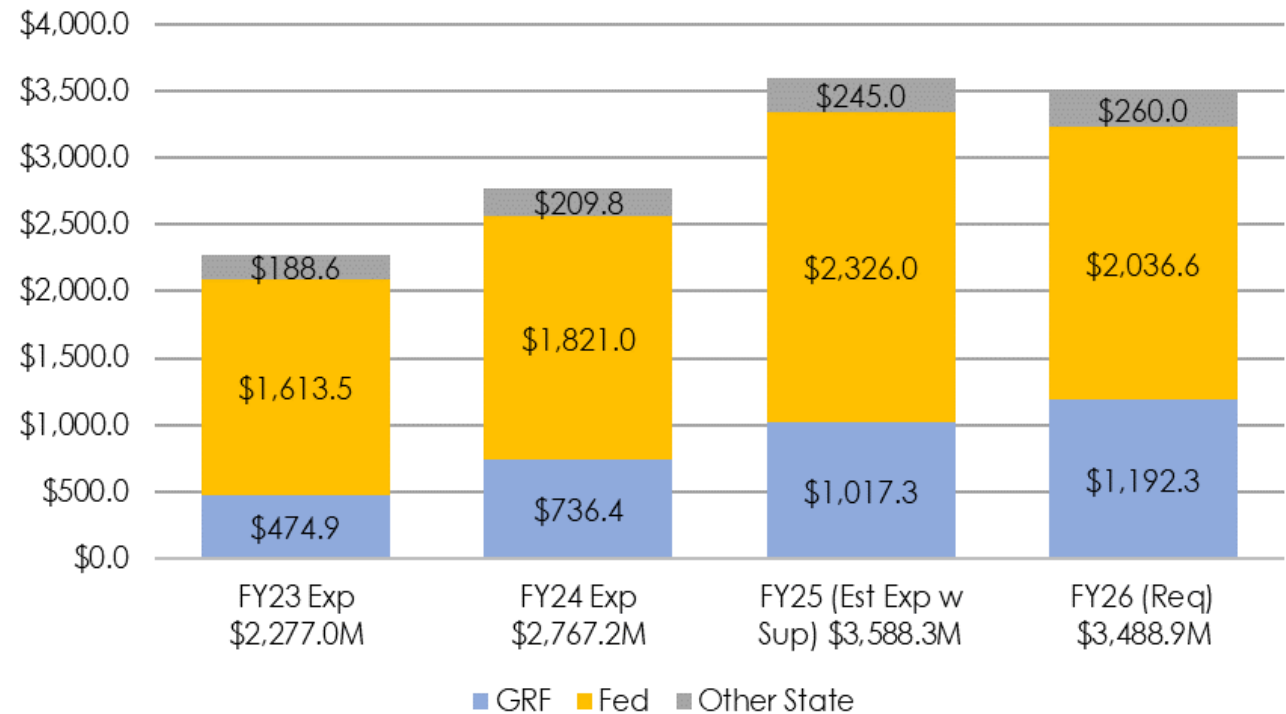


# Division of Early Childhood (DEC)

## FY26 Proposed Budget Highlights

- ▶ Reflects **\$175.0M** new GRF investments for Child Care
- ▶ **\$90.0M** GRF pickup of ARPA funding to support SMART Start Workforce Grants
- ▶ **\$85.0M** GRF proposed to support the Child Care Assistance Program growth
- ▶ **\$10.0M** to support rate enhancements for Early Intervention service providers

### Budget by Year (\$ Millions)



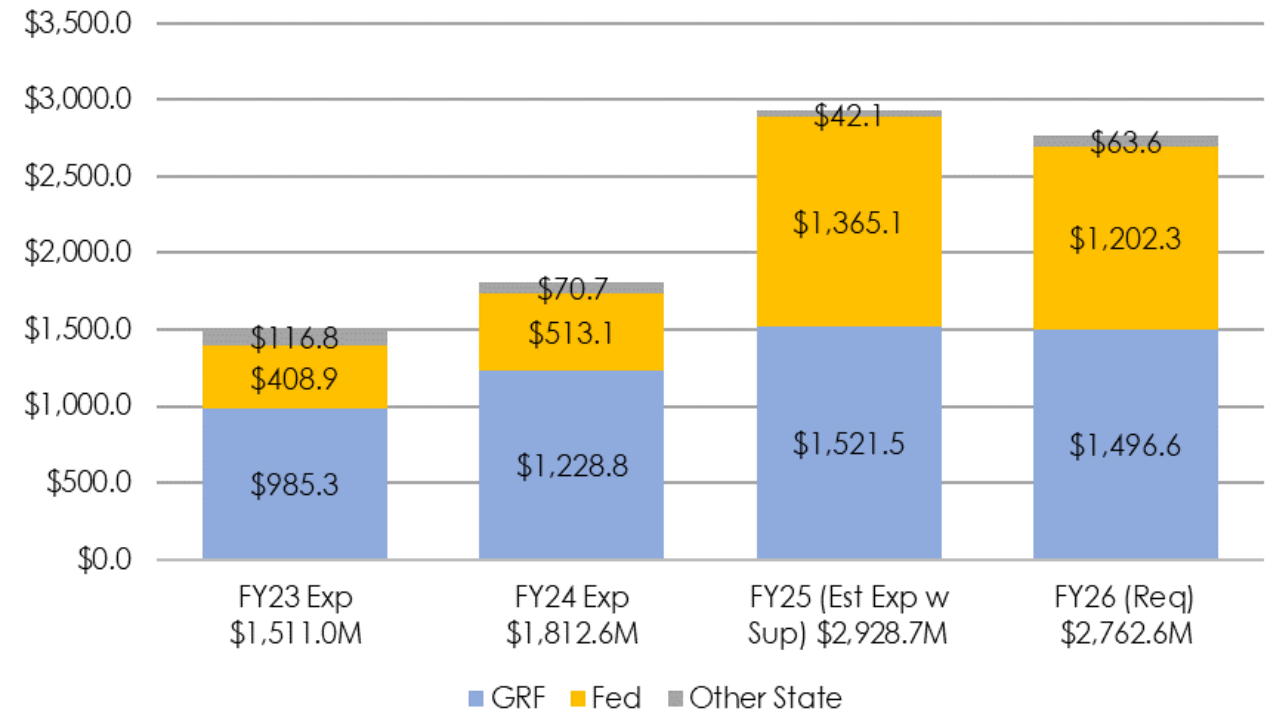
# Division of Family and Community Services (FCS)

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## FY26 Proposed Budget Highlights

- ▶ **\$25.0M** new GRF investment in the Reimagine Program to maintain program investment
- ▶ **\$1.1M** new GRF for to annualize Domestic Violence Hotline programming
- ▶ **\$9.5M** to support an increase in the TANF and AABD liability
- ▶ **\$1.0M** additional investment for the Funeral & Burial program based on need

