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Peoria Families to Suffer From Rauner Budget, New Report Shows

Local Advocates Argue Damaging Cuts to Programs That Help Children Achieve Success Can Be Avoided with Adequate Revenue

Peoria, IL – Today, advocates in Peoria - armed with a [new analysis](#) from the Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) – are fighting back against Governor Bruce Rauner’s proposed FY 2016 budget cuts. The RBC analysis breaks down cuts geographically and shows families in across Central Illinois and throughout the state will suffer due to steep reductions in services for autism, foster care, community care, home services, public safety, and economic development.

Despite [warnings from bond houses](#) that a failure to extend 2014 income tax rates would cause serious harm to Illinois’ families, politicians failed to act. Failure to extend the tax rates resulted in a \$5-6 billion revenue gap for the upcoming budget year, and as a result, Governor Rauner has been pressing lawmakers to pass a budget with \$6 billion in cuts to vital programs. The cuts are the result of expiring tax rates, which are [primarily going to corporations and upper-income individuals](#).

The Rauner Administration did not wait until the new fiscal year to enact painful cuts. In addition to proposed cuts in the upcoming budget year, without warning, on April 3rd (Good Friday), Governor Rauner slashed funding in the current fiscal year. The Governor cut \$26 million in human services, citing a lack of revenue, while approving \$100 million in corporate tax giveaways a week later.

Anthony T. Riordan, COO of [The Center for Youth and Family Solutions](#) (CYFS) in Peoria, is one of the local advocates working for a responsible budget. CYFS works in 37 counties throughout the state with Central Illinois offices in Peoria, Bloomington, and Lincoln. Last year, CYFS [served](#) over 8,000 families statewide through after-school, community events, foster care, and programs for seniors.

Parent Belinda Young of East Peoria says CYFS sponsored events such as family safe night, hayrack ride, and bingo helped bring neighbors together to develop a strong, tight-knit community. Her son developed confidence through CYFS programs, enjoying them so much that he enrolled in any and all that were offered.

Belinda says summer programs at CYFS gave her peace of mind. “As I went off to work every morning, instead of my child sitting at home all day watching television with Grandma, I knew my child was going to have a great day,” she says. She wants other families to have the same opportunities as hers did through CYFS, but the Governor’s proposed budget cuts threaten those opportunities.

Through funding received through the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), The Center for Youth and Family Solutions helped 261 children achieve the dream of a lasting, safe, and caring family through reunification or adoption in 2014.

Under Governor Rauner's proposed budget, young adults throughout Illinois aged 18, 19 and 20 – including 79 youth in West Central Illinois - would lose access to all DCFS services that help them make the transition from foster care to independence.

“Across central Illinois, Community Service operated by The Center for Youth and Family Solutions in Peoria are being cut or eliminated. These programs save taxpayers millions of dollars by preventing out of home, institutional, or correctional placements; and most importantly guide our youth and families toward productive lives in society. These are just some of the thousands of futures impacted by the decisions of our legislators and Governor at this critical time,” says Riordan.

“The time for productive long-term solutions to raising revenue and better efficiencies is now and legislators on both sides of the aisle, and the governor are responsible for such solutions,” he says.

With the deadline for lawmakers and the Governor to pass a budget just 33 days away, local advocates say they will continue to fight for adequate revenue to avoid Rauner's unnecessary and painful cuts.

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[Central Illinois Report Summary](#)
[See Full Report \(Excel\)](#)

The Responsible Budget Coalition (RBC) is a large and diverse coalition of approximately [200 organizations](#) concerned about state budget and tax issues. It includes organizations that serve children, families, veterans, seniors and people with disabilities; education groups concerned about early learning, K-12 and higher education; labor unions; faith-based and civic organizations; and many others.

The individual organizations that belong to the RBC represent a diverse range of interests but are united by these three common principles:

- *Adequate revenue to support state priorities and make smart investments*
- *No more cuts to vital programs and services*
- *Fairness in raising revenue and making any cuts caused by failure to raise adequate revenue*