Almost 2 years without a budget:
The problems for residents, the Illinois economy,
and our future are real.

It’s been 21 months since Illinois passed a budget

The state owes over $12 billion in unpaid bills. That’s $45k per taxpayer

As a direct result of this crisis, 17,600 jobs were lost in December alone

- Nearly 15,000 youth at 122 sites around the state no longer receive high-quality, comprehensive after-school services (Teen REACH) that improve educational performance and teach life skills.
- 24 counties shut down services that divert youth from incarceration (Redeploy Illinois program).
- Law enforcement agencies lost access and funding to crisis intervention services for young people.
- 80,000 Illinois residents have already lost access to mental health services.
- 35,000 children from low-income families no longer receive child care subsidies to help pay for daycare; some parents no longer can afford continuing to work.
- Small businesses and local economies suffer as the lack of predictability hinders their ability to grow and compete in the 21st century economy.
- Illinois’ state higher ed system is on the brink of collapse due to $2.3B in cuts over the last two years.
- Over 100,000 immigrants have lost access to services including citizenship assistance and language training that helps people overcome barriers to becoming successful in Illinois.
- $0 dollars of state funding for domestic violence services, putting thousands of lives at risk.

It’s Only Going to Get Worse - Make Your Voice Heard!

We need Legislators state-wide to know we care!
The message is simple: “My name is ___. I’m your constituent. It’s time Illinois passes a responsible budget. The damage is real and the consequences matter to me!”

✓ Call, send an email, or write a letter to your State Representative and State Senator! Find their contact information at bit.ly/ILLegislativeDirectory.
✓ Tell Gov. Rauner your opinion. Call him at 217-782-0244 or email through bit.ly/ContactGovRauner

Spread the word! Educate your family, friends, and colleagues about the destructive impacts of not having a state budget.
Why don’t we have a budget?

To pass, a state budget must be approved by the House, Senate, and Governor. For almost two years, a deadlock between Governor Rauner and Republican lawmakers on one hand and Democratic lawmakers on the other has prevented this from happening. In January 2015, the Governor and Illinois General Assembly chose not to permanently extend a tax increase to help address state budget issues. Now, our policymakers must decide between restoring lost revenue and allowing even more cuts to services that strengthen families, communities, and the economy. Bi-partisan negotiations have failed and the Governor refuses to sign a budget unless it is balanced and addresses his policy agenda (bit.ly/TurnAroundAgenda).

Illinois does not need just any budget - it needs a RESPONSIBLE budget: one that’s balanced and collects enough revenue to fund programs that support families, communities, and the economy.

The budget crisis hurts us ALL

The budget crisis means organizations that need state dollars to operate aren’t getting them. Social safety net programs for drug addiction, domestic violence, violence prevention, and mental health services are just some examples of those being shut down or severely limited. Many organizations are forced to deplete their cash reserves in hopes they can continue providing much-needed services. Others already have folded or cut services and laid off staff. Illinois’ most vulnerable populations are suffering the most. And it will only get worse.

Without a budget, infrastructure for hospitals, bridges, roads, and dams are left without much-needed repairs. Jobs are being lost as the State fails to pay contracted agencies.

Even for those of us who may not yet have felt the impact, things are going to get worse. Eventually, Illinois taxpayers will have to pay more to make up for costs incurred today. This means more cuts to social safety net programs and higher taxes down the line.

Get our lawmakers to do their jobs!

- Stay informed. Follow us on Twitter @ILBudgetFacts.
- Stay up-to-date with the Responsible Budget Coalition at responsiblebudget.org.
- Use lolillinois.com to share your thoughts.
- Questions? Email us at ILBudgetFacts@gmail.com.
- Remember! Contact your State Representative, State Senator, and the Governor!

This newsletter is brought to you by a concerned group of students from Loyola Law School’s Legislation and Policy Clinic. Neither the contents of this newsletter nor the work of the Clinic necessarily reflect the positions of Loyola University Chicago. The purpose of the newsletter is not to point the finger at one party or another, rather to keep students informed, help people understand how this budget impasse is hurting us all, AND encourage you to take action!