### Budget by Year (\$ Millions)

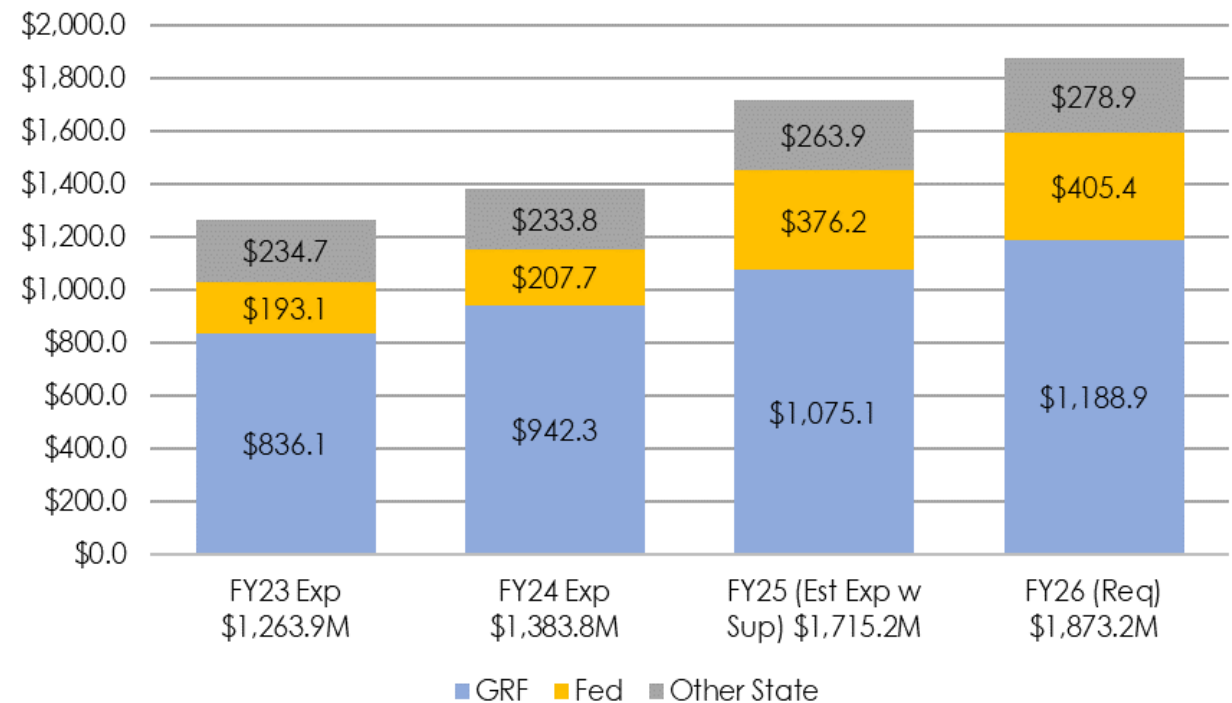


# Division of Rehabilitation Services (DRS)

## FY26 Proposed Budget Highlights

- ▶ DRS secured an additional **\$12.0M**, or 9%, in Federal Reallotment Funds for the Vocational Rehabilitation Program; **\$6.0M** in GRF requested to support new federal funds
- ▶ **\$105.0M** new investment for anticipated caseload growth of 1,200 net new customers and collective bargaining costs
- ▶ The Division of Rehabilitation Services is implementing measures to disallow services in excess of customer's service cost maximum

### Budget by Year (\$ Millions)





**HFS**

Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Elizabeth M. Whitehorn, Director

## MISSION

Helping Families Succeed

We work together to help Illinoisans access high quality healthcare and fulfill child support obligations to advance their physical, mental, and financial well-being.

## KEY PROGRAMS

- ▶ Medicaid
- ▶ Child Support Services

More than **1 in 4 Illinoisans** are served by HFS.

HFS provides healthcare to more Illinoisans than any other insurer.



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Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

# FY25 Accomplishments

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- ▶ **Medical Debt Relief:** Launched the first statewide medical debt buyback program. In partnership with Undue Medical Debt, the program has relieved more than \$125 million in medical debt for over 100,000 Illinois residents with additional relief planned throughout FY25 and in FY26.
- ▶ **Redetermination Success During Unwinding:** Following the PHE unwinding, 78% of Illinois Medicaid customers retained coverage due to HFS retention efforts that included: a statewide advertising and outreach campaign and implementation of multiple federal flexibilities that allowed for streamlined eligibility determination.
- ▶ **Advisory Council on Financing and Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment and Other High-Cost Drugs and Treatment:** HFS convened this advisory council, which included national and local experts and practitioners, and developed a set of comprehensive recommendations for financing and increasing access to lifesaving, high-cost, emerging drugs and therapies for Medicaid customers.
- ▶ **Maternal Health:** HFS implemented coverage for perinatal doula and lactation consultant services in Illinois Medicaid. Illinois was also selected to participate in the federal Transforming Maternal Health Model (TMaH) through which HFS will receive \$17 million over 10 years to develop an integrated approach to care through pregnancy, childbirth and postpartum care.
- ▶ **Implementation of TANF Passthrough:** Beginning in July 2024, all child support collected on behalf of Illinois' low-income families with children who are either current or former Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) recipients is now passed-through to the custodial parent.



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Healthcare and Family Services

# FY25 Accomplishments

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- ▶ **1115 Healthcare Transformation Demonstration Waiver:** HFS received approval for its 1115 waiver, allowing HFS to move forward with providing groundbreaking Medicaid coverage of health-related social needs and pre-release services for individuals leaving carceral settings. Over the next five years, the waiver has the potential to bring up to \$3.4 billion in federal match to the state.
- ▶ **Healthcare Transformation Capital Investment Grant Program:** HFS and the Illinois Capital Development Board (CDB) awarded 13 organizations a total of \$200 million in funding to support capital projects that will address health-related social needs and reduce disparities in healthcare in historically underserved communities.
- ▶ **Implementation of State-Based Marketplace:** HFS has partnered with the Department of Insurance (DOI) to build the infrastructure to support the launch of the Illinois State Based Marketplace. This includes awarding five organizations grants to serve as Get Covered Illinois Healthcare navigators and procuring an IT vendor and call center for fall 2025 open enrollment.
- ▶ **Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers:** Illinois was one of 10 states selected to participate in the new federal CCBHC demonstration model, which expands access to integrated mental health and substance use treatment services. This will allow HFS to invest approximately \$150 million more in the behavioral health system.
- ▶ **Rate Increases:** HFS implemented rate and reimbursement increases to hospitals resulting in over \$600 million in additional payments to Illinois hospitals, including rate increases for inpatient and outpatient acute, psychiatric, and rehab care and add-on payments for safety net hospitals. HFS also updated physician rates amounting to an overall payment increase of \$120 million annually.



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Healthcare and Family Services

# Meet Christine

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## Challenges:

▶ After multiple miscarriages and a stillborn baby, Christine gave birth to a baby weighing just 2 lbs., 13 ounces in July 2018. She was immediately rushed to the NICU, where she remained in their care for 99 days.

## NICU Medical debt:

▶ Christine's family was identified as being eligible for medical debt abolishment through Illinois' new statewide Medical Debt Relief program.

## A better life:

▶ In Illinois' first round of medical debt buyback in 2024, Christine was one of the more than 52,000 residents to have medical debt relieved. The family had a total of \$2,587 in medical debt abolished, and Christine's daughter is now a healthy 6-year-old.



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# Medical Assistance (Medicaid) Enrollment

Enrollment						
	Seniors	Disabled Adults	Children	Non-Disabled Adults	ACA	Total
<b>FY23 Actuals</b>	299,103	250,340	1,524,543	771,783	919,731	3,765,500
<b>FY24 Actuals</b>	304,943	247,284	1,527,040	726,292	862,774	3,668,333
<b>FY25 Projection</b>	290,885	240,413	1,510,822	580,709	768,229	3,391,058
<b>FY26 Projection</b>	304,237	242,690	1,567,413	590,943	785,445	3,490,728

\* Based on average monthly enrollment.



# Meet the Tanaka Children

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## Challenge:

▶ A successful IT consultant with the ability to relocate, Rob changed his residence to a different state, abandoning his child support responsibilities and requiring HFS to start an enforcement action.

## HFS intervention:

▶ Diligent research by an HFS staff member led to Rob being found in Wisconsin while attempting to sell his latest house. Acting quickly, CSS secured a lien that was attached to the home.

## A better life:

▶ Unable to sell his house, Rob realized he would need to pay the support he owed. That meant nearly \$75,000 in critical support for young Ann and Leo Tanaka.



\* Names changed for privacy.



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Healthcare and Family Services

# FY26 Budget Highlights

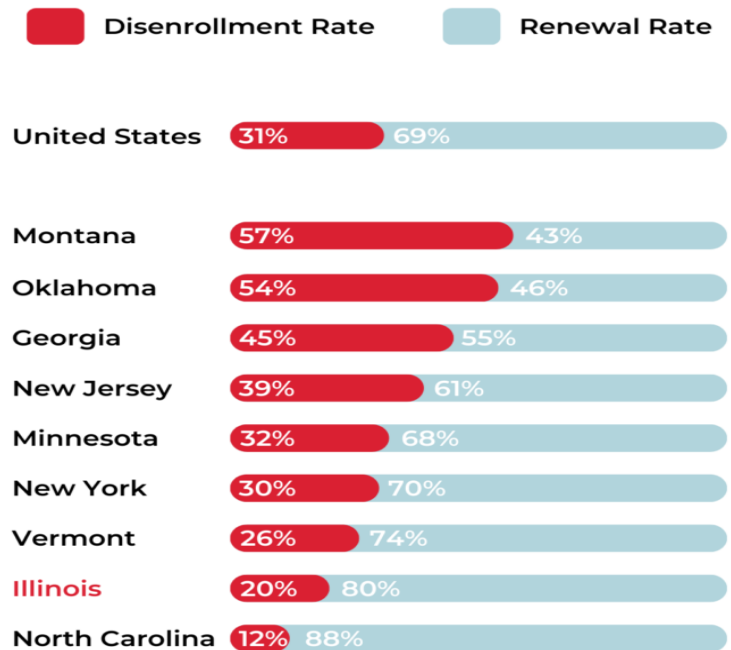
## Growth Drivers in FY26 Liability

- ▶ Enrollees remaining after the Public Health Emergency (PHE) unwinding have higher acuity than previous enrollees.
- ▶ Double digit increase in pharmacy costs.
- ▶ Annualization of FY25 legislative additions.
- ▶ Enrollment and service utilization increases.

## Behavioral Health Investments

- ▶ Psychiatric residential treatment facilities (PRTFs) - \$27.7 million
- ▶ Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) - \$191.8 million
- ▶ Pathways to Success - \$132.8 million

## Share of People Who Were Disenrolled from Medicaid or had Coverage Renewed During the Unwinding



KFF, [An Examination of Medicaid Renewal Outcomes and Enrollment Changes at the End of the Unwinding](#)



## Child Support

- ▶ The introduced FY26 budget includes funding to allow families with children, who either currently or formerly received Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), to continue receiving 100% of collected child support funds.

