



Advocacy Alert
January 25, 2016
State Budget Crisis

On behalf of the more than 1 million vulnerable Illinoisans whom Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Chicago has the privilege to serve, we would like to thank you for your participation in Catholic Charities' advocacy efforts thus far.

Like every other human services provider, Catholic Charities continues to be greatly impacted by the lack of a State budget. We provide more than \$2 million in services each month on behalf of the State – for which we have not been reimbursed since July 1. We serve the most vulnerable people in our state – seniors, children, veterans, families. These are the very people our elected leaders pledged to protect.

As anyone can comprehend, \$2 million per month is an unsustainable amount. Catholic Charities is now forced to make more difficult decisions, potentially closing programs, locations, and laying off employees. We have already seen social services agencies across the state close their doors and end programs that are vital to support our most vulnerable citizens. They are now turning to us for help, and we don't want to turn our backs on them.

We ask that as people of good will, you once again contact your state legislators and the administration, and advocate for an end to the budget impasse on behalf of Catholic Charities' clients. A template letter follows for your use.

To find your State legislators, click here and enter your home address:

<http://www.elections.il.gov/DistrictLocator/DistrictOfficialSearchByAddress.aspx>

Letter Template:

The Honorable (Legislator)
District Address

Dear (Legislator),

I am your voting constituent. I am contacting you on behalf of Catholic Charities clients with this message: overcome this impasse now and pass a budget. The lives of more than 1 million people in Illinois are counting on the support of Catholic Charities.

Catholic Charities provides more than \$2 million in services each month on behalf of the State – for which they have not been reimbursed since July 1. As anyone can comprehend, \$2 million per month is an unsustainable amount.

The Agency has already been forced to make difficult decisions to close locations and lay off employees.

If a resolution is not found in the next few weeks, Catholic Charities will be forced to potentially close programs at locations in our most violent, impoverished communities, and lay off employees. I ask you to not turn your back on those who need our help the most right now and pass a budget that supports those most vulnerable in our society.

If children are to thrive, seniors are to stay in their homes, and families are to work then we need a budget that is fair, fully funded, and supports the vital services that our most neighbors count on as they journey to become self-sufficient. We have already seen social services agencies across the state close their doors and end programs that are vital to support our most vulnerable citizens. They are now turning to use for help, and we don't want to turn our backs on them -- and we know you don't want to either.

Every 30 seconds someone counts on Catholic Charities. They are now counting on you, too.