



incomes of about \$56,000 or less. Households living at or below the federal poverty line would pay no state income tax.

AFC supports efforts to shield low-income and middle-income earners, and those in poverty, from higher taxes. In addition, AFC believes Illinois should finance essential services from a broad tax base of the state's economy and among those residents and businesses most able to afford it.

The HIV service sector is already woefully under-funded. A three percent reduction will translate into funding cuts of \$600,000 or more for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program, HIV prevention, community re-entry assistance for HIV-positive people released from jails and prisons, and other important HIV services.

Details of the governor's HIV/AIDS-related budgetary request include:

- \$18.4 million for the AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP), HIV prevention and other care services, a reduction of \$570,000 (3%) over FY09
- \$1.94 million for HIV correctional services, a reduction of \$60,000 (3%)
- \$3.15 million for the Minority HIV/AIDS Prevention and Outreach, the same amount appropriated in FY09
- \$2 million for HIV testing and education services through the Brothers and Sisters United Against HIV/AIDS (BASUAH), the same amount as appropriated in FY09
- \$1.4 million for the Quality of Life Endowment Fund (Red Ribbon HIV/AIDS lottery), the same amount as appropriated in FY09
- African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund is slated for up to \$3 million, provided state officials authorize a funding transfer to the Response Fund

In addition to the HIV programs, AFC is concerned about supportive housing services, which did not receive a requested funding increase of \$3 million. The governor's proposal would appropriate the same level of funding in the new fiscal year. With supportive housing services, homeless people with HIV/AIDS and other chronic illnesses receive intensive case management with housing assistance to stabilize their lives and health. While matched by federal funds, failure to appropriate new state funding for supportive housing will stall plans to help as many as 600 vulnerable Illinoisans escape homelessness. For chronically ill homeless individuals, permanent supportive housing is essential to better health outcomes.

AFC supports Gov. Quinn's efforts to strengthen the Medicaid program, which provides health care for one quarter or more of all people living with HIV in the state. Gov. Quinn called on legislators to use federal stimulus funds to pay providers within 30 days. Payments to medical providers for Medicaid services

are often delayed by several months, which results in reduced access to care and threatens the financial solvency of providers.

The budget must now be reviewed and approved by the legislature. AFC will work closely with lawmakers to prevent deeper HIV-related funding cuts and champion structural budgetary reforms that are fair, equally distributed across the economy, and add no additional burden to low-income households. AFC will also urge lawmakers to consider funding increases for supportive housing programs.

*Founded in 1985 by community activists and physicians, the AIDS Foundation of Chicago is a catalyst for local, national, and international action on HIV/AIDS.*

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