## Other Healthcare Investments

- ▶ Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) - \$12.2 million
- ▶ Fully integrated Dual Eligible Special Needs Plan (FIDE-SNP) - \$27.5 million
- ▶ Healthcare Transformation 1115 waiver infrastructure - \$4 million

## Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults and Seniors:

- ▶ FY 26 general funds investment of \$110 million to maintain the Health Benefits for Immigrant Seniors program.
- ▶ Assumes sunset of the Health Benefits for Immigrant Adults program.
- ▶ Available funding will be concentrated on high need individuals, optimizing state resources.



# Meet June

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## Challenges:

▶ Only 7 years old, June has faced physical abuse and struggles with significant behavioral disorders. She has gone through numerous foster placements and psychiatric hospitalizations.

## Healthcare Transformation Collaborative intervention:

▶ June was about to be sent to a residential facility. But, her YouthCare case worker had been working closely with June and believed a specialized foster family could offer her the best hope for a good, stable life.

## A better life:

▶ With collaboration from DCFS, June moved to her new home. After just seven months, her foster mother says June has developed a healthy attachment to the family and is showing improved psychosocial functioning.



\* Name changed for privacy.



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Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

# HFS FY26 All Funds Budget

<b>ALL FUNDS (\$ MILLIONS)</b>			
<b>TOTAL BY PROGRAM</b>	<b>FY 2025 APPROPRIATION W/SUPPLEMENTAL</b>	<b>FY 2026 REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>
<b>Medical Assistance</b>	\$40,764.4	\$44,501.8	\$3,737.5
<b>Child Support Services</b>	\$329.8	\$318.8	(\$11.0)
<b>Administration</b>	\$365.6	\$411.9	\$46.4
<b>Cost Recoveries</b>	\$33.1	\$32.9	(\$0.1)
<b>Office of Inspector General</b>	\$35.1	\$36.5	\$1.4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$41,527.8</b>	<b>\$45,302.0</b>	<b>\$3,774.2</b>

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.



**HFS**

Illinois Department of  
Healthcare and Family Services

# HFS FY26 General Funds Budget

<b>GENERAL FUNDS (\$ MILLIONS)</b>			
<b>TOTAL BY PROGRAM</b>	<b>FY 2025 APPROPRIATION W/SUPPLEMENTAL</b>	<b>FY 2026 REQUEST</b>	<b>\$ CHANGE</b>
<b>Medical Assistance</b>	\$9,054.6	\$9,190.1	\$135.5
<b>Child Support Services</b>	\$83.8	\$71.8	(\$12.0)
<b>Administration</b>	\$60.8	\$89.4	\$28.6
<b>Office of Inspector General</b>	\$7.0	\$7.2	\$0.3
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,206.2</b>	<b>\$9,358.6</b>	<b>\$152.4</b>

- \* Numbers are rounded.
- \* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

- ▶ Ensure all Illinoisians have **access to the health care services** they are eligible for by reducing consumer barriers to enrollment, leveraging flexibilities to increase retention, and implementing recommendations from the **Advisory Council on Financing and Access to Sickle Cell Disease Treatment and Other High-Cost Drugs and Treatment**.
- ▶ Advance a **whole-person approach to maternal health** that addresses the physical and mental health and social needs experienced during pregnancy and after by leveraging new provider types and payment models that drive quality and innovation.
- ▶ Continue to **hold MCOs accountable** for high quality care by monitoring and incentivizing quality outcomes, partnering on innovations that address health-related social needs and promote health equity, removing unnecessary barriers to care, and preventing exploitative practices of contracting entities, including Pharmacy Benefit Managers.
- ▶ Build on the early success of the **Medical Debt Buyback Program** to relieve more medical debt for Illinoisians.
- ▶ Lay the critical groundwork necessary for long-term success of HFS' **Healthcare Transformation 1115 Waiver** by building and strengthening technical systems, partnering with community-based agencies to prepare for needed infrastructure, and piloting service models.
- ▶ Expand access to integrated **behavioral health** services by continuing to grow innovative models including Certified Community Behavioral Health Centers (CCBHCs), Pathways to Success, and Psychiatric Residential Treatment Centers.
- ▶ Ensure Illinois families who rely on **child support services** receive timely and high-quality support by maintaining the highest performance standard for parentage establishment, current support collected, and customer assistance wait times.



Illinois Department of  
**DCFS**  
Children & Family Services

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Heidi E. Mueller, Director

# Illinois Department of Children & Family Services

**Right-sizing the front door**

**Family-Focused**

**Empowering and equipping our staff for success**

**Integrity**

**Centering our policies, practices and procedures on what is best for children, youth and families**

**Respect**

**Better supporting children and youth with complex medical and healthcare needs**

**Empathy**

**Ensuring our children and youth transition out of care successfully**

**Equity**

**DCFS Mission**  
The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) promotes the safety and wellbeing of children, youth, and families by responding to reports of potential abuse and neglect and, when needed, providing family-centered care and connection to resources.

**Vision**  
Every child and youth can grow and thrive in a family.

Printed by Authority of the State of Illinois - FCS 9002 - the 2014 report - on 11/16/14 8:38

# A Story of Resilience: Douglas's Journey from Heartbreak to Hope

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In November 2022, Douglas, then 15, faced an unimaginable loss. His mother, passed away from terminal breast cancer. Douglas's father was not consistently involved in his life. With no known family in the Chicago area, Douglas arrived at the Garden of Prayer Youth Center (GOPYC) as an emergency placement while awaiting foster care availability.

The group home environment proved to be a turning point. Douglas found a sense of belonging and connection he hadn't experienced before. He enjoyed his time at GOPYC so much that he expressed a desire to remain in the group home setting. This marked the beginning of a remarkable transformation.

Douglas formed a significant and positive attachment with a GOPY staff member, which proved to be life-changing, as this staff member made the extraordinary decision to become Douglas's foster parent in November 2023.

Today, Douglas is thriving with his foster family, making friends, forming relationships and excelling in school.



# DCFS FY25 Accomplishments

- ▶ **Hiring** – DCFS continues to hire frontline staff, achieving a record 3840 staff – the highest number in more than 15 years (an increase of more than 30% from 6/30/20 to 12/31/24). Increased staffing helped reduce investigator caseloads by 13% from 2023 to 2024 and helped investigators exceed federal performance standards in 2024 by seeing 97% of all youth in less than 7 days.
- ▶ **Hotline Improvements** – The State Central Registry (SCR), or “hotline” migrated to IllinoisConnect and launched the SAFE Model on 8/11/24. Since launch, SCR has reduced the percentage of cases being “screened in” for investigation from 42% to 37% by generating more complete information up front to identify truly high-risk cases and better focus investigations.
  - ▶ Hotline calls continue to be answered in real time. Callers are connected to a call floor worker within 15 seconds on average.
- ▶ **Permanency** – In 2024, more youth in care found permanent homes than in any year in the last decade. While more improvement is necessary, DCFS increased guardianship permanencies by 42% from 2023 to 2024 and exceeded BH consent decree targets. Adoptions also increased by 13%, while reunifications increased by 2%.

# DCFS FY25 Accomplishments (cont.)

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- ▶ **Improving Placement Options for Youth** – Capital grant investments in FY23 and FY24 allowed DCFS to add 80 specialty residential treatment openings and preserve 76 existing openings for youth, reducing the number of times youth remained in psychiatric hospitals beyond medical necessity by 28% in FY24 as compared to FY23. In FY25, DCFS has also added Emergency Resource Homes to eliminate the need for youth to sleep in DCFS offices, dramatically decreasing the instances of offices stays throughout the state.
- ▶ **Technology** – IllinoisConnect is transforming child welfare services in Illinois through the development of a user-friendly system that incorporates time-saving automations with strong data security. In 2024, IllinoisConnect developers released a software program that automates and streamlines the assessment and approval of more than 1,000 annual consent requests for psychotropic medications within the DCFS Guardian's Office. The technology significantly reduced the time for children to receive critical medications, saved our staff 5,000 hours of manual processing time, and was awarded the ISM Award of Excellence for Best Use of Technology-Internal Focus from the American Human Services Association in September 2024.

# DCFS FY26 Proposed Budget Highlights

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## Total Budget: \$2.47 Billion

Increase of 4.75% over FY25

- ▶ **Workforce Investments** – \$53.7M to increase DCFS staff by 100 positions; \$24.0M in salaries increases for private partners.
- ▶ **High Acuity Programs** – Additional \$29.5M for serving youth in residential settings.
- ▶ **Home & Community Based Services** – Increase of \$15.8M supporting relative caregivers and home-based alternatives to residential care.

