

On Wednesday, February 19, 2020, Illinois Governor JB Pritzker delivered his second budget address before the full General Assembly.

In his [Fiscal Year 2021 \(FY21\) proposed budget](#), Governor Pritzker outlined a number of priorities including:

- Dedicating \$100 million to the Rainy Day Fund over the next 16 months;
- An additional \$2 million in funding for the Home Delivered Meals program, and
- Budgeting \$4.5 million to restore the vital [Affordable Care Act \(ACA\) Navigator Program](#).

Governor Pritzker also noted that his proposed FY21 budget holds roughly \$1.4 billion in reserve should the [Fair Tax](#) not be approved by a majority of voters in the upcoming November general election. [This means that there would be an equivalent \\$1.4 billion cut or new sources of revenue needed immediately following the November election if the Fair Tax isn't approved by a majority of Illinois voters.](#)

While the AIDS Foundation of Chicago (AFC) is excited to see the return of the ACA Navigator Program, we are discouraged by the small proposed cut to state funding of HIV services, \$129,800 in total. While this is a small dollar amount relative to the state dollars invested in HIV treatment services (~\$25.6 million), we believe that every dollar invested in HIV services gets IL one step closer to achieving our state's goal of [Getting to Zero](#). For more detail, the below bullets include highlights of HIV prevention and treatment services as well as other critical health and human services funded in Governor Pritzker's FY21 proposed budget:

- Funding for the state's flagship HIV prevention and treatment fund (the "HIV Lump Sum") received a small increase of \$70,200, for a proposed total of \$25.6 million.
- The African American HIV/AIDS Response Fund is zeroed out, reflecting a \$200,000 reduction in funding. However, IDPH staff indicated to AFC staff that they are committed to continuing funding for this program from a different budget account.
- Prevention and Treatment of HIV/AIDS in Communities of Color is flat funded at \$1.2 million
- Supportive housing services, which provide vital assistance for people living with HIV or chronic behavioral or physical conditions, received an additional \$596,400 for a total of \$41.7 million, while Homelessness Prevention received an additional \$1 million
- Medicaid is flat funded (does include a small increase to adjust for inflation)

AFC looks forward to working with Governor Pritzker and the Illinois General Assembly to pass the revenue solutions needed to put Illinois back on the right financial footing, so that there is stable funding for services and programs needed to allow all Illinoisans to thrive and live their healthiest lives. AFC has long-supported the Fair Tax, which would move Illinois toward a progressive taxing structure under which higher-income people pay a higher percent of their income in taxes, while lower-income people pay less.

Furthermore, AFC will work with legislators and advocates over the coming weeks and months to advocate for a \$1 million increase in the "HIV Lump Sum" and a \$1 million increase for HIV

funding focused on communities of color for FY2021. In addition, we will advocate for new STI funding to be prioritized in the state budget, largely to address the growing rates of STI diagnoses (i.e. Chlamydia; Gonorrhea; & Syphilis).

On April 29th, please join AFC virtually in our annual [Advocacy Day](#) and advocate for all Illinoisans living with or vulnerable to HIV and other chronic conditions access the critical services they need and deserve. For more information or to register, please visit <https://p2a.co/qwXOghk>.

Finally, although the General Assembly has modified its schedule because of the coronavirus outbreak, they have a constitutional mandate to pass a state budget by June 30, 2020 to keep life-saving state services operating. AFC will continue to update advocates on the state budget process and advocacy opportunities.