

Don't Cut Illinois HIV Funding by \$4.3 Million in Fiscal Year 2014

Complete HIV coverage and invest in HIV prevention to cut new HIV cases

Governor Pat Quinn's proposed FY 14 budget reduced funding to HIV/AIDS services from \$26 million to \$21 million, a 16% cut. Illinois must continue to invest \$26 million in HIV services.

HIV is a communicable disease. We can virtually eliminate HIV transmission with linkage to HIV medications and medical care. *New evidence from the National Institutes of Health demonstrates that connecting people to HIV treatment is critical to preventing new HIV/AIDS infections in the community. HIV-positive persons receiving treatment can reduce by 96% HIV transmission to others. This is called "viral suppression."*

Unfortunately half of people with HIV in Illinois are not getting any medical care or HIV medications.

- **The AIDS Drug Assistance Program (ADAP)** provides HIV medications to low-income people with HIV/AIDS who cannot afford the costly drugs. ADAP provides life-extending medications that slow the progression of HIV disease and help HIV-positive individuals become "virally suppressed."

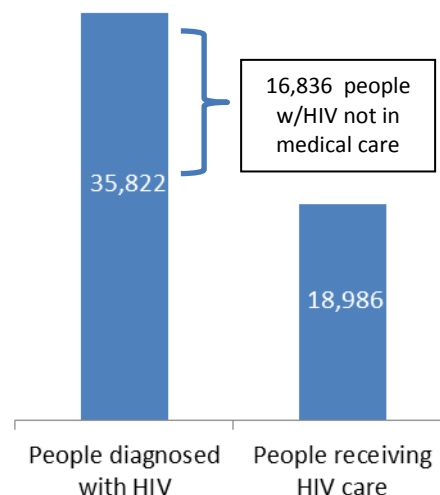
- **Illinois must continue to invest in HIV treatment programs like ADAP, which also prevent new HIV cases.** Every new HIV case prevented saves the state \$380,000 per person in lifetime medical cost.

- **Investing in HIV supportive services will help people stay in care and healthy.** Investing in complete coverage for community outreach and retention workers, emergency housing assistance, medication adherence counseling and other services will link people with HIV to medical care.

- **Low-income people with HIV will still need ADAP – targeted for a \$4.3 million state cut – after the Affordable Care Act (ACA) is implemented.** Illinois spends \$18 million of the \$26 million state HIV appropriation on ADAP. Gov. Quinn proposes cutting state ADAP sending because many people with HIV will move to ACA programs. However:

- *People with HIV will not enroll quickly in new ACA programs, despite hard work by providers.* To avoid medication interruptions, ADAP will need to pay the full cost of HIV medications well into early 2014.
- *To maintain their health and avoid hospital stays, low-income people with HIV will need help from ADAP to help pay ACA private insurance premiums.* A small investment by ADAP of just \$2,600 will help a low-income person with HIV afford private insurance and continue to take HIV medications.

*1 in 2 people with HIV in Illinois are not receiving medical care or anti-HIV drugs**



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* AFC estimate based on Chong Eui Kim & Fangchao Ma. "Community Viral Load and Social Determinants."

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