# DCFS FY26 Budget Snapshot

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>FY25 Approp \$s in thousands</b>	<b>FY26 Proposed \$s in thousands</b>	<b>Change from FY25 \$s in thousands</b>	<b>Change from FY25 (%)</b>
<b>GRF</b>	\$1,478,005.7	\$1,610,462.6	\$132,456.9	<b>9.0%</b>
<b>Other State</b>	\$866,456.1	\$846,568.9	(\$19,887.2)	<b>(2.3%)</b>
<b>Federal</b>	\$16,281.8	\$15,816.6	(\$465.2)	<b>(2.9%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	\$2,360,743.7	\$2,472,848.1	\$112,104.4	<b>4.7%</b>

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

# Reunify and Thrive: Ms. Faith's Story

42

When you meet Ms. Faith, the first thing you notice is her smile. You may not know that she's a mother of three or that her children were brought into care in 2020. But if you ask her why she is smiling, she will tell you that she recently reunited with her three kids.

Working closely with SOS Illinois, Ms. Faith received the services she needed to be a better, more present parent for her children. She also learned not to put her job before her children.

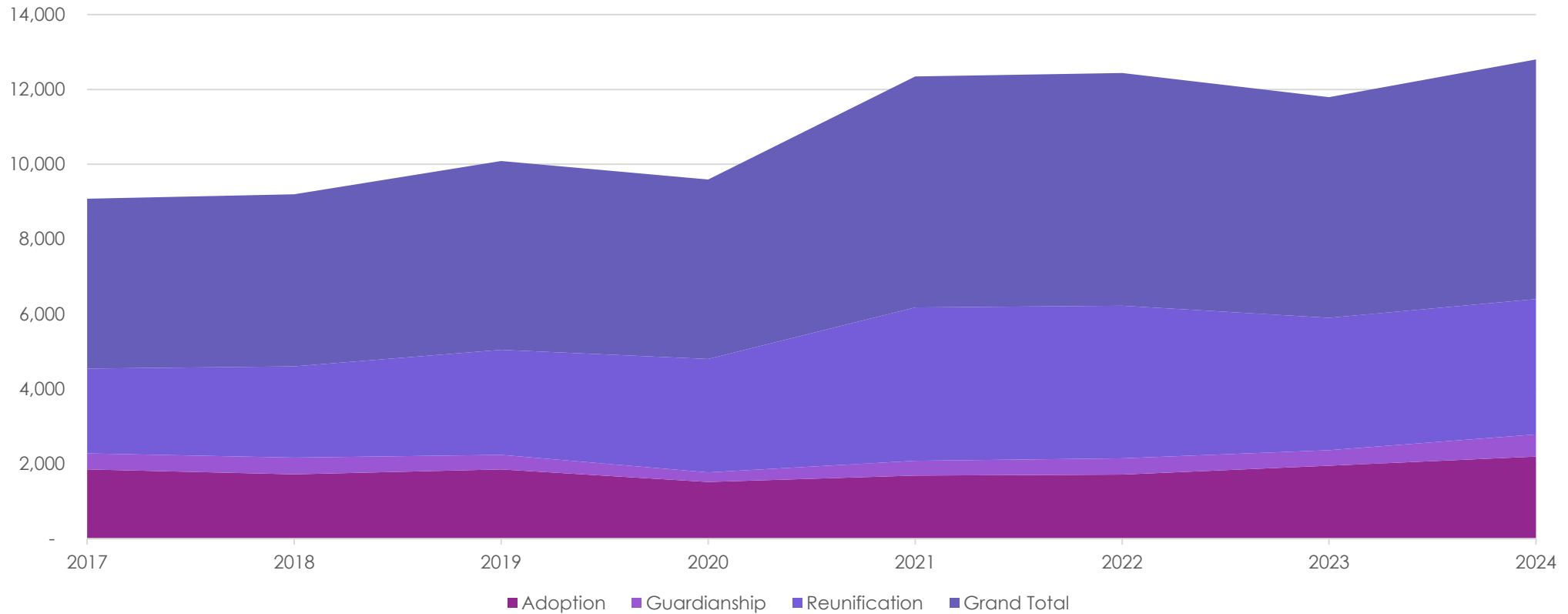
Since being reunited with her children, Ms. Faith reports that they are doing great, bonding as a family unit and enjoying family nights. She has adjusted her schedule to ensure she is more present and reports that has made a difference.



