

State Policy Priorities

January 28, 2016



illinois
action for
children

State of the State

Governor Rauner said a 'key to a higher quality of life...is a fully integrated education system from early education...'

- P-12 Education System
 - Proper funding for ECE programs
 - Help strengthen our program standards and quality
 - More support for low-income and rural students
 - Creation of a Cabinet on Children & Youth
- No mention of the FY '16 budget impasse

IAFC State Policy Priorities

- FY 16 State Budget
- Restore Access to the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP)
- Improve Child Care Program Quality
- Restore Early Childhood Block Grant Funding
- Equitable & Adequate P-12 Funding
- Fair and Adequate Revenue
- Improve Children's Health & Safety

FY 16 State Budget

- Budget impasse
- Spending 90% of the budget, but critical programs remain unfunded
 - \$2 billion in Human Services
 - \$2 billion in Higher Education

Request: Pass an adequately funded FY 16 budget.

Restore Access to CCAP

- 2015 changes to CCAP drastically reduced eligibility
 - Nov. 9th: Gov. amended his emergency rule and partially restored CCAP access
 - Still left out:
 - Full-time students pursuing post-secondary degrees
 - Families with incomes between 162% - 185% of FPL

Request:

- Restore CCAP to June 30, 2015 levels

Improve Child Care Quality

- Illinois has been a national leader in supporting low-income families through CCAP
 - New federal CCDBG rules call for higher program standards

Request:

- Protect & maintain IL's quality improvement infrastructure
- Implement new CCDBG standards

Restore ECBG Funding

- Early Childhood Block Grant (ECBG) funds Preschool for All
- FY09 – FY15: ECBG funds cut by \$80 million
- FY16: \$20 million in restoration funds
 - Will still serve nearly 19,000 fewer 3 and 4 year-olds than in FY09

Request: Increase funding for ECBG by at least \$75 million.

- This would restore the program to FY09 levels and help meet our federal Preschool Development Grant obligations

P-12 Funding

- Illinois ranks 49th in equity and 50th in adequacy
- Students have a variety of educational needs that must be met
 - English Language Learners
 - Special needs

Request: Ensure education funding for students is equitable and adequate

Sustainable Revenue

- Illinois tax policy is unfair and inadequate
 - Flat income tax rate generates insufficient revenue to maintain basic services
- Income tax accounts for over 60% of state's revenue
 - Even minor changes can significantly affect revenue

Sustainable Revenue

Request:

- Support sufficient and sustainable funding based on 4 principles:
 1. No harmful or inequitable cuts to vital programs
 2. Adequate revenue to fund state priorities
 3. Fair, graduated tax structure where individuals earning lower incomes pay lower tax rates than those earning higher incomes
 4. Balanced, responsible FY 2017 budget

Sustainable Revenue

Request:

- Pass **SJRCA 1** and **HJRCA 8**, by May 10th, to put the question of whether or not Illinois should adopt a fair tax on the November 2016 ballot
- Pass **HEAL Act**: A \$.01 per ounce tax on sugary beverages, estimated to produce over \$600 million in new revenue in first year

Child Health and Safety

- This year, we will not be pushing for a ban on crib bumpers due to the state budget crisis
- IAFC will focus on collaborative efforts to educate the public on crib safety

Federal Legislation

- Child Nutrition bill introduced
 - Child & Adult Care Food Program (CACFP): provides an extra snack for children in ECE centers for at least 9 hours
- FY16 Appropriations Bill increased funding for:
 - Head Start by \$570 million
 - CCDBG by \$326 million

Upcoming Events

- Feb. 4: IAFC webinar on State Priorities (Spanish)
- Feb. 9: IDHS Public Hearing on IL's CCDF plan – *Bloomington, IL*
- Feb. 10: House and Senate in session
- Feb. 16: IAFC webinar on Federal Priorities
- Feb. 17: Governor's Budget Address
- Feb. 24: IAFC webinar on Budget Address
- Mar. 1: Illinois State Plan where IDHS lays out the implementation of the CCDF rules is due to HHS

- March 8-9 – Spring into Action
 - For more information and to register, visit our website

Want More Info?

- You can find our policy agendas, fact sheets and other materials on our website under the **Advocacy** tab
- Stay up-to-date on session by following us on social media:
 - Facebook: www.facebook.com/ILaction4children
 - Twitter: [@IAFC_cares](https://twitter.com/IAFC_cares)
- As always, look out for action alerts and eAdvocate newsletters
- Questions: advocacy@actforchildren.org