



Community Youth Services (Community Area Projects)

Governor Rauner's introduced FY16 budget ELIMINATES "Community Services" grants line appropriation of \$5,645,400 which funds Community Area Projects across the State

The cuts to Community Area Projects will place hundreds of kids at risk of not being ready for school, not being able to keep up in the classes they have at school, and staying away from delinquency issues during high risk times of the day. It will further place low income families at risk of being in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems increasing costs to those systems.

Across the State, the Area Project Programs:

- Served 63,500 Youth (50,000 outside of Chicago)
- Assisted approximately 300 developing community organizations in some of the poorest communities throughout the state. (232 outside of Chicago).
- Recruited over 6,500 volunteers, who gave free service hours, worth over \$2,800,000!

These results occurred spending **\$5,645,400** dollars statewide in this program line.

What they do:

- Recruiting & organizing local residents to develop & become involved in the promotion of positive youth development activities.
- Networking with local agencies and organizations to reinforce community involvement.
- Providing positive role models & constructive activities in order to mold a safer & more productive community.
- Organizing Community Committees to actively respond to the needs & concerns of the community.
- Supporting the communities in their efforts to alleviate conditions which put youth at risk.
- Assisting Community Committees in identifying and utilizing available resources.
- Serving as an advocate on behalf of youth & adults that reside in those Community Committee established areas.
- Developing & implementing direct services programs, events and activities.
- Creating opportunities for youth to make positive choices while building character.

Grass roots community organizations and their programs would be forced to close in cities and counties throughout downstate Illinois including Bloomington/Normal, Carbondale, Champaign/Urbana, East St. Louis, Decatur, Freeport, Jacksonville, Joliet, Kendall County, Knox County, Lawrenceville, Mt. Vernon, Ottawa, Peoria, Rantoul, Rockford, Rock Island County and Springfield.

Last year, The Center for Youth and Family Solutions Bloomington/Normal Community Area Project and the Tazewell County Community Area Projects served **673** youth, **359** adults and recruited **213** volunteers that gave **5012** hours of service valued at **\$116,228**. We worked with local businesses and had **\$93,074** worth of in-kind services donated, had over **\$23,800** in local grant support, and raised **\$3553** in local fundraisers.