# Permanency Progress in FY25

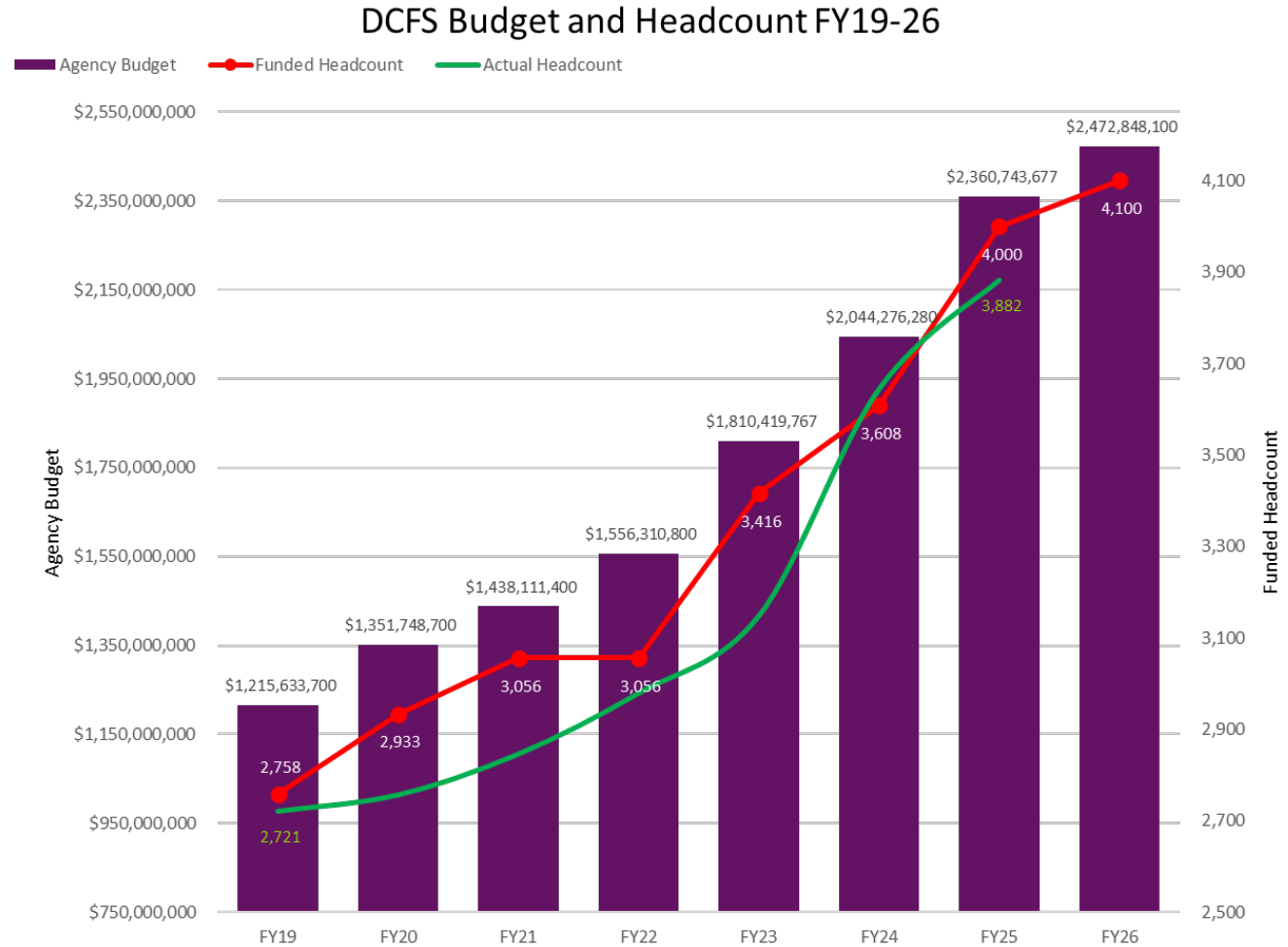
43

Reunifications - Adoptions - Guardianships  
by FY - As of February 7, 2025



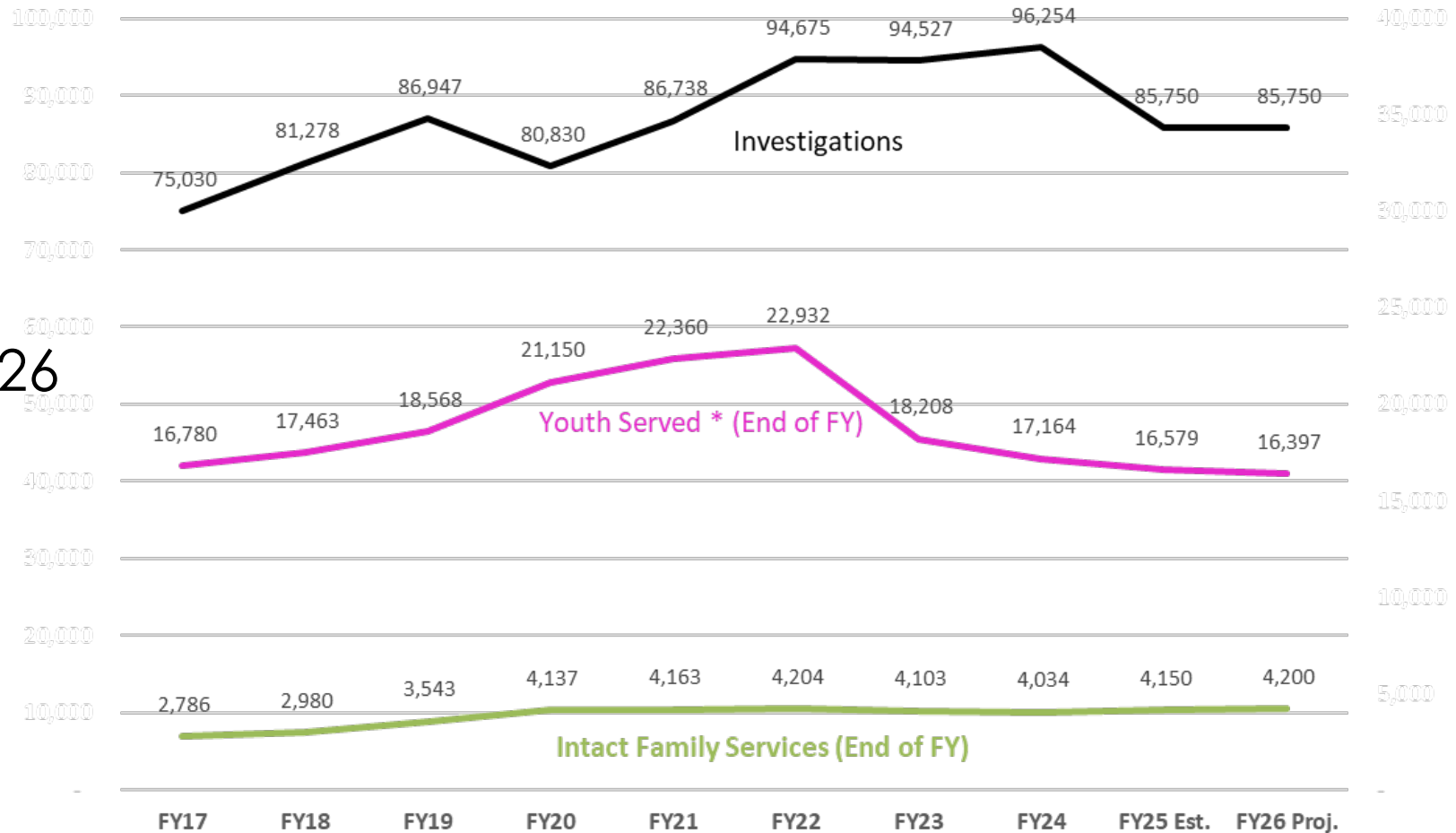
# Investment Trends Through FY26

DCFS Budget &  
Headcount  
FY19 - FY26  
*Proposed*



# Trends in FY26

## DCFS Caseload Trends FY17 - FY26 Projected



\* In Paid Settings

## Goals for FY26 flow from DCFS's 5 Strategic Pillars:

- ▶ **Right Size** – Invest in and collaborate on strategies to support families and avoid child welfare system involvement, including community pathways for family support and completing next phase of SAFE Model implementation.
- ▶ **Center Children and Families** – Increase support for relative caregivers, expand intact family support, and invest in community-based wrap around services for young people and families.
- ▶ **Equip and Empower Staff** – Continue to hire and fill critical positions, update outdated technology through IllinoisConnect, improve internal processes and implement employee retention strategies.
- ▶ **Better Care for Youth with Complex Needs** – Invest in home and community-based services for youth with behavioral health needs while continuing to increase small, specialized residential treatment homes and reduce youth who are in hospitals beyond medical necessity.
- ▶ **Support Youth Transitioning Out of Care** – Enhance independence planning and increase transitional support programs for older adolescents in care.



JB Pritzker, Governor  
Mary Killough, Acting Director

## MISSION

To **serve and advocate** for older Illinoisans and their caregivers by administering **quality and culturally appropriate programs** that promote partnerships and encourage **independence, dignity, and quality of life.**



# FY25 Key Accomplishments

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## Community Care Program

- Providing an average of **45M** units of service to **78,000** participants
- For every month an older adult stays on CCP and out of a nursing facility, the **State saves an average of \$3,665**
- Increased the number of participants enrolled in Medicaid to **over 83%**, up by more than 4% from the prior calendar year

## Older Americans Act Services

- Providing **11.4 million home-delivered** meals and **1.8 million congregate meals** to older adults across the State
- Hosted over a **dozen State Plan Roundtables** to gather public input for development of a new 3-year State Plan on Aging

## Outreach & Education

- Senior HelpLine **responding to 151,000 calls** connecting older adults and families to needed resources
- SHIP counselors **assisting 104,000 older adults** in understanding health insurance coverage options
- Approving **82,000** license plate discounts, **44,000** Seniors Ride Free enrollments and **19,000** Persons with Disabilities Ride Free enrollments

## Protecting & Advocating

- APS responding to **23,000 cases** of alleged abuse, neglect, exploitation and self-neglect of older adults and adults with disabilities
- Ombudsman Programs **responding to 7,200 requests for assistance and advocacy** in long-term care facilities and homes across the State

# Multi-Sector Plan for Aging

50

- Governor Pritzker issued Executive Order 2024-02 in August 2024 to begin the development process for a Multi-Sector Plan for Aging (MPA). The MPA is a 10-year blueprint to support healthy aging in Illinois communities, while also addressing issues related to healthcare, housing, transportation, and other social determinants of health. The Executive Order establishes:
  - A **Chief Planning Officer** within IDoA
  - A **Community Advisory Council** consisting of diverse members
  - A **Task Force** of more than a dozen government agencies
  - A **research partner** to support the Chief, Advisory Council and Task Force
  
- These entities will work together to complete and submit the MPA to the Governor and General Assembly by December 31, 2025.

# Investment in CCP Workforce

Spending on CCP rate increases from 2019 through June 2026 ~\$2.1 billion

## In-Home Services

Date	Provider Rate	Amt. Increase
December 2019	\$20.28	\$1.99
January 2020	\$21.84	\$1.56
April 2021	\$23.40	\$1.56
November 2021	\$24.96	\$1.56
January 2023	\$25.66	\$0.70
April 2023	\$26.92	\$1.26
January 2024	\$28.07	\$1.15
January 2025	\$29.63	\$1.56

- Rates for In-Home Service providers have increased by \$11.34/hour or 62% since November 2019, from \$18.29 to \$29.63.

## Other Direct Care Workforce Recruitment & Retention Efforts

- Secured enhanced FMAP for development of a core training curriculum for direct care workers across waiver programs
- Conducted comprehensive surveys of direct care workers and providers regarding the state of the workforce and training needs
- Hosted focus groups and listening sessions with direct care workers
- Participated in Direct Care Workforce Peer Learning Collaborative with other states and subject-matter experts

# Supporting Unpaid Family Caregivers

52

- ▶ Network partners assessed **3,658** caregivers and created **3,350** individualized care plans to support caregivers and reduce burnout
- ▶ Funded development of a **Caregiver Specialist curriculum**, *Foundations in Family Caring*, and Training Portal
- ▶ Selected for an exclusive national **Caregiver Learning Collaborative** aimed at developing core strategies to support family caregivers

# Meet Ron, Who Cares for His Wife

Ron's wife, Sally, was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in 2006, while they were raising two of their granddaughters.

Sally's disease changed their lifestyle as Sally experienced a decrease in the desire to bathe and dress for the day and go out to eat compared to past years of travel, socializing, dinners out, and dancing.

These changes left Ron feeling isolated, lonely and overwhelmed.

After connecting with a community service provider funded through IDoA and the local Area Agency on Aging, Ron and Sally found new motivation by attending Dementia-Friendly Zoo Outings, Memory Café gatherings, Stress-Busting programs, support groups and counseling sessions.



# FY26 Budget Highlights

**Total proposed: \$2.02 billion, an 8.7% increase from FY25 enacted**

- ▶ Overall, the budget **maintains** programs for Illinois seniors with notable increases including:
  - ▶ CCP increase of \$144.4 million from FY25 enacted budget
    - ▶ Includes Jan. 1, 2025, rate annualization
    - ▶ Utilization and caseload increases
  - ▶ Home Delivered Meals increase of \$8 million from FY25 enacted budget
    - ▶ Accounts for increased costs of food and delivery
  - ▶ APS increase of \$2.2 million from FY25 enacted budget
    - ▶ Accounts for caseload increases and quality improvement

# IDoA FY26 Budget Snapshot

55

Source	FY25 Enacted	FY26 Introduced	Change from FY25 (\$)	Change from FY25 (%)
General Revenue Fund	\$688,520,105	\$587,653,729	(\$100,866,376)	(14.7%)*
Commitment to Human Services Fund	\$971,162,100	\$1,208,631,800	\$237,469,700	24.5%
Federal Funds	\$192,995,400	\$212,788,800	\$19,793,400	10.3%
Other State Funds	\$7,745,000	\$13,373,800	\$5,628,800	72.7%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,860,422,605</b>	<b>\$2,022,448,129</b>	<b>\$162,025,524</b>	<b>8.7%</b>

\* Some Community Care Program spending from the General Revenue Fund has shifted to the Commitment to Human Services Fund. The shift between lines does **not** equate to programmatic cuts.

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

# FY26 Goals and Objectives

56

- ▶ Complete and submit a **Multi-Sector Plan for Aging** to the Governor and General Assembly
- ▶ Develop and submit a new, **3-year State Plan on Aging** to the Administration for Community Living
- ▶ Conduct **rate studies** in the Persons Who are Elderly Waiver/Community Care Program
- ▶ Address **workforce shortages** in the Aging Network
- ▶ Support unpaid **family caregivers** through access to resources and training
- ▶ Address social determinants of health of older adults including **food security, housing and transportation**
- ▶ Maximize opportunities for **federal match and funding** and partner with stakeholders to **eliminate programmatic silos**
- ▶ Utilize technology to **streamline Department processes** and data-sharing in anticipation of implementing new federal rules



**IDPH**  
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Dr. Sameer Vohra, Director

## MISSION

The Illinois Department of Public Health is an advocate for and partner with the people of Illinois to re-envision health policy and promote health equity, prevent and protect against disease and injury, and prepare for health emergencies.

## OFFICES

- ▶ Health Promotion
- ▶ Health Care Regulation
- ▶ Health Protection
- ▶ Women's Health & Family Services
- ▶ Preparedness & Response
- ▶ Policy, Planning, and Statistics
- ▶ Disease Control
- ▶ Racial and Cultural Health Equity

# Protecting Health Today, Preparing for Tomorrow

From newborn screenings and cancer prevention to food safety, the Illinois Department of Public Health is here for you and your health. IDPH protects, supports, advocates for, and promotes health, safety, and well-being for every resident, community, and county throughout the state.



# Wellness on Wheels

60



IDPH recognizes that it can't carry out its vital public health mission alone, which is why partnerships with local health departments (LHDs), hospitals, private and public clinics, and community-based nonprofit organizations are so essential.

The **Wellness on Wheels Program**, also known as **WOW**, is a great example of a partnership in action. Paid for through state general revenue funding, WOW aims to reduce health disparities and health inequities by providing preventative health screenings and other services in medically underserved communities. This includes screening for HIV, hepatitis C and other sexually transmitted diseases; blood pressure and other basic wellness checks; and NARCAN education and distribution. IDPH granted out over **\$500,000** to operate a total of eight mobile units managed by community organizations or LHDs.

# Birth Equity Initiative – The Doula Lab

61



The Doula Lab in Belleville, founded by Charity "Doula" Bean, is one of 12 organizations that was awarded a grant through Governor Pritzker's Birth Equity Initiative. Grants range from \$100,000 to \$700,000, with the initiative totaling **\$4,500,000**. Through this initiative, The Doula Lab is:

- Training and certifying 25 new culturally competent doulas to provide vital support during pregnancy, labor, and postpartum.
- Expanding reproductive health education and increasing community access to vital maternal resources.
- Providing free pregnancy confirmation services and improving safety at its facility.

Over the years, Charity has witnessed firsthand the disparities BIPOC families face in maternal care, driving her mission to combat fear-based medical practices and address rising Black maternal and infant mortality rates. "I want everyone to know that their birth matters," Bean says. "Especially people of color. I am fighting to put an end to fear-based maternal care and the maternal/infant mortality rate that is continuing to rise in the Black communities."

# FY25 Highlights So Far . . .

62

IDPH is committed to improving Illinois's public health infrastructure by implementing lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic. FY25 brought new and continued investments that prepare for future emergencies, address health inequities, invest in communities, modernize public health systems, and enhance communication efforts.

Initiatives include:

- ▶ Strengthened **Avian Flu (H5N1) preparedness** with personal protective equipment (PPE) distribution, education materials, community engagement, and enhanced testing/treatment.
- ▶ Launched the **Long-Term Care Licensing & Certification System (LLCS)** to improve facility licensure, survey scheduling, and regulatory communication.
- ▶ Funded two pilot **Health Equity Zone projects** in McDonough & Winnebago counties to tackle obesity, sexually transmitted infections, and mental health disparities.
- ▶ Expanded our **firearm violence prevention** efforts by introducing the “**Pause to Heal**,” and a new interactive firearm violence dashboard.

# IDPH FY26 Budget Snapshot

63

Funding Source	FY2025 Budget	FY2026 Proposed	Change from FY25	
			\$	%
General Revenue (GRF)	\$398.6	\$292.2	(\$106.4)	(26.7%)
Non-GRF State Funds	\$286.5	\$302.1	\$15.6	5.4%
Federal	\$1,191.3	\$1,120.5	(\$70.8)	(5.9%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,876.4</b>	<b>\$1,714.8</b>	<b>(\$161.6)</b>	<b>(8.6%)</b>

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

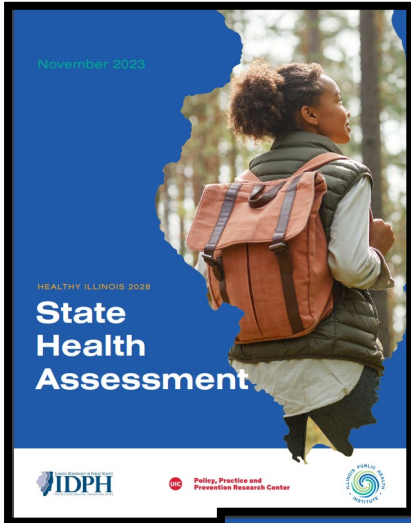
# FY26: Proposed Budget Highlights

64

- ▶ IDPH is investing **\$63 million** in communities by proposing continued investments in HIV/AIDS (\$35M), improving reproductive health access (\$18M), the birth equity initiative (\$4M), security grants to reproductive health clinics (\$2M), cancer screening grants (\$2M), and pediatric mental health (\$2M).
- ▶ IDPH is continuing to invest **\$26.5 million** (federal Public Health Infrastructure Grant) in improving the public health workforce infrastructure and implementing department-wide quality improvement measures to prepare for the next Public Health Emergency.
- ▶ IDPH is proposing an investment of an additional **\$15 million** (in addition to \$30M federal and \$16M state in FY24 and \$15M state in FY25) in a major upgrade to modernize public health data systems to better prevent disease outbreaks and protect our most vulnerable residents.
- ▶ IDPH is continuing to invest **\$8.5 million** in responding to Emerging Public Health Threats through prevention, early detection, rapid response, and containment to minimize the spread, severity and overall impact of the threat to Illinoisans.
- ▶ IDPH is investing an additional **\$7.65 million** in the expansion of the Office of Health Care Regulation to further protect the health and wellness of Illinois's older and more vulnerable residents.
- ▶ IDPH is continuing to invest **\$5 million** to enhance public health communications in effort to build trust and combat disinformation.

# Healthy Illinois 2028: Our Path Forward

65



At the close of 2023, IDPH completed and submitted the State Health Assessment (SHA) and State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP) to the Illinois General Assembly. Together, the documents form the basis of **Healthy Illinois 2028**, a five-year plan to address major public health concerns and improve the overall well-being of Illinoisans.

The SHA identified five major priorities to be addressed over the next five years, and the SHIP lays out goals for addressing them.

- Chronic Disease
- Communicable and Emerging Diseases
- Maternal and Infant Health
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Racism as a Public Health Crisis

In 2024, IDPH conducted a wins and gaps assessment to gather both our existing achievements and identify where future work should be focused. The next phase in implementation will include forming and launching action teams that will focus on implementing strategies that address SHIP priority areas.



# FY26 IDPH Goals

66

- ▶ **A Unified Vision for Health** – Through a health-in-all-policies approach, strategize with health departments and healthcare and public health partners to implement lessons from the pandemic to co-create a more integrated public health system across Illinois.
- ▶ **Preparing for Future Emergencies** – Continue investments in emergency preparedness positions, training exercises, and partnership building to better prepare the State of Illinois for current and future health emergencies.
- ▶ **Modernizing the Public Health Workforce** – Continue investments in new and old strategic partnerships to enhance public health capacity to meet the health needs of residents across Illinois.
- ▶ **Modernizing Public Health Data** – Continue investments to critical data infrastructure that modernizes the Department's ability to collect, analyze, and share meaningful information to improve the health of Illinois residents.
- ▶ **Investing in Communities and Addressing Health Inequities** – Partner with community-based organizations to better leverage IDPH programs and policies to address health disparities. IDPH is prioritizing efforts on people who experience homelessness, HIV/AIDS, mental and behavioral health issues, maternal and infant health challenges, and chronic disease.
- ▶ **Enhancing Communication and Fighting Disinformation** – Continue investments in IDPH communications tools to promote the agency's programs and initiatives, improve our communication pathways with communities that have historically been overlooked, and correct erroneous information by tackling disinformation head on.



**ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF  
VETERANS AFFAIRS**

JB Pritzker, Governor  
Terry Prince, Director  
Anthony Vaughn, Assistant Director



## Mission

As an expression of our gratitude for their service to our country, we are committed to empowering veterans and their families to thrive in Illinois. Every encounter we have with them is met with dignity and respect, as we understand the challenges of military service and the lifelong impact it has on their lives.

## Vision

Illinois is the destination of choice for veterans and a national leader in veteran advocacy and services. IDVA sets the standard for connecting veterans and their families with all the benefits and privileges they earned to empower them to thrive.

## Focus on our **People**

- ▶ Attract new talent
- ▶ Develop and retain existing employees
- ▶ Employee Recognition Program

## Veteran **Experience**

- ▶ Opening new facilities at the Quincy Home
- ▶ Innovations in Food Services
- ▶ Simplifying the Admissions Process

## Operational **Excellence**

- ▶ Data-based decision making
- ▶ Comprehensive view and update of policies and procedures

# Key Accomplishments

70

## Veteran Homes Across Illinois

During FY24, IDVA provided skilled nursing and memory care for 932 residents, along with domiciliary (independent living) for 53 residents. Of those residents, 316 were new admissions in the last year. IDVA brought in **\$44M** in federal per diem funds in FY24 to offset the costs of care in serving veterans in our five veteran homes.

## Ongoing Capital Investments in Illinois Veteran Homes

- ▶ **Quincy** - \$300 million for a total campus rehabilitation to buildings, infrastructure, utilities, and landscaping. **The first phase was completed and residents moved into a new building in January of 2025.**
- ▶ **Anna** - \$3 million project slated for completion in 2025. It includes replacing HVAC units, replacing metal doors with glass doors and conversion of bathing areas into a spa-like atmosphere with spa tubs and special lighting.
- ▶ **LaSalle** – \$6.2 million for general renovations that include door replacements, updating of wings/nursing stations, roof replacement and safety enhancements.
- ▶ **Manteno** – \$24.5 million for kitchen renovation, safety enhancements, HVAC air handler replacement, resident room renovations, roofing maintenance and water system upgrades



# Key Accomplishments

## Veterans' Home at Quincy Welcomes new residents to state-of-the-art Facility

The new domiciliary at the Veterans' Home at Quincy welcome 37 residents to their new home on January 28th. The state-of-the-art home provides single occupancy rooms and baths with expansive windows overlooking the Quincy picturesque grounds. Other amenities include a dining room, fitness center, and gathering spaces. The domiciliary is part of a \$300M federal and state partnership and is part of Governor Pritzker's Rebuild Illinois. A new 210-bed skilled care home is near completion.



# Key Accomplishments

72

## Field Services/Veteran Service Officers

Conducted **18,927** in-person and **46K** telephonic interviews with veterans in FY24. Since July of 2014, IDVA has prepared **295,083** state and federal applications for Illinois Veterans, dependents, and survivors.

## Education (State Approving Agency-SAA)

The State Approving Agency (SAA) approves college and non-college degree programs, vocational flight training, apprenticeships, and other on-the-job training so that federal educational assistance benefits may be paid to veterans and other eligible persons under the several programs administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

- ▶ Illinois Veterans and their families attended **1,361 approved education and training facilities**, **177 universities, colleges, and community colleges**, **117 vocational schools**, and **407 high schools** for dependents using the Survivors and Dependents Education Assistance program.



## The Story of an Illinois U.S. Army Veteran Thriving in Illinois

**Michael's military service encompassed over 20 years of active duty and reserve service.**

Despite Michael's exposure during two combat tours to environmental hazards, burn pits, oil well fires, and particulate matter, his claim for service-connected disability for medical issues was denied by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (USDVA)

**Michael needed help** - starting in 2011 and for the next 12 years, IDVA assisted Michael in an appeal.

The Board of Veterans Appeals ultimately reversed the denial he was awarded a **100% service-connected disability rating and back-pay amounting to over \$400,000.**

This life-changing money allowed him to purchase his first home and a reliable vehicle which transformed his entire life and allowed him to **thrive in Illinois.**



# Key Accomplishments

74

## The Veterans Cash Lottery Ticket Grant Program

Since February 2006, nearly 450 grants have been awarded, totaling **\$21.2 million**.

**In FY24 alone, 24 grants were awarded, totaling \$1.8 million. A 40% increase from FY23.**

## Additional Programs

IDVA offers veterans and their families programs and events to foster connections and build strong communities.

- ▶ **Military and Veteran remembrance days** – Ensuring we remember the sacrifices of all veterans of all eras, wars and conflicts
- ▶ **Gold Star Program** - Providing multiple events and fellowship throughout the year for the families of Illinois' fallen warriors.
- ▶ **State Fair Days** – Organize veteran days at the Springfield and Du Quoin State fairs



## Caring for the Whole Person – Mike Gulczynski

Living in a veterans' home is living – at home.

A highlight of last year's activities at the Veterans' Home at Manteno was **"Bikes Across America."** When Manteno Veterans' Home resident Michael "Mike" Gulczynski brought his bike to the Home to enjoy over the summer, he inspired Tanya Fordahl, a Manteno Home Restorative Nurse, to create a competition between residents and units.

"Bikes Across America" began with approximately 60 of the Home's 224 members competing using multiple recumbent and bariatric bikes.

For three and a half weeks, members competed to earn awards as individuals and as teams.

Residents rode on concrete circular paths between units with assistance from restorative staff. They were eager to participate and wouldn't allow a little rain to deter them, "we trained in worse than this," one resident exclaimed.

The bike area became a venue for socializing and camaraderie. Added benefits were increased strength, mobility, and improved cardiac health.



# IDVA FY26 Budget Snapshot

76

Funding Source	FY2025 Budget	FY2026 Proposed	Change from FY25	
			\$	%
General Revenue (GRF)	\$169.4	\$160.5	(\$8.9)	(5.3%)
Non-GRF State Funds	\$65.5	\$70.9	\$5.4	8%
Federal	\$2.6	\$2.7	\$0.1	3.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$237.5</b>	<b>\$234</b>	<b>(\$3.5)</b>	<b>(1.5%)</b>

\* Numbers are rounded.

\* Parentheses indicate a negative change.

# Moving forward in FY26: Proposed Budget Highlights

77

- ▶ Increased staffing in all departments and divisions
- ▶ Veteran outreach and Marketing of Agency Services
- ▶ Medical Director and additional leadership positions in the Homes
- ▶ Continued emphasis on employee satisfaction and workplace innovation



# Health and Human Services FY26 Budget Presentation

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER

78

## Additional HHS Agency Overviews

# Department of Human Rights (IDHR)

79



**Director Jim  
Bennett**



**Mission:** To secure for all individuals within Illinois freedom from unlawful discrimination, and to establish and promote equal opportunity and affirmative action as the policy of this state for all its residents.

## **FY 26 Snapshot**

- Budget: \$24.89M
- Headcount: 168

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- In FY25 through January, 177 Housing investigations and 1,676 Non-Housing investigations (Employment/Public Accommodations/Financial Credit/Education) have been completed.
- IDHR and CDHC officially launched Help Stop Hate, a reporting service to provide support and resources to individuals and communities affected by hate while gathering essential data.
- IDHR, HUD, and the Illinois Association of Housing Authorities (IAHA) cohosted a two-day fair housing training in Effingham for senior housing authority leaders from across the state.

# Human Rights Commission (HRC)

80



**Executive Director  
Tracey Fleming**



State of Illinois  
**Human Rights Commission**

**Mission:** To provide a neutral forum for resolving complaints of discrimination filed under the Illinois Human Rights Act and to furnish the public about the Act and the Commission.

## **FY 26 Snapshot**

- Budget: \$3.68M
- Headcount: 25

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Disposed of more than 256 cases over the past two fiscal years, transforming the docket of our Administrative Law Section.
- Completed the first full year of its reinstated and revitalized Judicial Settlement Conference Program.
- Increased the number and quality of resources available to litigants appearing before the Commission, including a new filing procedures guide on the methods and best practices for filing documents with the Commission.

# IL Housing Development Authority (IHDA)



**Executive Director  
Kristin Faust**



**Mission:** Created in 1967, IHDA is a self-funded quasi-governmental agency tasked with financing the creation and preservation of affordable housing in Illinois.

**Headcount:** 360

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Created 53 developments and preserved 3,510 affordable rental units.
- Aided 5,115 affordable homebuyers (4% of all Illinois home sales)
- Modified, repaired, or maintained 667 single-family homes; awarded \$12.7 million in revitalization assistance.
- Distributed emergency rent or mortgage payments to 9,528 households (\$69.9 million total).

# Guardianship & Advocacy Commission (GAC)

82



**Executive Director  
Mary Milano**



**Mission:** To safeguard the rights of persons with disabilities by providing public guardianship services, legal representation and a process to investigate alleged rights violations.

## **FY 26 Snapshot**

- Budget: \$17.86M
- Headcount: 152

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Provided guardianship services to 8,000 individuals and legal representation to 10,000 individuals facing involuntary mental health proceedings.
- Investigated 400 cases of disability rights violations (90% success rate) and provided more than 350 families with Special Education assistance, advocacy and education.
- Implemented Commission-initiated legislation in public guardian education on Alzheimer's Disease & Dementia as well as sex education for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

# IL Council on Developmental Disabilities (ICDD)

83



**Director Kimberly Mercer-Schleider**



**Mission:** To lead change in Illinois so all people with developmental disabilities exercise their right to equal opportunity and freedom.

## **FY 26 Snapshot**

- Budget: \$5.16M
- Headcount: 10

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- The Dignity in Pay Act passed the Illinois Senate in November with ICDD playing a pivotal role.
- ICDD Director Kimberly Mercer-Schleider and Council Member Tyson Bedford are Co-Chairing the Dignity in Pay Workgroup through the Employment and Economic Opportunity Task Force to develop a multi-year plan to phase out subminimum wage in Illinois.
- The ICDD and DHS Partnership on the DD Housing Navigation Program graduated from a pilot to a permanent part of the DD service delivery system; 103 people with DD moved successfully to community based supportive housing.

# IL Deaf and Hard of Hearing Commission (IDHHC)

84



**Director Benro T.  
Ogunyipe**



**State of Illinois  
Deaf and Hard of  
Hearing Commission**

**Mission:** To promote education and awareness of legal requirements to ensure effective communication for deaf and hard of hearing individuals in Illinois.

## **FY 26 Snapshot**

- Budget: \$1.02M
- Headcount: 7

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Addressed 24,000+ public inquiries on topics including communication access, sign language interpreters, hearing aids, and assistive technology.
- Distributed 5,000+ communication visor cards to aid interactions between law enforcement and Deaf or Hard of Hearing individuals during traffic stops or roadside assistance.
- Marked 15 years of regulatory oversight for interpreter licensure under the Illinois Interpreter for the Deaf Licensure Act of 2007; surpassed 1,000 total licenses to interpreters.

# Health Facilities and Services Review Board (HFSRB)

85



**Administrator  
John P. Kniery**



**Mission:** Regulatory mechanism for oversight on major capital expenditures for health care facilities and services; to help control health care costs; and provide orderly, predictable and economic development of health care facilities throughout Illinois. Serves as means of notifying public with changes to their health care assets.

**Sponsor Agency:** Illinois Department of Public Health

**FY 26 Snapshot:** \$2.8M budget; Headcount of 9

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Established Birthing Center rules
- Rules update for Parts 1100 & 1130 (Definitions and Fees)
- Oversight on 5 discontinuations of Categories of Service
- 33 CoE's (28 Changes of Ownership valued at **\$683,520,572**)
- 43 CoN's with **\$489,053,114** in capital improvements
- Cumulatively, **\$1.2 Billion** in capital oversight in Illinois

# IL Department of Early Childhood (IDEC)

86



**Secretary**  
**Teresa Ramos**



**Mission:** To unite the majority of early childhood services into one place, making it easier for families to access critical services for stronger coordination between the various early childhood programs and services provided by the state.

## **Major Responsibilities**

- IDEC was established in June 2024 to unite early childhood services into one new agency to make it easier for families to access services.
- Beginning in fiscal year 2027, IDEC will assume responsibility for early learning programs currently administered by the Illinois State Board of Education, the Department of Human Services, and the Department of Children and Family Services as well as the responsibilities of the Governor's Office of Early Childhood Development, which sunset in 2023.

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- IDEC established the Transition Advisory Committee and focused on families with young children with special needs and multilingual families to identify potential improvements to early childhood services.

# Cross HHS Agency Efforts

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**Quiwana  
Bell**

Firearm  
Violence  
Prevention



**Christine  
Haley**

Home Illinois



**Ali  
Johnson**

Olmstead  
Compliance



**Inger Burnett  
-Zeigler**

Behavioral  
Health



**Dana  
Weiner**

Children's  
Behavioral  
Health

- Driving positive change and transformation across the health and human services continuum.
- Breaking down barriers and creating alignment for more efficient and quality access for Illinois residents.
- Future effort: Multi Sector Plan on Aging housed in IDoA



**Chief Homelessness Officer  
Christine Haley**



**Mission:** To coordinate State of Illinois agency strategies and investments and partnering with the community to build a strong safety net and permanent housing for Illinoisans facing homelessness and housing insecurity.

**FY 26 Budget:** \$282.7M

**Home Agency:** IDHS

### **FY25 Accomplishments**

- Released a new state plan to end homelessness, Home Illinois FY25-26; Contains 125 activities to end homelessness, across 16 State Agencies.
- Disseminated statewide the report “Black Homelessness in Illinois: Structural Drivers of Inequality; Convened the Racial Equity Roundtable on Latino Homelessness.
- Supported the One System Initiative, uniting the homeless and new arrival crisis response systems.

# Office of Firearm and Violence Prevention (OFVP)

89



**Chief Officer Quiwana Bell**



**Mission:** To address the statewide public health emergency that is firearm violence through increased community capacity to address root causes of violence, provide those most at-risk access to evidence-based and trauma-informed services and advance equity and racial justice.

**FY 26 Budget:** \$110.0M

**Home Agency:** IDHS

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- 36% decrease in firearm victimizations in Chicago since the OFVP was established.
- IDHS/OFVP partnered to released the "A Mental Health Response to Mass Firearm Violence Plan" in January 2025.

# Chief Behavioral Health Office (CBHO)

90



**Chief Behavioral Health Officer Inger Burnett-Zeigler**

**Mission:** To transform how Illinois supports mental, emotional, and overall behavioral health wellness for everyone--especially those most in need.

**Home Agency:** IDHS

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- Dr. Inger Burnett-Zeigler succeeded David T. Jones to become the new Chief Behavioral Health Officer, effective January 2025.
- The new Behavioral Health Administrative Burden Work Group legislation aims to support the BH workforce, maintain accessible and client-centered services, and ensure timely, quality care.
- The Chief Behavioral Health Office (CBHO) submitted a comprehensive Behavioral Health System Report, which provides an overview of Illinois' behavioral health system.

# Children's Behavioral Health Transformation Initiative (CBHTI)

91



**Chief Officer Dana Weiner**



**Mission:** The CBHTI aims to improve the delivery of behavioral health services to children and adolescents with significant and complex challenges, as well as to streamline and simplify the ways in which families can access resources, services, and supports for the youth in their care.

**Home Agency:** DCFS

## **FY25 Accomplishments**

- Released BEACON, the centralized online care portal for families and state partners, to the public in collaboration with DHS and Google. Approximately 450 families access BEACON each day.
- Launched a pilot program with DHS to provide in-home behavioral health aides to assist parents caring for youth with autism and mental health challenges.
- Developed the Capacity Reporting Tool with DCFS to captures current vacancy, occupancy and staffing among state-funded residential treatment providers.



**Chief Olmstead Officer  
Ali Johnson**

**Mission:** The State of Illinois envisions a future where every Illinoisan with a disability can fully exercise their right of choice, to live independently, and thrive within their communities. The State of Illinois is committed to fostering a supportive environment that prioritizes community integration, ensuring that health and human services are accessible, equitable, and person-centered. Our goal is to empower Illinoisans to lead fulfilling lives while promoting their dignity, autonomy, and active participation in society.

**Home Agency:** IDHS

## **FY 25 Accomplishments**

- In coordination with and with the leadership of HFS, moved to independent outreach and conflict-free assessment for the Colbert and Williams Consent Decrees' service delivery system.
- The Front Door Diversion Program, which connects individuals with community-based services, successfully expanded to cover 99% of individuals referred who prefer community-based care.



# Health and Human Services FY26 Budget Presentation

OFFICE OF GOVERNOR JB PRITZKER